

MINUTES

MICHIGAN SCHOOL SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

May 24, 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 Dr. Jennifer Taiariol
Mr. Patrick R. Green (virtual) Ms. Beth Nagel
Dr. Alyse F. Ley Lt. Col. Chris Kelenske
Dr. Nasuh Malas Ms. Aimee Alaniz
Mr. Jason Russell

Staff Present: Dr. Diane Golzynski Ms. Janice Dixon

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Colbert, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. COMMISSIONER INTRODUCTIONS

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

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ORDER OF PRIORITY

Mr. Russell moved, seconded by Dr. Malas, that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission approve the agenda and order of priority.

A roll call vote was taken.

**Colbert – Aye
Ley – Aye
Malas – Aye
Russell – Aye
Taiariol – Aye
Nagel – Aye**

The motion carried unanimously.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Presentation by Jana Aupperlee, Co-Director, Mid-Michigan Psychology Internship Consortium, Michigan Association of School Psychologists (MASP). There is a critical shortage of school psychologists. Currently, the ratio of psychologists to students is 1:1,500, which is three times the recommended ration of 1:500. There are currently 215 unfilled school psychologist jobs. Getting a psychologist degree is a three-year program requiring 60 credits. The biggest barrier is the cost – both of tuition and living expenses. The Michigan Association of School Psychologists has created a database for available positions – jobs, internships, and apprenticeships. The Association continually presents at each 4-year college or university within Michigan, as well as connects with the counselors at those colleges and universities to present career possibilities for students. Dr. Aupperlee discussed the Student Mental Health Apprenticeship Retention and Training (SMART) bill that was included within the 31aa funding. Also discussed the federal grant, Project OPTIMISE (Opening the Pipeline of Talent into Michigan’s Special Education). Some strategies that the Association is exploring include offering retention bonuses, offering tuition support for grad students equal to a service obligation, creating more apprenticeships or administrative assistant positions to help psychologists, as there is too much paperwork currently required for psychologists to complete, taking away their time from assisting students. Also exploring state-paid internships and bonuses for those holding the Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) credential. The NCSP is the only professional credential acknowledging school psychologists who meet rigorous, nationally recognized standards. School psychologists who hold the NCSP demonstrate their commitment to the highest levels of professionalism, ethical practice, and continuing professional development. The Association continues to develop on-line trainings and create additional new programs for in person training. Dr. Aupperlee took questions from Commissioners and discussion took place.

Talent Pipeline discussion took place among the Commissioners.

The Commissioners revisited last month’s discussion on whether to recommend that the Office of Retirement Services (ORS) reduce the separation time allowed from nine months to 30 days. Commission decided that they would need to know the reason for the nine-month separation rule before they send a letter to ORS. What exactly is the definition of a bona fide separation? It was noted that Michigan has the longest separation timeline rule in the nation.

Update on Commission business by Dr. Diane Golzynski, Deputy Superintendent, Finance and Operations at the Michigan Department of Education. Dr. Golzynski provided a review of the by-laws of the Commission. With no funding, the Michigan School Safety and Mental Health Commission will end in September of this year. Lt. Col. Kelenske, Chair of the School Safety Commission, stated that any of the Michigan

School Safety and Mental Health Commission members could be added to the School Safety Commission if desired. Next month's Commission meeting will be used as a work session, and upcoming Commission meetings will recap the last 6-8 months of Commission business.

V. ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Ley moved, seconded by Dr. Taiariol, that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission approve the draft minutes from the April 26, 2023, meeting.

A roll call vote was taken.

**Colbert – Aye
Ley – Aye
Malas – Aye
Russell - Aye
Taiariol – Aye
Nagel – Aye**

The motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Lt. Col. Kelenske stated his appreciation for the many presentations from the field that the Commission has hosted. No other Commissioners provided comments.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

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, June 28 at 10:00 a.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dixon
Executive Secretary
Office of Health and Nutrition Services