

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY  
3101 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA

**School Safety and Security Committee Meeting**

August 28, 2019

MINUTES

**Members/Designees:** Mr. Charles Ramsey, Chairman  
Mr. Derin Myers, Acting Executive Director  
Ms. Janice Bart, Member (via Skype)  
Senator James Brewster, Member  
Ms. Nikki Bricker, Member  
Representative Donna Bullock, Member (via Skype)  
Major James Degnan, Designee for Lt. Col. Evanchick  
Mr. David Hein, Member (via Skype)  
Mr. Mike Hurley, Member  
Mr. Mike Kelly (via Skype)  
Senator Wayne Langerholc, Member (via Skype)  
Representative Jason Ortitay, Member  
Director David (Randy) Padfield, Member  
Dr. Gennaro "Jamie" Piraino, Member (via Skype)  
Dr. Kathleen Reeves, Member  
Mr. Joseph Regan, Member (via Skype)  
Mr. Jonathan Ross, Member  
Dr. Helena Tuleya-Payne, Member  
Mr. Mike Vereb, Member (via Skype)  
Dr. David Volkman, Designee for Secretary Rivera

**Staff:** Pamela Bennett  
Jeff Blystone  
Kathy Buckley  
Lindsay Busko  
Danielle Chubb  
Christina Cosgrove-Rooks  
Chris Epoca  
Rich Finley  
Kirsten Kenyon  
Samantha Koch  
Geoff Kolchin  
Carol Kuntz  
Crystal Lauver  
Roi Ligon  
Michael Pennington  
John Pfau  
Debra Sandifer

**Guests:**

Sean Brandon, House Appropriations Committee (D)  
Erika Brunelle, PA State Education Association  
Gwenn Dando, Senator Langerholc  
Mike Deery, Senator Hughes  
Jay Himes, PA Association of School Business Officials (PASBO)  
Gerry Huesken, PA Department of Education (PDE – consultant)  
Tim Joyce, Senator Brewster  
Brad Keen, PA House Appropriations Committee (D)  
Alaina Koltash, PA House of Representatives  
Vince Kovach, PA Department of Education (PDE)  
Jenna McCarthy, Malady & Wooten  
Christine Seitz, Representative Ortity  
Paul Svoboda, PA Department of Education (PDE)  
Vicki Wilken, Senator Langerholc

## I. Call to Order and Adoption of Minutes

- Call to Order
  - Chairman Ramsey called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM and welcomed those in attendance and on the phone
  - A quorum of members was established
- Review and adoption of the minutes from the July 30<sup>th</sup> meeting

### **Motion to approve the minutes**

- Senator Brewster made the motion, which was seconded by Major Degnan
- There was no discussion or public comment
- The minutes were approved by unanimous vote

## II. Chairman's Update

- On August 16, Governor Wolf signed an Executive Order targeting gun violence
  - Chairman Ramsey was asked to serve as his senior advisor on gun violence issues
  - The Executive Order created the Special Council on Gun Violence
    - Will be housed here at PCCD
    - Membership will be comprised of:
      - Representatives from each PCCD Advisory Committee and the School Safety and Security Committee
      - Legislators from each of the four caucuses of the General Assembly
      - The secretaries of Education, Health, and Human Services, the State Police Commissioner and the Director of the Office of Homeland Security
    - Will meet by mid-October to study and provide a report with recommendations to reduce incidents of community violence, mass shootings, and domestic violence, suicide, and accidental shootings, within six months of that meeting
  - The Executive Order also established an Office of Gun Violence Prevention within PCCD and the Division of Violence Prevention at the Department of Health, which are to work together to blend both a public safety and public health response to all facets of gun violence
- Chairman will keep the School Safety and Security Committee posted on developments

## III. Model Trauma-Informed Approach Plan – Presentation and Discussion (*Geoff Kolchin & Samantha Koch*)

- Act 18 of 2019 was signed into law on June 28, 2019, amending Act 44 of 2018 and establishing new requirements and initiatives related to school safety and security
  - Added Section 1311-B to Article XIII-B (School Safety and Security) of the PA Public School Code, supporting the creation of a Trauma-Informed Approach Plan
  - Requires the School Safety and Security Committee to develop and adopt a Model Trauma-Informed Approach Plan that school entities must use when applying for School Safety and Security Grants by August 31, 2019
- PCCD established a Trauma-Informed Approach Workgroup
  - Was comprised of members from a variety of roles and disciplines who brought a multidisciplinary perspective and expertise inherent to trauma-informed approaches to this endeavor

