

Safe Schools Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 3, 2016
Criminal Justice Institute
26 Corporate Hill Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by chair Dr. Cheryl May at 12:40 PM.

A roll call was conducted. The following members were present: Ms. Coffman, Ms. Curtis, Mr. Goodnight, Capt. Hammond, Sgt. Jones, Dr. May, and Mr. Spainhour. A quorum was established. The following ex office members of the committee were present: Mr. Bertelin, Ms. Graham, Mr. Gray, and Ms. Smith. The following staff members were present: Ms. French, Ms. Friedman, Ms. Griffin, and Mr. Kaminar.

Dr. May submitted minutes of the committee's November 20, 2015 meeting for review. Mr. Goodnight moved that the minutes be approved as written. Capt. Hammond seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Dr. May passed out materials on GREAT program (Gang Resistance Education and Training), which might be recommended through the Arkansas Safe Schools Center. Dr. May also brought up the Expect Respect program, which will be taught through the Criminal Justice Institute (CJI) in its School Resource Officer (SRO) training program. Dr. May indicated that CJI will review the cost of providing Expect Respect training in schools throughout the state.

CJI has developed flyers on the Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training program, which CJI will provide electronically to any who want it. Dr. May has given the flyer to Dr. Abernathy (Arkansas Educational Administrators Association), who has also distributed it. Capt. Hammond has also provided the flier to the Arkansas School Boards Association. Ms. Graham reported that principals in her district have said the training was the best they've had. Dr. May said that her records indicate that over 1,000 people have been trained in CRASE.

Dr. May reported that she has been working with the Arkansas Safe Schools Association (ASSA) to develop a viable alternative to requiring all SROs to go through training. Several issues have prevented or dissuaded some SROs from receiving training at CJI, and Dr. May is working to address these. Tentatively SROs would be recognized at three different levels of achievement in their training. SROs who have achieved the highest level could be recognized during safe schools week.

Mr. Kaminar presented an update on the Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) program provided in advance by Dr. Elizabeth Kindall (School Based Mental Health Program Coordinator for the Arkansas Department of Education) Dr. Kindall's report indicated that she hopes to complete planning with the Attorney General's office by the end of February. Ms. Graham stated that MHFA-type services are frequently overlooked in emergency scenarios. She and Ms. Smith pointed out that in the past services had to be provided with existing resources, and that lay

persons were often reluctant to help due to their own lack of training. Dr. May asked for an update from Dr. Kindall when possible and offered help from CJI.

Sgt. Jones stated that there is no standardization across the state with regard to active shooter training and drills. He stated that how schools deal with fires and severe weather is fairly standard, but for procedures and standards for active shooter situations and other emergencies are not. The CRASE program with the processes of Avoid-Deny-Defend (ADD) CRASE is geared to the general public, not to schools, and the important factor of accounting for students is therefore not addressed in the CRASE program. When he (Sgt. Jones) teaches the CRASE curriculum to school employees, he modifies the curriculum to include student accountability. He indicated that CJI is working to develop a program that is more specific to and standardized for schools. Mr. Spainhour stated that there are no standards for what needs to be in a crisis plan. Sgt. Jones suggested that the Arkansas School Safety Center could develop a model plan for schools to adapt for their own use. Mr. Bertelin stated that the "lockdown" is only the first step in a complex process. He suggested that CJI could work with the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management to develop a program to equip school administrators with the tools needed to develop comprehensive plans and active shooter training and response programs. Mr. Gray stated that performing drills helps to identify issues with how to react during a shooter situation.

New Business

Dr. May reported on recommendations of the school safety center subcommittee. She indicated there are four primary areas that are recommended to be handled by the Arkansas Safe Schools Committee: resources, training, technology, and programs. She stated that there has been no comprehensive needs assessment performed justify why a school safety center is need. She also indicated that a proposed budget and legislation to create the center would be needed and suggested that with thirteen months remaining until the 2017 legislative session, work on these should begin soon. Mr. Spainhour moved to establish a subcommittee to develop a standardized school safety needs assessment. Sgt. Jones seconded. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Coffman volunteered to serve on the subcommittee and to edit the needs assessment survey. Mr. Spainhour, Ms. French, and Sgt. Jones also volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. Jones volunteers. Ms. Otistene suggested that the survey should cover diversity in terms of geography and demographics. Ms. Curtis moved that resources and training be ordered as the school safety center's top priorities. Mr. Goodnight second. The motion passed unanimously.

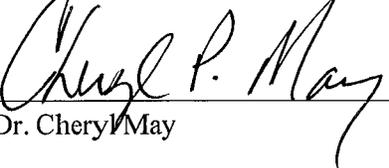
Dr. May reported that the safe schools subcommittee recommended the committee pursue passage a bill that would exempt school safety plans from public accessibility under the Freedom of Information Act. She stated that during the previous legislative session there had been wide support for such a bill, but work on it had begun too late in the session for the bill to be addressed. She indicated she would work with members of the legislature to sponsor such a bill during the 2017 legislative session and that she would ask Mr. Collum to assist her. Mr. Goodnight stated that the ASBA would support such a bill.

Ms. French passed out a flier with upcoming CJI classes. She stated that Mr. Collum is teaching a class on changing school climate. She stated that she would like to have commissioner of education help present awards at Safe Schools Conference July 18-20, 2016.

Ms. Coffman reported that Ms. Fitzgivens indicated she intends to withdraw from the committee; she will need to be replaced.

The next committee meeting was scheduled for April 19, 2016, from 12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM at the CJI.

Dr. May asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Goodnight moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Coffman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:14 PM.



Dr. Cheryl May