

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY
3101 North Front Street, Harrisburg, PA

School Safety and Security Committee Meeting

August 20, 2025

MINUTES

Members/Designees:

Lt. Governor Austin A. Davis, Chairman
Maj. Michaelann Andrusiak, Member (non-voting)
Ms. Sabrina Backer, Member
Ms. Janice Bart, Member
Lt. Col. George Bivens, Designee for PSP Commissioner Paris
Dr. Benjamin Feeney, Member
Ms. Angela Fitterer, Designee for Acting PDE Secretary Rowe
Ms. Brittney Kline, Designee for Attorney General Henry
Senator Wayne Langerholc, Member
Senator Nick Miller, Member
Director Randy Padfield, Member
Dr. Helena Tuleya-Payne, Member
Representative Dane Watro, Jr., Member
Representative Regina Young, Member

Staff:

Pamela Bennett	Leo Lutz
Matthew Conn	Heather Masshardt
Camila Contreras	Betsy May
Leslie Coombe	Heidi Metzger
Christina Cosgrove-Rooks	Zoe Miner
Jennifer Ely	Ian Murray
Alison Gantz	Derin Myers
Heather Hewitt	Laura Reed
Chuck Hogan	Cynthia Rice
Kirsten Kenyon	Kayleigh Siemer
Rebecca Kiehl	Lindsay Vaughan
Samantha Koch	Mandy Weiser
Crystal Lauver	Ulysses Wilson

Guests:

Diane Acri, PA House of Representatives
Patrick Bircher, PA Department of Education (PDE)
Sean Brandon, PA House of Representatives
Erika Brunelle, PA State Education Association (PSEA)
Gwenn Dando, PA Senate
Kristin Daniels, PA State Police – Homeland Security
Mike Deery, PA Senate
Tobi Downing, Office of the Attorney General
Emma Eglinton, PA House of Representatives
Steph Hardman, PA Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Jeanette Hussemann, NORC at the University of Chicago
Bradley Keen, PA House of Representatives
Scott Kuren, PA Department of Education (PDE)
Cynthia Urban, PA Senate
Shannon Walker, PA House of Representatives
Steven Williams, PA Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Dylan Wyatt, PA Association of School Business Officials (PASBO)

Call to Order of the August 20, 2025, Meeting and Adoption of Minutes

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM and welcomed participants. A quorum of members was established. Stating that the minutes from the May 28, 2025, meeting were included

in the materials provided in advance of this meeting, Chairman Davis called for a motion to approve them.

Motion to approve the minutes from the May 28, 2025, meeting as submitted.

Motion: Miller. **Second:** Feeney. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Bart.
Aye Votes: 12. **Nay Votes:** 0.

NORC Presentation on Initial Violence Intervention & Prevention (VIP) Survey Findings

Chairman Davis invited Ms. Zoe Miner to introduce the presentation on the status of the [VIP Grants Evaluation Initiative](#) by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago. Ms. Miner provided some background on the VIP evaluation project and introduced Dr. Jeannette Husseman from NORC to review the initial findings and recommendations from the survey of VIP grantees.

Dr. Husseman provided a quick update on the status of the project. She stated that they created a final survey that was distributed to 157 organizations and highlighted the general findings, including successes, challenges, and recommendations. Dr. Husseman concluded by summarizing their review components of completing the survey, using the data to select 40 sites for more in-depth study, conducting on-site interviews and convening 12 focus groups. She stated they are now analyzing all of the data and will present a finalized report in November. Dr. Husseman concluded with the comment that this partnership has been meaningful and believes this research and the information gathered will be helpful to PCCD as well as to others across the country.

Chairman Davis thanked Dr. Husseman for her presentation and asked if members had any questions. One member asked about the data submitted by the grantees, if they provided data using PCCD's performance measures or instead substituted their own outcomes data, or if it was a combination of both. Dr. Husseman replied that it was a bit of both. She added that part of their work is to dig into the data to understand what is being reported, how it's being reported, and how to build a more rigorous system of reporting for both PCCD and the grantees to be able to better understand the work that they are doing.

