

Campus Safety and Security Task Force

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Chancellor Glen D. Johnson welcomed members and guests Kendra Brown, Southwestern Oklahoma State University; Leon McClinton, Oklahoma State University; Keli Cain and Michael Mahoney, Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security; Joedon Hughes, Rose State College; Durward Cook, Southeastern Oklahoma State University; Janet Wansick, Eastern Oklahoma State College; Janet Cunningham, Northwestern Oklahoma State University; Kevin Leach, University of Oklahoma; Devin DeBock, Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology; Nancy Hughes, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma; Aaron Collins, Metro Technology Centers; Joshua Busby, Langston University; Justin Lockwood, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education; John DeBoard, Cameron University; Bert Miller and Brandon Hill, East Central University; Roger Webb, Task Force Consultant; Chad Brown, Carl Albert State College; Chad Wiginton, Western Oklahoma State College; Louis Ross and Jeana Rae Conn, Rogers State University; Jeff Harp, University of Central Oklahoma; Bill Knowles, Seminole State College; and Angela Caddell, LeeAnna McNally, Rachel Bates, Sarah Kimball and Sharon Bourbeau, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 4 MEETING MINUTES: Chancellor Johnson asked task force members to review the minutes of the Nov. 4, 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Johnson asked LeeAnna McNally to update members on bills pertaining to firearms. McNally told members that there were currently no bills pending regarding weapons on campus, and provided an overview of several bills pertaining to weapons carry on public trust property, on K-12 campuses at district discretion, and by municipal employees by ordinance.

Johnson said that remaining vigilant has resulted in 13 legislative sessions of effectively stopping any legislation that would have allowed weapons on campuses. He said that forming strong partnerships with legislative leadership and the business community has been a key factor in that success. Johnson reminded members to remain on guard, because maintaining current law regarding weapons on campus requires constant attention.

CAMPUS CASE STUDY - BOMB THREAT: Johnson thanked President Janet Wansick from Eastern Oklahoma State College for agreeing to share the institution's recent experience handling an active shooter/bomb threat. Wansick told members that on March 1, a staff member received an email containing an active shooter and bomb threat. She explained the sequence of steps that followed, leading to a RAVE alert and ultimately, the evacuation of the campus, and noted that her team learned another higher education institution had also received the same threat. She provided an overview of the actions taken to engage multiple law enforcement agencies and the outcomes of those processes. Wansick shared her perspective of the protocols she felt were successful, and some that would be refined based on what the EOSC team learned during the experience. She said that communication was effective throughout the incident, and they were able to keep students, the media and other stakeholders informed.

Roger Webb and several members commended Wansick on her efforts and EOSC's response. Bert Miller also thanked Wansick for ensuring that incident information was shared with other campuses. Johnson mentioned that an incident overview would make an excellent case study session for the upcoming Campus Safety & Security Summit.

CAMPUS EMERGENCY MANAGER CONSORTIUM UPDATE: Johnson asked Sarah Kimball to update members on the work of the Campus Emergency Manager Consortium. Kimball reported that the consortium had been able to meet in March, with 10 institutions represented. She said future meeting topics under consideration included hazard assessment based on campus size and updating campus emergency operations plans. She thanked participating campuses for serving as community COVID-19 vaccination sites.

WORKGROUP REPORTS: Johnson asked for workgroup reports.

Campus Best Practices (Steve Turner, Chair): Angela Caddell gave the report in the absence of Turner. She said that the committee continued to review and update the campus resource repository. She said the Clery Act and Title IX segments were under review due to recent changes in federal guidance, and urged members to forward any materials they felt would be useful additions to the repository.

Issue Monitoring, Advocacy and Research (Larry Rice, Chair): Caddell gave the report in the absence of Rice. She stated that the workgroup would stand ready to assist Chancellor and McNally in developing advocacy strategies and responding to any proposed campus safety and security amendments or related issues during the remainder of the session.

Training and Plan Development (Jeff Harp, Chair): Harp said in less than two weeks, approximately 30 campus law enforcement officers would be participating in crisis intervention team training at Rose State College. He said that demand was high, with a waiting list for the pending event. Caddell added that the goal going forward was to offer this training, in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, to campus law enforcement officers a few times per year.

TASK FORCE RESOLUTION - WEAPONS ON CAMPUS: Johnson told members that the resolution had been approved and signed, and was ready for distribution.

2021 STATEWIDE SUMMIT UPDATE: Johnson asked Caddell to provide an update. She told members that the Save the Date and Call for Proposals had been issued for the Summit to be held Monday, Nov. 1, 2021 at the Reed Center in Midwest City. She said work had begun on event structure and content planning, noting that she had been able to re-engage Scott Lewis as the keynote speaker to address campus Behavioral Intervention Team optimization. Caddell shared a list of potential concurrent session topics and said that changes to the event structure, such as forgoing the morning plenary speaker, were under consideration to create more time for repeating concurrent sessions. She said that she would continue to monitor evolving safety recommendations for live events.

NIMS 2020-21 COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION: Johnson asked Caddell to provide an update on state system NIMS compliance. Caddell told members that the goal and expectation was for state system institutions to maintain 100 percent NIMS certification compliance, and that goal was achieved for 2020-21.

INSIGHTS - ASSESSING YOUR THREAT ASSESSMENT PROGRAM: Johnson asked Webb to share insights and updates with members. Webb provided a presentation focused on maximizing the utility of campus threat assessment teams, including recommended composition, identifying types of threats, establishing an assessment and response process, and evaluating threat response to continually refine practices. Webb also encouraged members to attend the upcoming statewide Summit, which would include content to assist in threat assessment activities.

OPEN DISCUSSION: Johnson asked if members had any agenda items to be considered. Miller noted that institutions were working through the potential implications of the McGirt decision on campus law enforcement operations and tribal relationships, and would welcome more information and guidance. Johnson said the State Regents' team would invite a speaker to address the topic at a future task force meeting.

WRAP UP AND COMMENTS: Johnson thanked members for their attendance and said the next task force meeting would be Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. in the conference room, or via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.