

**Arkansas School Safety Commission
Minutes
April 17, 2018
Criminal Justice Institute
26 Corporate Hill Drive, Little Rock, AR. 72205
Room 212**

Members Present:

Dr. Cheryl May, Chair
Bill Temple, Co-Chair
Dr. David Hopkins
Brad Montgomery
Dawn Anderson
John Allison
Marvin Burton
Sheriff Tim Helder
Jami Cook
Lori Poston
Dr. Joyce Cottoms
Will Jones

Members Absent

Dr. Margaret Weiss
Ricky Hopkins
Fire Chief Tom Hopkins
Dr. Sterling Claypoole
A.J. Gary
John "Don" Kaminar

Dr. May called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Dr. May made the announcement of the loss of Lynn Smith, School Resource Office for the Riverview School District. Dr. May asked for a moment of silent in remembrance of Mr. Smith.

Introduction of New Commission Members:

Dr. May introduced Dr. Joyce Cottoms in her first appearance in person. Dr. Cottoms told the Commission how excited she was to join the Commission in person.

Approval of Minutes – April 4, 2018

Dr. May asked for approval of the minutes. Dr. David Hopkins made the motion to approve, seconded by Sheriff Helder; Motion carried

Guest Presentations

Kathy Martinez-Prather, Executive Director, Texas School Safety Center presented to the Commission the Texas School Safety Center and what the center was doing to help promote school safety. Ms. Kathy Martinez-Prather presented a PowerPoint detailing the creation of the center in 1999. The Center's mission is to "service schools and communities to create safe, secure, and healthy environments." Mrs. Martinez-Prather also presented Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code making the TxSSC a clearinghouse for school safety and security information through training, research, and technical assistance.

Mrs. Martinez-Prather outlined the demographics of the State of Texas that includes 1,025 Independent School Districts, 50 Community Colleges as well as charter and private schools. Mrs. Martinez-Prather's presentation also included funding history, personnel demographics, training, and mandatory school drills. Mrs. Martinez-Prather continued to address the need for schools to conduct Safety & Security Audits and Behavioral Threat Assessments. Mrs. Martinez-Prather said that Texas was working on doing an on-line behavioral threat assessment tool-kit.

Mrs. Martinez-Prather stated that the School Marshal program was created to supply a resource for schools who could not afford an Independent Police Department because of size. School Resource Officers in Texas are referred to as School Based Law Enforcement Officers. In closing, Mrs. Martinez-Prather stated that "academic success goes hand-in-hand with feeling safe."

Scott Spainhour, Superintendent, ADE Safe Schools Committee Representative and Randy Goodnight, Greenbrier School District

Mr. Spainhour presented information regarding the work of the Arkansas School Safety Committee and the responsibilities of the committee. Mr. Spainhour highlighted the work of Act 541, creating the protection from the Freedom of Information Acts (FOIA) regarding school safety. Mr. Spainhour also expounded on the creation and partnership with the Arkansas Department of Education and the Criminal Justice Institute to create the Arkansas Center for School Safety under the umbrella of CJI.

Dr. David Hopkins, Superintendent of Clarksville School District - ERT

Dr. Hopkins presented to the Commission that after the Sandy Hook shooting he and others in the community felt they needed to implement a plan that would give additional protection to the Clarksville School District. It was through their discussion that created the Clarksville School District's ERT program. Dr. Hopkins gave Commission members an overall budget for implementing the ERT program at the Clarksville School District. Included in the budget was the policies and procedures put into place by the district school board. After discussion, several of the Commission members were able to ask students and staff attending the meeting from the Clarksville School District how they feel about the ERT program.

Dr. Richard Abernathy, Executive Director, Arkansas Association of Education Administrators

Dr. Richard Abernathy told the Commission that the Arkansas Association of Education Administrators conducted a school safety survey asking school administrators what items they

felt were important in the area of school safety. Within 72 hours, 400 school administrators replied with the top 7 areas. Below are the results from the survey.