VIP Technical Assistance (TA)

Chairman Davis invited Ms. Zoe Miner to present information on the first VIP Program action item. She shared some background on the VIP grant funding in general and why its administration falls under the School Safety and Security Committee (SSSC), including its creation in the 2021 Fiscal Code, connection with [Section 1306-B](#) of the PA Public School Code, and formation of the VIP Workgroup to assist PCCD in this work and make recommendations to the Committee. She provided additional context by relating the 2022 creation and launch of the VIP Technical Assistance Initiative, administered by WestEd's Justice and Prevention Research Center in collaboration with LISC, which provides a range of individualized and statewide supports to VIP grantees.

Ms. Miner reminded members that at the May meeting the Committee approved an augmentation of \$181,719 to allow WestEd/LISC to continue to provide training and technical assistance to grantees through their original project end date of September 30, 2025. For this action item, PCCD staff recommend utilizing additional available VIP funds to augment and extend WestEd/LISC's current grant for an additional 90-day period through December 31, 2025, necessary to maintain continuity of technical assistance and training services for grantees. She stated that additional information detailing specific costs and supported activities of this extension and augmentation was included in the meeting materials.

Chairman Davis thanked Ms. Miner for her presentation and asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

Motion to adopt the VIP Technical Assistance Initiative in an amount not to exceed \$181,719 in state Violence Intervention and Prevention funding, pending resolution of any outstanding programmatic and/or fiscal concerns.

Motion: Padfield. **Second:** Tuleya-Payne. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Bart and Langerholc. **Aye Votes:** 11. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

At the Chairman's invitation, Ms. Miner continued by presenting the next action item. She reviewed highlights of the proposed FY25 VIP technical assistance funding framework, noting that the full document was included in the meeting materials. She covered the eligible applicants, focus of the project, and the types of qualifications and expertise expected from a successful applicant. Ms. Miner noted that the selected applicant would provide technical assistance and support for both VIP and BOOST grantees.

With the Committee's approval, Ms. Miner described the plan to release the funding announcement on September 3, 2025 and present the recommended applicant later in the fall, with the awarded project start date anticipated for January 1, 2026. She concluded by explaining the recommended "split" awarding approach as a way to leverage a blend of up to \$2.5 million in uncommitted, unexpended state funds from multiple funding streams to support this initiative over the three-year project period.

After thanking Ms. Miner, Chairman Davis invited any questions, and hearing none called for a motion.

Motion to adopt the FY 2025 VIP Technical Assistance Initiative funding framework as presented.

Motion: Feeney. **Second:** Bivens. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Bart and Langerholc. **Aye Votes:** 11. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

Revised Act 55 School Safety and Security Coordinator Training Standards

Chairman Davis invited Ms. Heather Masshardt to review the proposed updates to the Act 55 School Safety and Security Coordinator Training Standards that were presented as an informational item at last month's meeting. Ms. Masshardt provided a brief background on the training standards and the statutory requirement to review and update them at least every 3 years. She related that PCCD and training partner Risk and Strategic Management (RSM) staff reviewed these training standards, presenting them as an informational item for review at the last meeting. Stating that no additional recommended revisions were received, Ms. Masshardt reviewed some of the language that was highlighted in the document to indicate substantive changes.

Chairman Davis thanked Ms. Masshardt and asked if members had any questions or concerns. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

Motion to adopt the revised Act 55 School Safety and Security Coordinator Training Standards, as presented.

Motion: Fitterer. **Second:** Tuleya-Payne. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Bart and Langerholc. **Aye Votes:** 11. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

K-12 Threat Assessment Training and Technical Assistance Project

Chairman Davis invited Ms. Masshardt to continue with an informational update on the status of the K-12 Threat Assessment Training and Technical Assistance Project. Ms. Masshardt provided context on this project and the survey issued annually by our implementation partners at RSM to assess impact and ongoing needs. She then gave a high-level overview of the survey results report which was included in the meeting materials.