- Met four times between July 15 and August 14, and made additional contributions through electronic review and feedback of draft materials
- PCCD staff thanked all who participated and contributed to the development of the plan
- Overview on the efforts of the Trauma-Informed Approach Workgroup
  - Reviewed requirements and minimum criteria outlined in statute
  - Identified best and promising practices from across the state, region, and country
  - Gathered relevant resources and information for use by school entities in planning, launching, and sustaining trauma-informed schools
- Reviewed the draft *Model Trauma-Informed Approach Plan: Guidelines for School Entities*
  - Includes guidelines and recommendations that are intended to be the minimum standards for school districts to use in applying for funding, as well as a resource for anyone interested in this
  - Reviewed the key elements and sections of the document
    - Where applicable, *statutory language/requirements* are identified throughout the Model Plan to help readers discern minimum requirements in state law vs. the minimum criteria recommended by the Workgroup/Committee
    - “*Things to Consider*” and “*Tools and Resources*” are peppered throughout to point readers to additional information and resources as they plan
    - “*Glossary*” – definitions of key terms used throughout the Model Plan
    - “*Before You Get Started*” – emphasizes the importance of identifying what stage/phase school entities are currently in terms of planning and implementation
    - “*Guidelines for Developing Trauma-Informed Approach Plans*” – provide recommended and required minimum criteria for school entities as they develop/update their plans for use applying for funding;
    - *Appendices* – statutory language related to trauma-informed education, resources related to Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)/Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS), Student Assistance Program (SAP), as well as a listing of state agencies, programs, services, and other resources
  - Since the list of resources will grow over time, the Model Plan is viewed as a separate living document that will be housed on the PCCD website
- Questions/comments
  - Commended inclusion of a glossary
  - Revision doesn’t require schools to be trauma-informed, but if they apply for funding for trauma, need to have a Trauma-Informed Approaches plan based on the model plan
  - Clarified that it may be a community partner be the lead (with a Memorandum of Understanding), but the person has to be a member of the SAP team
  - Noted a lot of discussion around screening, need to pay attention to where people are getting their training and the implementation process, applaud that part of the document
  - Noted that we have training institutions (PaTTAN, for example), and it behooves them to be involved in training for this and be a resource for training
  - All the university partners across the state need to step up as well – are doing it in medicine, will be doing it for teachers, need to do it for this, as well

**Motion to Adopt the Model Trauma-Informed Approach Plan**

- A motion to adopt the Model Trauma-Informed Approach Plan was made by Mr. Volkman and seconded by Senator Brewster
- There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously

#### IV. School Safety and Security Grant Program Framework – Presentation and Discussion

- Reviewed FY19-20 School Safety and Security Grant Funding Framework document
  - Gave overview of the framework for the three funding announcements
    - Release date is September 9, 2019
    - Incorporates new funding amounts in accordance with the provisions of Act 18
  - Distributed the document last week, made one change based on feedback received
  - Plan to come back in January with a draft funding appropriations plan for the Committee's review with a final vote in February
- Reviewed new funding amounts in Act 18 for the three funding opportunities
  - School Safety—Meritorious Applications
    - Amounts were adjusted, based on statute
    - School districts are able to apply for a minimum of \$30,000 up to \$45,000 based upon their Average Daily Membership
    - Total funding amount: \$18.72 million
  - School Safety—Competitive Applications
    - Overview of expanded eligibility for applicants
    - Provides the opportunity for the Committee to consider if the entity was funded in the previous year
    - Expanded the number of geographic regions to 12 (from 6 last year) to mitigate reviewer fatigue, while still aligning the regions with the Intermediate Units
    - Total funding amount: \$33.78 million
  - Community Violence Prevention/Reduction Applications
    - The biggest change is the reduction of the maximum award, from \$350,000 last year to \$300,000 this year
    - Funding is targeted to address community violence, so applicants need to describe what's happening regarding violence in their community
    - Anticipate three teams to review all the applications
    - Total funding amount: \$7.5 million
  - Comments/questions
    - Member asked if school districts will have to resubmit their application if it wasn't accepted last year
      - Confirmed that yes, they would need to resubmit
      - Can address in the guidance that it has to be submitted under this year's funding announcement

#### **Motion to Adopt the School Safety and Security Grant Framework**

- A motion to adopt the School Safety and Security Grant Framework was made by Mr. Hurley and seconded by Major Degnan
- There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously

