

MINUTES

MICHIGAN SCHOOL SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

January 25, 2023
10:00 a.m.

Ladislaus B. Dombrowski Board Room
John A. Hannah Building, Fourth Floor
608 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan

Present: Dr. Daveda J. Colbert
Mr. Patrick R. Green (virtual)
Dr. Alyse F. Ley
Dr. Nasuh Malas (virtual)
Mr. Jason Russell (virtual)
Dr. Jennifer Taiariol (virtual)
Ms. Rosa M. Thomas (virtual)
Lt. Col. Chris Kelenske
Ms. Aimee Alaniz

Staff Present: Dr. Diane Golzynski
Ms. Janice Dixon

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Colbert, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

Dr. Ley moved that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission approve the agenda and order of priority.

With only two voting members in attendance, there is no quorum and no actions can be voted on. Meeting will proceed without taking any action.

III. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS

Dr. Colbert asked that the Commission members introduce themselves and the sector they were nominated to represent. Each Commissioner present, either in person or virtually, introduced themselves and stated which sector they were representing.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Presentation by Ms. Nancy Buyle, co-chair of the Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission. The Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission has 16 members appointed by the Governor throughout the state focusing on five priorities. The Commission works with state departments and agencies,

as well as nonprofit organizations on researching the causes and possible underlying factors of suicide in Michigan. Ms. Buyle's presentation focused on Priorities #1 and #3.

Priority #1 – Minimizing risk for suicidal behavior by promoting safe environments, resiliency, and connectedness. Ms. Buyle discussed reducing access to lethal means for those with identified suicide risk and discussed several common risk factors, some of which included alcohol or substance use, chronic pain, family history of suicide loss, and other factors. Also discussed were protective factors, community connectedness, and resilience as ways to combat suicide risk. Ms. Buyle discussed Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) being taught in schools and a 5-year grant awarded to the Michigan Department of Education to improve SEL in schools. Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning, know as CASEL, has many online learning modules available at no charge for schools, educators, and community members.

Priority #3 – Improving suicide prevention training and education. The Michigan Suicide Prevention Commission is focusing on ensuring that high-quality suicide recognition trainings are available. The Commission would like to incorporate suicide prevention training in schools for school staff and volunteers, as well as with health care professionals and members of the public to increase the number of individuals prepared to support those at risk of suicide. Others that could benefit from suicide prevention training include faith-based leaders, parents, coaches, and law enforcement officers. Michigan law currently encourages, but does not require, suicide prevention training for schools.

Dr. Colbert and other Commissioners thanked Ms. Buyle for her presentation. Discussion took place about several training opportunities, including a one-hour Question Persuade Refer (QPR) training, a 3-hour safeTALK training, a 2-day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST), and an online START training.

Presentation by School Safety and Mental Health Commissioners Dr. Alyse Ley, Dr. Nasuh Malas, Dr. Jennifer Taiariol, and Ms. Rosa Thomas.

Commissioners gave report on their experiences with school mental health and what they are seeing first-hand. The group provided examples of text messages from students expressing threats of violence and self-harm, and student website searches related to suicide, bomb making, and threats and discussed how these types of messages and searches are flagged. Trauma was defined as "exposure to or actual threatened deal or serious injury or sexual violence." Trauma refers to life-threatening events as compared to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which are non-life-threatening events. The Commissioners described the number of youth experiencing trauma and their use of healthcare services, as well as Acute Stress Disorder, where symptoms last for up to one month following the trauma and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), where symptoms last for greater than one month. Common PTSD presentations

and risk factors were discussed. Impacts of COVID-19 on children and adolescents here discussed siting loss of social contacts and extracurricular events, back and forth transitions between virtual, hybrid, and in-person learning as factors affecting youth's mental health. Commissioners also reported on school shootings, trauma treatment, trauma training, confidentiality during deployment of psychological first aid, and the need for long-term trauma treatment.

Dr. Colbert thanked the Commissioners for their presentation. Discussion took place, including additional discussions on universal training.

Presentation on Michigan Earn, Learn, and Serve in Schools (Mi-ELSiS) by Mr. Drew Murray, Michigan Health Council. Mr. Murray presented on the \$4.5 million five-year federal grant program to address the talent pipeline issue. This funding aims to train school-based mental health service providers. The plan is to provide training and place 165 trainees, of which 83 will be for high-need schools. The recipient of this federal funding, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), and the fiscal and administrative agent, the Michigan Health Council, has named this funding Michigan Earn, Learn, and Serve in Schools (Mi-ELSiS). MDE was one of three awardees from a state agency. MDE and the Michigan Health Council will collaborate with several agencies to develop and implement trainee outreach, increase the number of behavioral health providers, and support trainees once placed.

Dr. Colbert thanked Mr. Murray for his presentation.

Discussion of Talent Pipeline. No discussion. Will continue to be a recurring agenda item each month.

Update on Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) contract by Dr. Diane Golzynski, Interim Deputy Superintendent for Finance and Operations at the Michigan Department of Education. Dr. Golzynski stated that the contract with MPHI needed for each of the three positions to be hired for the Commission is awaiting execution from a Michigan Department of Education staff member in the Office of Financial Management. This staff member has been out on medical leave. Until executed, postings and interviews cannot proceed. Dr. Golzynski will continue to work with MDE leadership to have these documents executed by another staff member. Lt. Col. Chris Kelenske offered to investigate whether the contracts could be executed by another State Department, such as the Michigan State Police, to assist in getting these positions posted.

V. ACTION ITEMS

As there was not a quorum present, the School Safety and Mental Health Commission did not approve the draft minutes from the December 21, 2022, meeting.

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Dr. Colbert recommended that future meetings be limited to having no more than two presentations to allow for fuller and richer discussions within the time frame of the meeting.

Lt. Col. Chris Kelenske, Michigan State Police, provided an update on several topics.

- Progress has been made in the Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) trainings – 12 basic courses and two advanced courses have been completed.
- The three-year School Resource Officer (SRO) grant application period has ended. 269 applications were received, requesting over \$44M for 343 SRO positions. The grant had approximately \$25M to award. First priority was given to Tier 1 applicants – those with no current SRO. All 146 requests were granted for Tier 1 applicants. Tier 2 applicants – those that either have or previously had an SRO position but were requesting a new SRO position – were prioritized next and 49 applicants (59 percent) received awards. Rural districts also received priority. A total of 195 applications were funded and will potentially impact 632,206 students.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No one requested the opportunity to provide public comment.

VIII. FUTURE MEETING DATES

The next meeting of the School Safety and Mental Health Commission is Wednesday, February 22 at 10:00 a.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dixon
Executive Secretary
Office of Health and Nutrition Services