

Attendees

Jerry Keefer
Jeff Cox
Chris Hammond
Dr. Lynda Phillips
Todd Nelson
David Hopkins
Jarod Morrison
Kelli Martin
Shastady Wagner
Jason Weatherly
Quarnicia Smith
Cindy Luper
Eric Saunders
Dr. Cheryl May
Lt. Matt Huckabay
Tamara Strawn
Tony Harris
Shane Patrick

Agenda:

Discuss School safety expert and rules and responsibilities of CSSO and Institutional law enforcement officer.

Dr. Hopkins, Dr. May, and Keefer are here to answer any questions.

Keefer suggests taking lots of notes during the meeting. Next meeting, we will discuss what we came up with on our own. Keefer gave homework, to come up with new ideas and thoughts of definitions.

School safety expert:

Primarily physical safety

What qualifies someone to be an expert?

CPTED is 4 basic principles:

1. Natural Surveillance- windows in classroom, manmade, walking paths, driving paths.
2. Natural access control-
3. Territorial reinforcement
4. Maintenance and Management

Arkansas Center for School safety offers School safety Coordinator training.

Dr. May says it's a 1-day program, talks about laws, best recommendations, incident command, 3 coordinators are there to discuss their experiences, compliance. There have been really good evaluations from past training.

Site Assess training – free of charge to help identify vulnerabilities. Dr. May said we were the first in the country to do this. Started training on the application, and a few people have gotten together and there is an AR specific that will be used in the training.

A few weeks ago, the issue within the glitch was fixed. Communication must be had when 2 people are working on the same thing.

Class is 4 hours and a walk through of building included- Hands on training is included. The app and training are free.

Keefer asked for some opinions:

David Hopkins asks if the school safety coordinator and expert is supposed to review plans for facilities?

The school safety coordinator and expert can be the same person if you want.

Dr. May says it will be beneficial for them to be the same person.

The expert would have to have more requirements to be considered an expert.

Who is likely to be this person: Hopkins says facilities.

Tamara Strong says there needs to be expert on and off campus.

Dr. May agrees and says it may be the campus security or SRO who is on campus.

Shane Patrick asks about expert overall job role. Is the expert there to review any new construction plans? Or is the expert and school safety coordinator handling the day-to-day operation of building or district?

Keefer states that by the definition in LEARNS the school safety expert role is to review architectural roles for new construction on school buildings. The school safety coordinator would be the one who handles day-to-day safety and security.

Nelson states we are looking for minimal standards for experts. Are we really going to call someone an expert after 2 ½ weeks of training? Dr. May states it's not really two weeks of training because it is just an intro in CPTED training, and she thinks they got it down to about a week.

To be considered an expert there needs to be some experience required.

Keefer says facilities are looking at all new construction, everything from fire and ADA code. Questions to the districts are how do you feel about that? He doesn't want it to appear is the department is controlling everything. Could that be some of the experience requirements.

Most school districts, if they are building a new building, should have their safety coordinators involved.

Before we can call someone an expert, there needs to be more requirements.

Next meeting, we can look at recommendations on physical security on campuses to see how and if we can implement that.

Keefer states part of the LEARNS is for school safety unit to assist, monitor, and evaluate how schools are meeting the minimal standards and best practices.

Commissioned School Security Roles

Dr Hopkins talks about Commissioned School Security officers in Clarksville. In 2013 they began to look at better ways on how to secure the campuses after the Sandy Hook tragedy.

Commissioned school security officers receive an initial 60 hours of training, annual 24-hour renewal.

Volunteer basis, school employees who take the training and always have their firearms on them in case of a bad situation. The person can resign from this role at any time, no questions asked.

Psychological evaluations were done on individuals and have to be drug tested and random screening. State police training and they provide them with a one-time stipend of \$1,350 now and they tell the individuals what to buy with it. (Firearms, holster, etc.)

Dr. May states there is a 2nd type of Commissioned School Security officers which are private security. They also have to have a 24-hour recertification. They are allowed to carry guns on campus. Their roles vary from school to school.

Institutional law enforcement officer roles

Dr. May states they were allowed back in 2019 based on act 913, its modeling the same programs we see in universities and colleges campus police. A school district can form their own police departments. They get approved through the commissioner of law enforcements standards and training with a series of requirements. Forst Smith and Hot Springs are two of the largest that she personally knows. More districts are looking into this.

DESE Rules Governing School Safety

Shastady Wagner stated the DESE rules to the state board yesterday to put them out for public comment pending governor office approval. Approval has not been received yet. They will go out hopefully early next week, Keefer will send those out for everyone to take a look at to see changes and what was drafted. They mirror the law.