

**MINUTES**

MICHIGAN SCHOOL SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION

August 23, 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  
Dr. Nasuh Malas  
Dr. Alyse Ley  
Ms. Aimee Alaniz  
Dr. Jennifer Taiariol  
Mr. Jason Russell  
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 10:02 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

**Dr. Malas moved, seconded by Mr. Green, that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission approve the agenda and order of priority, making note that the two presentations would be switching order.**

A roll call vote was taken.

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

### III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### **Presentation from the Community Mental Health Association.**

Mr. Bob Sheehan, Chief Executive Officer of the Community Mental Health Association, stated that their organization served all counties in Michigan. He discussed the workforce shortage and different methods of retaining professionals, including loan repayment, increased wages and benefits, and reducing the administrative burden placed on professionals. Questions from Commissioners were addressed. Discussion took place.

#### **Presentation on Empowering Youth with 988: The Back Pocket Solution for Mental Health Support.**

Krista Hausermann, Karen Everett, and Rachel Zaguskin, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, discussed the 988 system, which is a crisis service system for all Michiganders. 988 is a national number with 24/7 support. Callers get connected immediately for help or services. This is for any type of need. 988 calls are answered by Michigan staff that can provide support and provide resources and referrals. They even provide follow up calls. A grant has been applied for that would allow chat and text messages to be included in the Michigan Crisis and Access Line, as Michigan currently doesn't answer chats and texts. Individuals answering 988 calls receive extensive training; can connect w/ 911 for urgent situations. Questions from Commissioners were addressed. Extensive discussion took place.

#### **Presentations on services for hosting the School Safety and Mental Health Commission website.**

Presentation from Paula Whisman from Foxbright, followed by presentation from Ricki Steigerwald from Just2Technical. Commissioners requested time to digest what was presented and agreed to discuss at next month's meeting. A sub committee may be needed to determine next steps.

#### **Discussion of submitted proposal for School Safety and Mental Health Commission funding.**

Commissioner Lt. Col. Chris Kelenske described the School Safety Academy. Would like to provide 2-3 sessions for the 2023-24 school year. As previously discussed, these sessions would be modeled after a successful operation in Missouri. Commissioners could request to visit Missouri's session without taking up a space in the course. Other states holding similar courses include Indiana, Tennessee, Maryland, Texas, Virginia, and Colorado.

#### **Commission Discussion**

Michigan State Police and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services are holding joint sessions on Behavioral Mental Health. First session is being held at Lansing Community College's West Campus on September 20, 2023, from 8:00 am-4:00 pm. Next session is being held in Gaylord on October 11, 2023, also from 8:00 am-4:00 pm.

School safety videos have been published by Michigan State Police and are posted on the School Safety Commission website. Additional resources have been added to the School Safety Commission website.

The letter to the Michigan Legislators to be sent from the School Safety and Mental Health Commission has not yet been sent. One Commissioner still needed to provide their consent to add their signature to the letter before being sent.

The Michigan Association of School Psychologists provided answers to previous Commission questions.

**Update on Commission business by Dr. Diane Golzynski, Deputy Superintendent, Finance and Operations at the Michigan Department of Education.** Dr. Golzynski had no updates to share with the Commission. Chairman Colbert inquired if Dr. Golzynski had heard from the Attorney General's Office as to whether or not Commissioners could retain their State of Michigan email addresses after October 1, but Dr. Golzynski had not yet received a response.

V. ACTION ITEMS

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

A roll call vote was taken.

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Dr. Taiariol moved, seconded by Dr. Ley, that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission change the date of its January 2024 meeting date from January 24, 2024, to January 31, 2024.**

A roll call vote was taken.

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Mr. Green moved, seconded by Dr. Malas, that the School Safety and Mental Health Commission approve a change to the Commission meeting location, beginning in October 2023, to 826 Municipal Way, Lansing, Michigan.**

A roll call vote was taken.

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

**The motion carried unanimously.**

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No 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, September 27 at 10:00 a.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Dixon  
Executive Secretary  
Office of Health and Nutrition Services