#### V. General Updates

- Aggregate Data Release Update – *Kirsten Kenyon*
  - Conducted a survey of Committee members, but have not come to consensus yet
  - Initiated discussion on how much aggregate data to be released

- Haven't heard back from everyone in the group yet
  - Fourteen of the 21 members have responded thus far
  - Gave a wide range of responses, shared feedback
  - Will resend the survey link so those yet to complete it have an opportunity to do so
- Member commented that he polled the school districts in his county, and they all opposed the release of aggregate data
  - Noted that two sections of Act 44 address release of the data, which supersedes the Right to Know Law
  - Need to carefully consider the potential impact that releasing data might have on the security of schools
- PCCD/PDE Joint Guidance/NASRO Training Update (Act 67) – *Carol Kuntz*
  - Have fielded several calls since the guidance was released
  - Talked with NASRO about the need for increased training; PDE and PCCD have reached out to the Intermediate Units to host trainings to cover the rest of the state
  - Member expressed concern that hall monitors are considered security guards, and questioned the categorizations, wondering if the 3-day program might be a better fit, and/or if an alternative training might be offered
    - PCCD staff clarified that per the statute, it needs to be an "equivalent" program
    - Have created a team to look at potentially "equivalent" programs
  - Concern that some substitutes, as well as retired PA State Police (PSP) troopers, have had their training through the PSP not NASRO, seems ludicrous for them to now have to do the NASRO training
  - Another member echoed that concern, particularly for special events (e.g. part-timers)
  - Notation that California's SB 726 approved a course for non-sworn security officers that work less than 20 hours/week; PCCD staff confirmed that PCCD has been reaching out to other states, particularly in the mid-Atlantic region, as well as working with colleagues at PEMA, PSP, etc.
  - PCCD staff responded to a question regarding the two different NASRO trainings, and confirmed the need to complete the full 5-day training
  - Comment that NASRO focuses on the educational component and working with youth, not just on the physical security aspect
  - Member noted that the PSP had a webinar on the changes, but still uncertain regarding the grandfathering in of the arrest powers and training requirements
- Update on Formation of New Workgroups – *Carol Kuntz*
  - Threat Assessment Team Workgroup
    - Have 63 members thus far, noting that there's duplication with participants of the Baseline Criteria Standards Workgroup
    - Will be convening on September 19
    - Noted categories for discussion
  - Baseline Criteria Standards Workgroup
    - First meeting is scheduled for September 16
    - Reviewed categories of participants
- Overview of PCCD Grant Applicant Tutorials – *Carol Kuntz*
  - Have developed technical assistance to assist school districts in writing their grants
  - The tutorials will be posted on the website by the end of the week

- Assessor Registry Update – *Carol Kuntz*
  - Currently have the following numbers of approved Assessors:
    - Physical: 68
    - Behavioral Health: 13
    - Both: 3
  - Reaching out to the Intermediate Units to bring them on as behavioral health assessors
  - Seeking confirmation and approval of four new applications today
- School Safety and Security Coordinator Reports to the Committee – *Carol Kuntz*
  - By the end of this school year, all the coordinators were to be reporting to their school boards on the strategies and improvement to safety and security within their schools
  - 582 entities completed the survey, with the following findings:
    - 94% completed the survey in November
    - 97% presented reports to their school board
    - 59% reported that the board utilized their report to implement any new school safety and security strategies
    - 82% school used the survey findings to identify strategies to improve school safety and security
  - Reviewed some of the tools and strategies that were implemented, including physical upgrades, new personnel (i.e. social worker), policies, practice drills, using evidence-based programs and practices, etc.

#### **VI. Member Updates/Comments**

- Member asked, regarding community violence applications, are we following up afterward to see what they have done with the funds, and shared an incident when mayor and police chief didn't know funds had been provided to their community
  - PCCD staff shared the reporting requirements
  - Noted that PCCD staff also monitors and follows up with grant recipients
- Referencing the formation of the Baseline Criteria Standards Workgroup, a Member noted the need to be cognizant regarding how to maintain through funding down the road so that the standards don't become an unfunded mandate

#### **VII. Public Comment – None were heard**

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

- Noted that the next meeting is scheduled for October 30 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM
- Thanked everyone for their time and contribution to today's meeting

#### **Motion to adjourn the meeting**

- The motion was made by Dr. Volkman and seconded by Major Degnan
- The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 2:01 PM