The first question on the survey asked them to rank seven items in order of greatest need. The top two for both principals and superintendents were:

1. Additional security staff such as SROs, Certified School Safety Officers, Armed Security, Resource Officers, a stronger Police presence, etc.
2. Making existing school buildings more secure (limiting access to campus and buildings, securing building entrances and classroom doors, buzzers to allow entry, magnetic locking doors, key-card entry systems, better/stronger/safer doors, manual door stops, etc.)

The third and fourth greatest needs identified on the survey by both superintendents and principals were:

3. Additional security measures such as cameras, communication devices, metal detectors, swipe ID cards, electronic background checks, etc.
4. Additional mental health services including counseling for students, mental health providers, social workers, etc.

There was a fairly substantial drop in the last three items on the survey question.

5. Conducting staff training on district emergency management systems and protocols.
6. Conducting safety audits of buildings and grounds
7. Developing building safety plans.

The next question for both groups was: If money is no object, what would you implement immediately in your schools around school safety?

1. School Resource Officers (SROs), Armed Security, Stronger Police Presence, etc. (**#1 recommendation by far**)
2. Securing campuses, building, and classrooms - From additional fencing/gates, to internal door locks.
3. More cameras and updated technology - communication systems (radios and intercoms, additional lighting, etc.
4. Mental health services and programs for students and families, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers counselors, etc.
5. Train staff in self-defense, CPR, first aid, emergency response, etc.

Note: Several interesting recommendations: (1) staff to monitor and "red flag" student social media pages, (2) we have cameras but need someone to watch them during the day.

The remaining questions were just on the superintendent survey.

Question: In regards to school safety, what do you consider your most pressing need in Student Services?

1. Mental health and counseling services,
2. Additional help for emotionally unstable children
3. A better way to monitor social media
4. Anonymous tip line
5. A system between DHS and adult jail which will deal with violent or extremely disruptive students after repetitive disciplinary reports
6. Day treatment facilities
7. Counseling support for severe behavior and for all students to develop strong emotional and social skills
8. This isn't a gun issue it is a mental health issue
9. Social/emotional training to teach tolerance

Question: In regards to school safety, what do you consider your most pressing need in Facilities?

1. Securing entry – outside doors, inside doors, windows,
2. Aesthetically pleasing fencing
3. Security cameras, communication devices,

Question: In regards to school safety, what do you consider your most pressing need in Campus Security?

1. SRO
2. Limit access to facility
3. Lack of juvenile justice consequences
4. Cameras, electronic doors,
5. Training for staff to carry weapons
6. Safe-Defend boxes in every classroom
7. Ability to carry out "real life" scenarios without alarming students, parents, community, etc.
8. Pay staff to become Reserve Deputy Sheriffs (RDS)

Question: In regards to school safety, what do you consider your most pressing need in Staff Training?

1. Identifying/recognizing mental health signs, communicating with mental health impaired students
2. Staff turnover was a problem...keeping everyone up on their training

3. Practice – rotate monthly fire drill training, bus evacuations, tornado drills, with active shooter training
4. Plans for passing time between classes, cafeteria, extracurricular, etc.
5. Continuing to keep staff updated and current with local plans and involving law enforcement
6. Additional first Aid/CPR training/Stop the Bleed, etc.
7. CRASE – Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events
8. ALICE – Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate

Dr. Tony Prothro, Executive Director, Arkansas School Boards Association

Dr. Tony Prothro gave a brief presentation on the role of the Arkansas School Boards Association. Dr. Prothro introduced Lucas Harder, Policy Services Director discussed model policies available to their members. Model policies discussed are listed below:

- 3.6 – Professional Development
- 3.48 - Weapons on Campus (Licensed Personnel)
- 4.22 - Weapons and Dangerous Instruments
- 8.40 – Weapons on Campus (Classified Personnel)

Dr. May asked if active shooter drills are required. Lucas said it is covered in 4.37 in the second paragraph. Mr. Montgomery asked if the emergency management was added. Lucas said it was around 2015 when added. Mr. Montgomery asked if it had to be reported to the Arkansas Department of Education. Lucas said, “not that he was aware.”

