

MINUTES

MICHIGAN SCHOOL SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

April 26, 2023
10:00 a.m.

Lake Superior Room
Library of Michigan, Ground Floor
702 West Kalamazoo Street
Lansing, Michigan

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

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. 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. Green moved, seconded by Ms. Thomas, that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission approve the agenda and order of priority.

A roll call vote was taken.

**Colbert – Aye
Green – Aye
Ley – Aye
Thomas – Aye
Malas – Aye
Taiariol – Aye
Nagel – Aye**

The motion carried unanimously.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Presentation on Navigate 360 by Mr. JP Guilbault, Chief Executive Officer from Navigate 360. School safety and student wellness is a multi-faceted and complex issue – it’s not a “one size fits all” issue and requires a layered and holistic approach. Target violence and self-harm is preventable. Navigate 360 is committed to supporting education and community partners with solutions that work. Using data to drive actionable insights, Navigate 360 aims to decrease harmful acts and mitigate their impact. Navigate 360 works with over 30,000 schools across the country, providing technology, education, and professional services. Many states partner with Navigate 360 for solutions such as anonymous tip-lines, digital media monitoring, thread assessment, and mental health education. Most students who have mental health needs do not pose a threat to themselves and/or others. However, those students who do pose a threat to themselves and/or others need to be identified early and provided with intervention and mental health support. There is a significant link between unmanaged mental health and violence.

Mr. Guilbault took questions from Commissioners. This is a holistic approach and must include parents, leadership, counselors, etc. Navigate 360 is customizable for each state.

Discussion on school safety by State Representatives Luke Meerman and Kelly Breen.

Representatives Meerman and Breen are grateful for the School Safety and Mental Health Commission and will work to make good things happen. They understand that families are changing, and this is not easy work. There is a stigma attached to mental health, which needs to change. In discussion with the Commissioners, it was brought up that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission is in statute, but not yet in the budget. Representatives Meerman and Breen stated that they will look into it and fight to get this Commission funded. Open seats on the School Safety and Mental Health Commission were also brought to the Representatives attention. Lt. Col. Chris Kenenske invited both Representatives to attend the School Safety Commission he chairs. Upcoming meeting dates are July 26 and October 25 at 2:00 pm at the Michigan State Police Headquarters. Other Commissioners invited the Representatives to join in any of their district or County meetings on mental health, counselor shortage, etc.

Talent Pipeline discussion took place among the Commissioners.

There is a continuous need. Talent is going to the highest bidder; there is simply not enough people. The private sector is also a competitor, salaries have gone up, and a second language is needed in some districts. Discussion took place round the fact that retirees can’t come back to work for nine months after retirement. Should the Commission recommend that the nine-

month post-retirement stipulation be temporarily eliminated to allow both teachers and mental health professionals to go back to the workforce to support the needs of our children after only 30 days, rather than nine months? Perhaps the Office of Retirement Services should be invited to an upcoming the School Safety and Mental Health Commission meeting to hear the Commission's concerns? This is an emergency situation. **Lt. Col. Kelenske moved, seconded by Dr. Taiariol, that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission look into how an emergency order or directive could be issued to change the post-retirement return to work timeframe requirement for Michigan public school retirees, allowing retirees to be hired as teachers or mental health professionals earlier than currently allowed.**

A roll call vote was taken.

**Colbert – Aye
Green – Aye
Ley – Aye
Thomas – Aye
Malas - Aye
Taiariol – Aye
Nagel – Aye**

The motion carried unanimously.

Update on Commission business by Dr. Diane Golzynski, Deputy Superintendent, Finance and Operations at the Michigan Department of Education. Dr. Golzynski stated that the Senate budget was currently being released and the House budget was being released on the following day. She discussed various upcoming presentations to the Commission for May and offered to set up any work sessions the Commissioners would like to have. Commissioners requested a clarification on the Commission focus and a review of the Legislative duties.

V. ACTION ITEMS

Dr. Ley moved, seconded by Dr. Taiariol, that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission approve the draft minutes from the March 22, 2023, meeting.

A roll call vote was taken.

**Colbert – Aye
Green – Aye
Ley – Aye
Thomas – Aye
Malas - Aye
Taiariol – Aye
Nagel – Aye**

The motion carried unanimously.

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Dr. Ley discussed an upcoming session on adolescent targeted violence prevention to be held on May 11 in East Lansing to advance knowledge, policies, and practices to prevent targeted violence in schools and communities. 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, May 24 at 10:00 a.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dixon
Executive Secretary
Office of Health and Nutrition Services