

Campus Life and Safety and Security Task Force
MINUTES

Tuesday, April 15, 2009, 2 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Chancellor Glen D. Johnson welcomed the attendees and began introductions. Other members in attendance were: Kay Martin, Francis Tuttle Career Technology Center; Doug Major, Meridian Technology Center; Lesa Smaligo, Oklahoma Independent Colleges and Universities; Terri White, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; Kerry Pettingill, Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security; and Lee Bird, Oklahoma State University. Others in attendance were: Richard Braley, Murray State College; Kelly Bounds, eCapitol.net/Capitol News Network; Shelby Blundell, Rose State College; Adam Lovell, Southeastern Oklahoma State University; and Pam Boatright, Bob Anthony, Ben Hardcastle, Rebecca Richardson, Tony Hutchison, Hollye Hunt and Kermit McMurry, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 3 MEETING: Johnson asked task force members to review the minutes of the Feb. 3, 2009, meeting. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

OPENING REMARKS: Johnson said that significant progress had been made since the last meeting, about which updates would be provided during the meeting, and that the task force would be looking at some new initiatives in the summer and fall to move the task force closer to accomplishing its goals by December 2010.

UPDATE ON 2009-10 STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: Johnson noted that, at its October meeting, the task force adopted a legislative agenda that had three priorities: 1) increased safety and security funding for higher education institutions and career technology centers; 2) exempting emergency plans from open records requirements; and 3) retaining the current laws regarding concealed weapons on campuses.

Johnson said that the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security had taken the lead on the first priority. At Johnson's request, Kerry Pettingill provided an update on SB 605, which would establish the Oklahoma School Security Grant Program. Pettingill said OHS was comfortable with the language of the bill and said it was steadily moving through the process.

Johnson asked Hollye Hunt to provide an update on SB 585 – exempting emergency plans from open records – and HB 1083 and SB 1101 – concealed weapon legislation. Hunt said she and the sponsoring senators had worked with the Oklahoma Press Association to address some concerns about how SB 585 would affect institutions' compliance with the Clery Act. She added that the bill was moving along in the process and should be headed to the governor soon. She said both of the gun bills were dead for this session, but that Murphey had indicated that he would pursue the issue next year.

Lee Bird mentioned a segment on the news program "20/20" that covers the topic of concealed carry in public places, including school and college campuses. She suggested that task force members and others access the episode online. Johnson asked if someone could locate the link and send it to the group.

POTENTIAL STIMULUS FUNDING: Johnson asked Pettingill to discuss the possibility of federal stimulus funding for task force initiatives. Pettingill said that the governor would have a discretionary amount of funding that many agencies were pursuing. He added that he didn't

know where the task force would fall in the pecking order but was hopeful about the possibility of receiving some of the funding. He said there were possibilities in several areas, such as public safety and the state education department. Tony Hutchison noted that the guidance documents for the fund state that 80 percent must go directly to institutions and LEAs, and that the remaining 20 percent would be highly sought after. Johnson asked if the task force should formalize its request for funding. Pettingill and Hutchison agreed that it would be helpful to extend a letter to the governor regarding the task force's request. Hutchison added that the letter could ask that the governor fund the grant program established by SB 605 and also be mindful of the funding request in the task force's annual report. He said that the letter should acknowledge the challenging budget year and ask that anything possible be done for this year with a commitment to continue to fund the initiatives in the coming years. Johnson asked Hardcastle to take the lead on drafting the letter and added that a draft would be sent to task force members for feedback and approval before it being sent to the governor.

REPORT ON APRIL 23, 2009, EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS VENDOR FAIR: Pam Boatright referred members to copies of the vendor fair flyer in their packets and outlined details of the event. Hardcastle noted that the fair was a good example of a project that stemmed from discussion at a taskforce meeting. He thanked Boatright for her work on the event and noted that the goal was to have about a dozen vendors registered and that there would be double that.

REPORT ON RESULTS OF COUNSELING SURVEY: Johnson asked Hutchison and Kermit McMurry to report on the results of the counseling survey. Hutchison thanked Cindy Poulton for her work on the survey and said this year's survey was conducted online, which saved time and money. He said campuses were notified about the survey on March 10 and given a deadline of March 31 to complete the survey. Questions were developed with input from Bird and Terri White. A total of 61 campuses – 26 career technology centers, 22 four-year universities and 13 two-year colleges – responded. Hutchison said this year's survey was more sophisticated than last year's so it was harder to compare the results but that this year's survey was more informative. Hutchison noted these highlights from the survey:

- Licensed mental health counselors are available on 59 percent of reporting campuses.
- There is access to licensed mental health counselors off campus at 80 percent of reporting campuses.
- A variety of organizations provide access to off-campus counseling, such as ODMHSAS mental health and substance abuse clinics, private clinics/hospitals and Oklahoma 2-1-1 Collaboratives.
- Of the reporting campuses, 31 reported that they had 50 or fewer students seek counseling, while 12 reported that they had more than 100 students seek counseling.
- Reporting campuses faced several types of situations over the last two years that raised alarm or warranted use of a licensed counselor, including suicide threat or attempt, angry outbursts, classroom disruptions, alcohol or drug abuse, relationship issues and mental disease.
- Of the reporting campuses, 61 percent have a threat assessment team in place.
- Of those campuses that reported not having a team in place, 67 percent reported that they are considering implementing one.

McMurry thanked Bird and White for their work and stated the importance of needing to know where the campuses stand in order to request funding for counseling needs.

REPORT ON MENTAL HEALTH COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS: Johnson asked White to report on two exciting mental health collaborative projects. White first provided an overview of the Mental Health First Aid Program, training developed in Australia that is similar to medical first aid. She said the purpose was to provide basic aid to provide support to someone in a mental health crisis until professionals are involved and that the program had produced amazing outcomes. She added that Oklahoma would be the third state in the nation to implement the program. She said train-the-trainer workshops would be held for career tech and higher education in July and that hopefully more classes would be added and the training would become as common as medical first aid.

White then described a regional collaboration initiative that would foster better partnerships between schools and mental health service providers. She said regional meetings would be arranged – probably in the fall – where both sides could inform and understand about the different roles and the tools available and not available. Hardcastle referred members to copies in their packets of a map of the geographic distribution of postsecondary education locations and mental health services. He said the meetings would include video greetings from White, Johnson, Phil Berkenbile and the governor. He added that a working group would be formed to plan the meetings.

REPORT ON NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) STATEWIDE COMPLIANCE PLAN: Johnson asked Hardcastle to provide an update on the National Incident Management System (NIMS) Statewide Compliance Plan. Hardcastle noted that NIMS compliance was a key recommendation of the task force. He said a working group was in place to achieve full compliance by 2010. He said the group would be working with campus presidents and directors to plan kickoff events in the fall and that there would be some campaign-style awareness efforts as well.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: Johnson asked subcommittee chairs provide updates on recent activities.

Notification: Major said there was nothing further to report but thanked OSRHE staff for their work on the vendor fair.

Response: Pettingill stated there was nothing further to report.

Counseling: Bird said there was nothing further to report.

Laws and Policies: No report.

Funding: Kay Martin stated there was nothing further to report.

FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE: Johnson said the task force would be meeting through 2010 as noted in the governor's executive order. He said upcoming meetings were scheduled for June, August, October and December and that meeting details would be available on the CLASS Web site.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.