Due to the lateness of the meeting, Dr. May asked if it would be okay to suspend the subcommittee reports. After discussion, the subcommittee members approved to hear from the subcommittees who could stay.

Subcommittee Reports

Legal, Will Jones, Chair – Moved his report to the next Commission meeting.

Mental Health & Prevention – Ms. Lori Poston reported that her subcommittee had met on April 11, and shared programs and resources schools were using successfully. Mrs. Courtney Salas-Ford present an overview of 504/IEP and the process for removing students under a 504/IEP from schools. Ms. Poston presented a verbal overview of the subcommittee’s upcoming meeting on Friday, April 20.

Law Enforcement and Security - Sheriff Tim Helder, shared with the Commission that the Law Enforcement and Security subcommittee was discussing Auxiliary Officers and Security Resource Officers and how they worked within a school district. Sheriff Helder also informed the Commission that the Law Enforcement and Security subcommittee drafted questions for the Commission Visiting team to ask schools.

Intelligence/Communication – Director Jami Cook presented to the Commission the work of the subcommittee regarding to the RAVE Panic Button, Smart 911, and Smart Prepare. Ms. Cook reported that Richard Davis presented to the subcommittee the work of the AR Fusion Center and how the center works with other law enforcement agencies. Ms. Cook asked Courtney Salas-Ford to present on A.C.A. 6-17-113 and ADE Rules.

School Visit – John “Don” Kaminar was absent from the meeting, therefore, Doug Bradberry, Operations Manager, ADE reported on the School Visit – Ad-Hoc committee. Mr. Bradberry presented to the Commission the five (5) schools previously selected by the Commission. Mr. Bradberry reported the following school district would be visited on the following dates:

April 25	Crossett School District Jami Cook, Marvin Burton, and Sterling Claypool
May 2	Westside Consolidate Schools Full Commission
May 7	Conway School District Marvin Burton, Dr. Joyce Cottoms, John “Don” Kaminar, A.J. Gary
May 8	Bentonville School District Sheriff Tim Helder, Dr. David Hopkins, Fire Chief Tom Hopkins
May 22	Ouachita River School District Will Jones, Bill Temple, and John “Don” Kaminar

Dr. May asked for volunteers from the Commission to visit the selected schools. Dr. May asked the members to limit the visiting team to a small group of 3-5 members that included Dr. May and Mr. Montgomery. The list of volunteers is listed above under the corresponding school.

Physical Security & School Bus Transportation – Mr. Montgomery needed to leave and therefore will present his report at the next Commission meeting.

Safety & Security Audits – Mr. Gary had another engagement and could not present. He will present at the next Commission meeting.

New Discussions – No discussion

Proposed Future Presentations –

May 14

Arkansas Education Association
Arkansas State Teachers Association
Parent-Teacher Association
SRO Phil Blaylock-Morrilton
Arkansas Chief’s Association

Future Meetings – No future meetings were added to the calendar but scheduled meetings were read as a reminder.

May 2, 2018

10:00 -2:00

Westside Consolidate Schools

May 14, 2018

9:00 – 1:00

Criminal Justice Institute

May 30, 2018

9:00 – 2:00

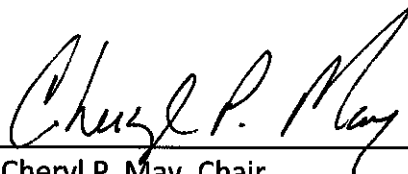
Public Comment Meeting

Criminal Justice Institute

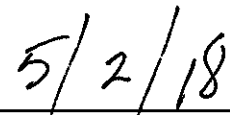
Motion to Adjourn

Sheriff Helder made a motion to adjourn, seconded, Bill Temple; Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.



Dr. Cheryl P. May, Chair



Date