Since the Model K-12 Threat Assessment Procedures and Guidelines were updated last December, Ms. Masshardt informed members that this year PCCD staff plan to review and update the student and parent/guardian resources on threat assessment. She said that the hope is that as they are disseminated, they will help schools address reported gaps in their threat assessment readiness.

Finally, Ms. Masshardt noted that the training and technical assistance provided to school entities regarding threat assessment teams, though initially funded through the state, have been supported by a federal Bureau of Justice Assistance STOP School Violence grant award which will be ending in

September 2026. She reviewed three key elements of the plan developed by PCCD and RSM to transition the supports schools receive as this training and technical assistance to schools to implement threat assessment teams wraps up. This plan includes:

1. Providing a final round of in-person threat assessment team trainings at no cost to school entities in the west, central, and east part of the Commonwealth this fall and winter;
2. Moving the online training materials and resources to PCCD-provided platforms to ensure ongoing access by school entities;
3. Providing a two-day training session for Intermediate Unit (IU) staff on how to facilitate table-top exercises and provide scenario-based training to school threat assessment teams with the goal to support and facilitate skill-development by IUs so that they can serve as an ongoing resource to the school teams in their region.

Ms. Masshardt stated that these final project elements will conclude the K-12 Threat Assessment Training and Technical Assistance Project with RSM but provide options for ongoing support for school entities in the area of threat assessment.

Chairman Davis thanked Ms. Masshardt for her presentation and asked if there were any questions. One member inquired as to what factor(s) determine that a school needs the training. Ms.

Masshardt replied that the training was initially rolled out as part of a statutory requirement that the Committee was to provide for all school threat assessment teams. She explained that the need for training as an ongoing resource is due in part to staff turnover. She added that there is also an annual training requirement in the school code for school threat assessment teams. Since there is not a specific requirement on what that training looks like, Ms. Masshardt said that a lot of schools have used the ongoing tabletop and scenario-based training to provide annual updates and ensure their threat assessment team is functioning smoothly. She confirmed the member's understanding that schools identify the areas for which they need training, as demonstrated in the survey results report.

Noting that this is an ongoing need regardless of funding, another member asked if this model of training IU trainers or facilitators is to be the conduit to provide ongoing threat assessment team training to schools. Ms. Masshardt clarified that all of the online versions of the training material that are currently managed by RSM will be moved directly under PCCD and available at no cost to school entities. She stated that the hope with IUs is to ensure availability of the tabletop exercises and scenario-based training for the annual training for school threat assessment teams. She added that schools can also still use their annual grant funding to contract with external training providers for their threat assessment team training.

In a final question regarding the report, a member asked if the survey addressed the composition of threat assessment team members that makes the most sense to be on the team. Ms. Masshardt replied that the team composition was included in the biennial survey not in the survey conducted by RSM, and she would highlight that information in her presentation during the Executive Session.

Executive Committee Update

Chairman Davis stated that the Executive Committee convened on Thursday, July 17 and invited PCCD Executive Director Kirsten Kenyon to provide their report. Ms. Kenyon reviewed the updates and items discussed, noting that members' activity was limited due to school being out for the summer. She reported that the Attorney General's Office is working on the annual Safe2Say Something report and will be releasing it soon to the General Assembly as required. She said that PCCD shared information that will be presented next in the General Updates, and the group also discussed [SB 930](#), a school safety bill that addresses some of the recommendations made by the Legislative Budget & Finance Committee [report](#) that was released in March 2025.

General Updates

Chairman Davis invited Ms. Lindsay Vaughan to share the following general updates.

