

MINUTES
April 4, 2018, 12:00 PM

Dr. May called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

Dr. May instructed the Arkansas Safe Schools Commission (Commission) members that they may attend any of the sub-committee meetings; however, while they can provide input, they may not vote if they are not a member of the subcommittee. Furthermore, Dr. May said she does not want the subcommittee meetings to overlap so that Commission members can participate in as many as possible.

Dr. May advised that she went to Washington, D.C. to attend a meeting on school safety. She presented to the Commission H.R.4909 of the 115th Congress (2017-2018 – STOP School Violence Act) to the Commission, that was being discussed in Congress but did not pass out of the committee.

Approval of Minutes – March 13, 2018

Minutes were presented for approval. Sheriff Tim Helder moved for approval, Brad Montgomery seconded. There was discussion regarding the Minutes and corrections were made as recommended. The corrections included replacing Act 541 of 2015, with Act 950 of 2015. Corrections also included adding Will's last name "Jones," adding the last name to Dr. David "Hopkins," and correcting his title. Additionally, correction of Civilian Response acronym on page 3; and on page 5, insertion of the last names of Dr. Cottoms and Dr. Jones; insertion of Dr. Jones' last name under Focus Area and replacement of Dr. Hopkins' last name instead of 'superintendent'. Lori Poston moved to approve the Minutes as amended, Sheriff Helder seconded; Motion carried.

Administrative Items

Doug Bradberry reminded attendees on ZOOM that only Commission members may comment during the meeting; he reminded Commission members to submit their travel to him; and he reminded Commission members that all communication between members must be channeled through him.

Public Comment and Process

Discussion was held regarding clarification for the process for public comments. After discussion the Commission agreed the meeting would be held on May 30, 2018, with a time limit of 5-minutes per person to address the Commission. The Safe Schools Commission e-mail address will be posted on the Commission webpage, which will be monitored by Doug Bradberry. The Commission agreed that some questions can be answered without bringing them to the Commission. Additionally, Minutes will be posted on the Commission webpage to be user-friendly and transparent.

Guest Presentations

Dr. Elizabeth Kindall, Arkansas Department of Education

Dr. Elizabeth "Betsy" Kindall, Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) School-Based Mental Health Specialist gave an overview of mental health programs available to school districts. A question was brought up about the number of school counselors available in the school districts. Dr. Kindall informed the Commission that all school have a school counselor.

Lt. Mike Moyer, Arkansas State Police

Lt. Mike Moyer, Arkansas State Police (ASP), Security for Alarms and License Division presented several pieces of legislation creating security options for school districts. He introduced the 2013 Arkansas Attorney General's Opinion regarding school districts be considered as a private business. The Attorney's General option clarified that public schools could not be considered a private business; therefore, would fall under a different category for school safety.

Lt. Moyer reviewed Act 393 of 2015, allowing school districts to create security divisions within the districts. Lt. Moyer also discussed the different types of security officers available to districts and the application process. Also the passing of Act 541 of 2017 limiting the information available to Freedom of Information Act requests; moreover, records are and not subject to FOIA (can't disclose school security information).

Dr. May asked who approved a person to provide instruction? Lt. Moyer explained that the Arkansas State Police approved the persons providing training.

Lt. Moyer was asked the number of trainers in Arkansas. Lt. Moyer said he did not have the exact number but he could provide a list of the approved companies, if needed. Mr. Kaminar asked if those taking the training as a security officer were required to take the physiological test. Lt. Moyer informed those attending the Commission meeting that it was not a requirement.

Shannon Moore, Arkansas School Board Association - School Insurance Unit Shannon Moore with the Arkansas School Board Association's Insurance Division presented on behalf of Dr. Tony Prothro of the Arkansas School Board Association . Ms. Moore said the Arkansas School Board Association provides insurance for approximately 75%-80% of the school districts. Ms. Moore introduced Mr. Bill Burch, broker and underwriter for an insurance company that Arkansas School Board Association uses to insure its members. Mr. Burch presented an overview on what is liability school districts have; how does a school district protect themselves; negligence; and how to prevent an occurrence form happening; and armed security on school districts.

