

## MINUTES

### MICHIGAN SCHOOL SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

September 27, 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  
Ms. Rosa M. Thomas  
Dr. Jennifer Taiariol  
Mr. Jason Russell  
Ms. Beth Nagel  
Lt. Col. Chris Kelenske

Staff Present: Dr. Diane Golzynski  
Mr. Scott Hutchins  
Ms. Janice Dixon

### REGULAR MEETING

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Colbert, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 Mr. Green, that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission approve the agenda and order of priority, making note that the Commission will add a discussion on the retirement letter.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**Colbert – Aye  
Green – Aye  
Russell - Aye  
Taiariol – Aye  
Thomas - Aye  
Nagel - Aye**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### **Presentation from StayWell.**

Ms. Erin Wallace, Project Manager at Michigan Department of Health and Human Resources, discussed the StayWell program. This was started in 2020 with federal funding. They promote resilience and healing with their major effort in helping schools. Challenges in schools include increased depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation; decreased access to services; school systems being overwhelmed; and staff burnout. StayWell provides teachers and parents tools to help kids, webinars for teachers, webinars for youth, coping education for parents and kids, videos, and resources for educators. They currently advertise on TV, social media, transit ads in major cities, etc. to get their message out to those that need it.

If they received additional funding, they can continue and expand efforts to deliver training and other services. Funding is running out. Requesting funding from the Commission: Option A - \$2.7 million; Option B - \$1.1 million; Option C - \$753,000.

Questions from Commissioners were addressed. Discussion took place.

#### **Presentation on Fiscal year 2024 School Safety and Mental Health Funding.**

Scott Hutchins, School behavioral Health Unit Supervisor from the Michigan Department of Education, discussed the positive effects of the increased amount of funding in mental health and safety since 2018. This funding has helped to hire behavioral health providers, school psychologists, social workers, counselors, and nurses. In addition, there has been increased wellness and mental health practices within schools in Social Emotional Learning, or SEL. Some funding for the upcoming 2023-24 year will include facility upgrades in school-based health center facilities, firearm detection software, and support of the Student Advocacy Center of Michigan. By focusing on a comprehensive school mental health system, barriers to treatment can be removed, schools can help normalize the process of seeking behavioral health care, can ensure safe and welcoming environments, and can have strong relationships with their communities, students, and families.

Questions from Commissioners were addressed. Discussion took place.

## **Commission Discussion**

Commission revisited the previous proposal from Lt. Col. Chris Kelenske on the funding for the School Safety Academy.

**Mr. Russell moved, seconded by Dr. Taiariol, that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission approve \$400,000 for the School Safety Academy run by the Michigan State Police. (This funding would come from the original Commission funding.)**

A roll call vote was taken.

**Colbert – Aye  
Green – Aye  
Russell - Aye  
Taiariol – Aye  
Thomas - Aye  
Nagel - Aye**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Commission revisited the previous proposal from Dr. Taiariol regarding school psychologists. A letter will be drafted for the Commission to support at its next meeting.

Commission discussed the previous proposals from Foxbright and Just2Technical on website services and using funds from the Commission's October 1, 2023, funding for these services. Commission would like to combine the services of both submissions; one for creating the website and the other to provide consultation on the website.

**Mr. Russell moved, seconded by Dr. Taiariol, that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission gather Request for Proposals to secure a company to build a website for the Commission.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**Colbert – Aye  
Green – Aye  
Russell - Aye  
Taiariol – Aye  
Thomas - Aye  
Nagel - Aye**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Russell moved, seconded by Dr. Taiariol, to amend the previous motion to read that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission follow the procurement process to gather Request for Proposals to secure a company to build a website for the Commission.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**Colbert – Aye  
Green – Aye  
Russell - Aye  
Taiariol – Aye  
Thomas - Aye  
Nagel - Aye**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Green moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas, that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission follow the procurement process to gather Request for Proposals to secure a consultant to manage the Commission website on an ongoing basis.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**Colbert – Aye  
Green – Aye  
Russell - Aye  
Taiariol – Aye  
Thomas - Aye  
Nagel - Aye**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

Commission revisited the retirement letter discussion. The letter from the Commission was sent to legislators. The proposals states that the sit out time for retirees has been reduced from nine months to six months. Those retirees can earn \$15,100 per calendar year. After 6 months, there is no earning cap. Former Superintendents cannot return as a Superintendent. Will be voted on soon by the Senate. Commission is hopeful that this passes.

**Update on Commission business by Dr. Diane Golzynski, Deputy Superintendent, Finance and Operations at the Michigan Department of Education.** Dr. Golzynski stated that the Commission website and Commissioner emails will not be shut down as of October 1, allowing Wayne RESA to get Commission website and emails up and running. Dr. Golzynski reminded Commission of new meeting location starting in October 2023.

V. ACTION ITEMS

**Ms. Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Green, that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission approve the draft minutes from the August 23, 2023, meeting.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**Colbert – Aye  
Green – Aye  
Russell - Aye  
Taiariol – Aye  
Thomas - Aye  
Nagel - Aye**

**The motion carried unanimously.**

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Lt. Col. Chris Kelenske stated that the Joint Learning Session with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services was a great experience and that they are looking forward to the next one. School Resource Officer (SRO) modules are available on Michigan Virtual.

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, October 25 at 10:00 a.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dixon  
Executive Secretary  
Office of Health and Nutrition Services