Status of School Safety & Mental Health Grants

Ms. Vaughan gave a quick update on the status of the various grant programs under the Committee's purview. She stated that 766 FY 24-25 School Safety & Mental Health grant

applications out of 779 possible applicants were received and nearly all have been fully awarded. She added that the few remaining applications are working through some final program or fiscal adjustments. For the FY 24-25 Targeted School Safety Grants for Nonpublic Schools, Ms. Vaughan reported receipt of 349 completed applications of which 312 have been fully awarded with the remainder working their way through program and fiscal approval.

Ms. Vaughan said that all 46 FY 24-25 BOOST selected grantees have been fully awarded. For the FY 24-25 VIP grants, she reported that 62 applications (94%) have been fully awarded as the remaining applications undergo the review and approval process.

School Security Personnel Waivers

Ms. Vaughan reminded members of the process approved at the November 2024 meeting for administering school security personnel waivers to school districts. She reported that since the last meeting 3 additional waiver has been issued to one more school district, bringing the current total to 45. She added that while the majority of those waivers will expire in December, school districts are able to reapply if they continue to need a waiver.

Act 55 School Safety and Security Training Updates

Reminding members that RSM provides six topics online of the requisite Act 55 school employee training, Ms. Vaughan said that since their launch in October 2023, these online modules have been accessed almost 290,00 times, as of July 31, 2025. She added that the Emergency Training Drills session required to be taught in person, 1000 individuals have completed one of the 69 Training of Trainer (ToT) sessions held thus far, noting that RSM will be scheduling additional ToT sessions later this year, as well as some additional 2.0 trainings that provide a deeper dive on updating Emergency Preparedness Plans.

For the School Safety and Security Coordinators, Ms. Vaughan stated that since their Act 55 training launched on February 2, 2024, all coordinators appointed prior to that date were required to complete their training by February 2, 2025. She reported that thus far 849 individuals have taken one of the 38 in-person sessions and 221 participants have completed the online course that launched in October 2024. Ms. Vaughan announced that RSM has scheduled three additional in-person trainings for this fall, located regionally at Capital Area IU 15, Allegheny IU 3 and Delaware County IU 25. She added that these sessions will incorporate any approved updates to the Coordinator Training Standards.

Ms. Vaughan informed members that the online Act 55 School Safety and Security training modules for school employees are now available with Spanish subtitles. She stated that PCCD and RSM worked to develop this option in response to requests from school entities to facilitate meeting the training mandate for a broader audience of their staff.

Act 67 School Security Personnel Training

Ms. Vaughan reminded members that [Article XIII-C](#) of the PA School Code requires all school security personnel to successfully complete the Basic School Resource Officer Course offered by the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) or an equivalent School Security Personnel course of instruction approved by PCCD. She stated that Cardinal Point Homeland Security Group, one of the six PCCD-approved equivalent training providers, was recently approved to provide the first asynchronous online Act 67 training, offering an additional training option for school security personnel to meet this requirement.

Ms. Vaughan concluded by referencing the General Updates document included in the meeting materials, which gives additional information on approved Act 55 providers, approved physical security and behavioral health assessment providers, and some other details.

Member Updates/Comments/Questions

Chairman Davis asked if any member had updates or other business to bring before the Committee, but no one did.

Public Comment

Chairman Davis invited any public comment, with none heard.

Announcement of Executive Session

Chairman Davis announced that Committee members would be moving into Executive Session to receive an informational report on the Biennial School Safety and Security Survey results, since the details of the survey address items that may impact the physical safety and security of students, staff, and school buildings in the Commonwealth. He stated that as adjournment is the only agenda item following Executive session, any other attendees were welcome to either leave the meeting or stay until the Committee members return from Executive Session.

Adjournment

PCCD Executive Director Kirsten Kenyon welcomed participants back following the conclusion of Executive Session. She stated that given the time of year, the next meeting has not yet been scheduled, pending passage of the new state budget and any legislative or funding impacts that may impact school safety and security. Following the vote, the meeting adjourned at 2:26 PM.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Padfield. **Seconded:** Young. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Davis, Langerholc, Miller and Watro. **Aye Votes:** 9. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**