Sgt. Chester Jones, Retired - School Resource Officer Sgt. Chester "Bubba" Jones, a 20-year veteran School Resource Officer (SRO) with the Mountain Home School District gave a brief overview of the Mountain Home School District's School Resource Officer program. Sgt. Jones stated that currently, there are three (3) School Resource Officers (SROs) employed by the City of Mountain Home and a Deputy from the Baxter County Sheriff's office. He informed the Commission that the school district has four thousand (4,000) students with four (4) SROs for seven (7) campuses. Sgt. Jones wanted the Commission to know that school security, armed teacher, and school resources officers all play a different role in school security. He informed the Commission that law enforcement has been pulled to the front of the school security issue since the beginning. Sgt. Jones identified gaps that need to be addressed; moreover, he said site, safety, and assessment needs to be looked at and suggested the following to fill in gaps: 1) find headquarters for skilled SROs; 2) funds designated for SROs; and 3) Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) Training.

Mr. Kaminar asked if there was a certain student/SRO ratio that Sgt. Jones would suggest? Sgt. Jones said he didn't have a specific number but it would depend on the school.

Eric Huber, Ft. Smith School District

Eric Huber, Fort Smith School District's Director School Security, which encompasses nineteen (19) elementary schools, four (4) junior high schools, two (2) high schools, one (1) alternative education school and one (1) adult education school, for a total of fifteen thousand (15,000) students, presented to the Commission via a written report outlining his personal recommendations/suggestions regarding SROs and what he felt needed to be accomplished to ensure school safety. The recommendations he suggested included, but not limited to video surveillance, intercom access control, single entry points securing entry in elementary and secondary schools, modernize school-wide warning system and the ability to make emergency notification to staff and parents.

Dr. Cheryl May - Criminal Justice Institute

Dr. Cheryl "Doc" May and Vicki French presented a history of the Criminal Justice Institute and how it has evolved since its inception. Dr. May outlined the financial donations made by the Governor, Attorney General's office and the Arkansas Department of Education. Vicki French presented the Commission with the courses currently available to school districts.

Subcommittee Reports - Dr. May asked each subcommittee to give a brief report.

Legal – Will present at the next Commission meeting, if necessary, and answer questions not answered at the April 4 meeting. Doug Bradberry reminded Commission members that they cannot communicate with each other; however, they can communicate directly with Courtney Salas-Ford, Legal, Arkansas Department of Education. Doug will ensure the Commission members have Ms. Salas-Ford's e-mail address and she will send information to the Commission members.

Intelligence/Communications

Jami Cook said her subcommittee met and discussed the mission of the Commission and how the Intelligence/Communication will work to accomplish fulfilling the mission. Ms. Cook said Marvin Burton and A.J. Gary will give a presentation at the next subcommittee meeting. Ms. Cook said RAVE, SMART 911, and SMART Prepare, and the Panic button will give a presentation to the subcommittee. Ms. Cook also said Col. Bryant gave an introduction of the Fusion Center.

Safety & Security Audits, EOPs and Active Shooters

A.J. Gary reported that the subcommittee met on March 28 via conference call and discussed what's required now and verified what's being done. He said they came up with three (3) takeaways: 1) Active Shooter Drills – how often are they required; 2) Develop assessment on audits; 3) Developing standards for assessment and emergency operations plans – what are required standards. Dr. May advised that the ADE has a free safety app for REMS that will be looked at and see how well it works, as well as phone app for EOP.

