

Campus Safety and Security Task Force

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 4, 2020, 1:30 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Chancellor Glen D. Johnson welcomed members and guests Elicia Berryhill, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; Kendra Brown, Southwestern Oklahoma State University; Michaelle Gray, Amanda Berry and Sam Holt, Murray State College; Jeff Harp, University of Central Oklahoma; Dan Piazza, Oklahoma City Community College; Mark Pierce, Francis Tuttle Technology Center; Col. Hiram Tabler and Keli Cain, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security; Richard Andrews and Joedon Hughes, Rose State College; Durward Cook, Southeastern Oklahoma State University; Janet Cunningham, Northwestern Oklahoma State University; Cheryl Evans, Northern Oklahoma College; Kevin Leach, University of Oklahoma; Devin DeBock, Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology; Nancy Hughes, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma; David Shannon, Oklahoma Baptist University; Aaron Collins, Metro Technology Centers; Steve Turner, Northeastern State University; John DeBoard, Cameron University; Bert Miller and Brandon Hill, East Central University; Ron Ramming, Connors State College; Bill Knowles, Seminole State College; Chad Brown and Randy Graves, Carl Albert State College; Jack Bryant, Redlands Community College; Chad Wiginton, Western Oklahoma State College; Jeana Rae Conn, Louis Ross and Nikki Phillips, Rogers State University; Roger Webb, Task Force Consultant; and Angela Caddell, LeeAnna McNally, Rachel Bates and Sharon Bourbeau, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

APPROVAL OF SEPT. 15 MEETING MINUTES: Chancellor Johnson asked task force members to review the minutes of the Sept. 15, 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Johnson asked LeeAnna McNally to update members on legislation regarding weapons and public safety. McNally told members that there were a couple of interim studies addressing police training and potential legislative reforms. She said that she anticipated a bill pertaining to weapons on campus in the upcoming legislative session.

Johnson encouraged members to remain vigilant, noting there would be new Senate and House members, and to reach out to area legislators to share their views on maintaining the current law regarding weapons on campus. Angela Caddell said the talking points outlining the state system position would be shared with the task force by email.

CAMPUS EMERGENCY MANAGER CONSORTIUM UPDATE: Johnson asked Caddell to provide an update on the Campus Emergency Manager Consortium in the absence of Sarah Kimball. Caddell reported that in the upcoming months, the consortium would focus on training in NIMS reporting and requirements for new campus personnel, as well as building a compendium of COVID-19 response resources for future pandemic response planning.

WORKGROUP REPORTS: Johnson asked for workgroup reports.

Campus Best Practices (Steve Turner, Chair): Turner said that the planned workgroup meeting was postponed due to Internet connectivity interruptions, and would be rescheduled. The primary objective would be to review and update the online campus resource repository.

Issue Monitoring, Advocacy and Research (Larry Rice, Chair): Caddell gave the report in Rice's absence. She stated that the workgroup would stand ready to assist Chancellor and McNally in developing advocacy strategies and responding to proposed campus safety and security legislation during the upcoming session.

Training and Plan Development (Jeff Harp, Chair): Harp shared that work continues to plan a Crisis Intervention Training event for campus law enforcement and security personnel in partnership with ODMHSAS. He said they were still looking for a campus to host a spring 2021 training in the OKC metro area. Caddell added that although the week-long training would be limited to 30 people by design, social distancing requirements would necessitate a large meeting space.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION: WEAPONS ON CAMPUS POSITION SUPPORT: Johnson asked Caddell to present the resolution, which was drafted to express appreciation to campus faculty advisory councils, staff councils and student government associations for their steadfast support of maintaining the current law pertaining to weapons on campus. She invited members to offer any refinements before the resolution was finalized.

STATEWIDE SUMMIT UPDATE: Johnson asked Caddell to provide an update. She told members that a new date had been set for the postponed summit: Nov. 1, 2021 at the Reed Center in Midwest City. She said the biennial rotation would resume from 2021, and that topics the task force had identified for 2020 would carry forward. Caddell said it was her intention to work with our partners to secure funding for the keynote speaker, and that she would try to re-engage Scott Lewis, who had been booked as the keynote for the postponed summit.

She said that new concurrent topic ideas would also be considered as planning resumes in earnest, noting that she would contact the individuals who had responded to the call for proposals for the postponed summit and reissue a call for proposals in the spring. Caddell also mentioned that as decided by the task force, the number of unique concurrent sessions would be further limited so that content could be repeated throughout the day to optimize participant access.

NIMS 2020-21 COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION: Johnson asked Caddell to provide an update on the annual NIMS certification renewal process. Caddell told members that the 2020-21 reporting period for NIMS was now open, and that the deadline for campuses to confirm continued NIMS compliance was Dec. 31. She reminded the task force that as a state system, 100% NIMS compliance had been maintained for many years, and affirmed that was the goal again this year. She encouraged members to reach out to Mike Mahoney, NIMS coordinator for the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, with any questions about the renewal process.

INSIGHTS: CAMPUS SAFETY IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD: Johnson asked Dr. Roger Webb, Task Force Consultant, to provide insights and updates to members. Webb told members that in his view, no other single event has disrupted college campus operations more than the coronavirus pandemic. He noted the impacts of COVID-19 in several areas, including institutional and family finances, online education delivery, faculty and staff responsibilities, and community engagement. Webb remarked that while students seemed to be handling the academic and lifestyle impacts of COVID-19 quite well, mental health impacts such as depression, fear and uncertainty were likely to linger well beyond the pandemic crisis itself.

He added that while students have been largely compliant with on-campus mask mandates and social distancing requirements, he felt strongly that campus security personnel should not be asked to enforce institutional pandemic safety mandates. Webb also encouraged the campuses to be prepared for potential student unrest surrounding the presidential election.

OPEN DISCUSSION: Johnson asked if members had any additional agenda items to be considered. Discussion ensued regarding the phases of the state's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan, and the potentially significant role of higher education campuses in the distribution process.

Caddell notified members that the U.S. Department of Education had announced it would no longer recognize the 2016 Clery Act Reporting Handbook for higher education institutions, and that the guidance was being replaced with a 13-page supplement to the Federal Student Aid Handbook. Caddell indicated that she had reached out to Brandee Hancock of the OSU A&M Board of Regents staff for her perspective; she said that Hancock noted the new guidance appeared to provide more flexibility for the institutions and encouraged the campuses to continue with the current year's reporting plan until additional information became available in 2021.

WRAP UP AND COMMENTS: Johnson thanked members for their attendance and said the next task force meeting would be held Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. in the State Regents' conference room or via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.