Law Enforcement & Security

Sheriff Tim Helder reported to the Commission that the Law Enforcement & Security subcommittee met on March 29, 2018, at the Clarksville School District to hear how the Clarksville School District developed their security program, allowing teachers to conceal and carry in their buildings and on campus. Sheriff Helder told the Commission that a lot of his questions and concerns were answered during the subcommittee meeting. He stated that the presentation at Clarksville School District by Dr. Hopkins and his staff "belayed" his concerns and that he was impressed with their program. He recommended that Dr. Hopkins present (the Clarksville School District security program) at the next Commission meeting and recommended to have student participation in the presentation. Sheriff Helder said the Law Enforcement & Security's next meeting would be held on April 27 at the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

Physical Security

Brad Montgomery reported to the Commission that Physical Security subcommittee discussed security options for school districts. He advised that 2015 legislation allowed locked doors from the inside, which prevents key access; however, there are concerns which need to be looked at. Building-wide safety needs to be discussed, such as, what type of door lock do schools need; moreover, do they need double locks or store locks (locks from the inside with one motion; currently, they are locked from outside the classroom with a key). Installing double-locking devices for classroom doors would allow teachers and staff to secure the doors from inside the classroom.

Mr. Montgomery asked the Commission for clarification on how to handle vendors seeking to address the Commission on products available to schools. After discussion, Lori Poston made a motion that vendors could present to the subcommittees with the understanding that subcommittees would bring information back to the full Commission. Mr. Kaminar seconded, motion carried.

Mental Health

Lori Poston reported to the Commission that the Mental Health & Prevention subcommittee met to discuss the Commission's mission and look at the mental health, preventions and crisis areas and look at resources already available to the schools and professional development requirements. She said that she spoke to Dr. Elizabeth Kindall, ADE, regarding school surveys she has done, and asked her to compile a list of "what's out there effective". The subcommittee will compile a toolkit, barriers to school will provide resources to implement in schools, i.e. don't have 8 hours to give so give them a toolkit to use – a framework of what's out there that is evidence-based giving resources to schools and assist in training.

AD-Hoc Subcommittee (School Visits)

Mr. John "Don" Kaminar presented to the Commission a list of schools for possible visits. After a lengthy discussion five (5) school were chosen to visit. The schools chosen for Spring visits were Bentonville, Conway, Crossett, Ouachita Rivers, and Westside. Lori Poston moved to visit the aforementioned schools and Dr. David Hopkins seconded; the Motion passed. The school visits scheduled to occur mid-April/May and another in June. The subcommittee wants to hear back from subcommittees to determine what members need to see at the schools. The Ad-Hoc subcommittee has already contacted the schools and alerted them of the possible school visits.

Dr. May advised that the only requirement is that Dr. May and Brad Montgomery attend all school visits. Doug Bradberry will contact the schools and schedule the dates for the visits.

Dr. May made a motion to hold a Commission meeting at Westside School District in Jonesboro. Mr. Kaminar seconded the motion; Motion Carried.

Future Dates:

The Commission voted to hold the following upcoming meeting dates:

April 17, 2018

10:00

Criminal Justice Institute

and either May 2nd or 3rd

10:00-2:00

Westside School District

Jonesboro, AR

May 14, 2018

9:00-1:00

Criminal Justice Institute

John Allison to contact the Arkansas State Teacher Association; the AAEA and the NAEA to come present to the Commission.

May 17 – Subcommittee Reports

May 30, 2018

Public Forum

9:00-2:00

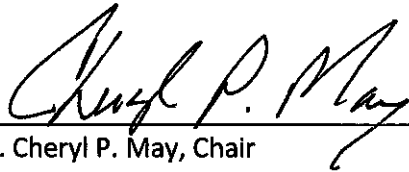
Criminal Justice Institute

Speaker sign-up cut-off deadline: May 15, 2018

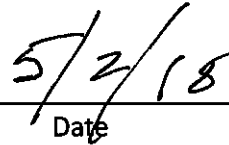
Adjournment

Dr. Sterling Claypoole made a motion to adjourn, A.J. Gary seconded; Motion carried

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.



Dr. Cheryl P. May, Chair



Date