

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

School Safety and Security Committee Meeting

December 10, 2025

MINUTES

Members/Designees:

Ms. Kirsten Kenyon, Designee for Chairman Davis
Maj. Michaelann Andrusiak, Member (non-voting)
Mr. Andrew Barnes, Designee for DHS Secretary Arkoosh
Ms. Janice Bart, Member
Lt. Col. George Bivens, Designee for PSP Commissioner Paris
Dr. Benjamin Feeney, Member
Ms. Angela Fitterer, Designee for PDE Secretary Rowe
Lt. Kyle Gautsch, Member
Mr. Mike Hurley, Member
Mr. Mike Kelly, Member
Ms. Rebecca Kilfoy, Member
Ms. Brittney Kline, Designee for Attorney General Sunday
Senator Nick Miller, Member
Director Randy Padfield, Member
Dr. Gennaro "Jamie" Piraino, Member
Dr. Helena Tuleya-Payne, Member
Representative Dane Watro, Jr., Member
Representative Regina Young, Member

Staff:

Matthew Conn	Patricia Manbeck
Camila Contreras	Heather Masshardt
Leslie Coombe	Betsy May
Christina Cosgrove-Rooks	Heidi Metzger
Jennifer Ely	Zoe Miner
Chris Epoca	Ian Murray
Stacey Herman	Derin Myers
Heather Hewitt	Charla Plaines
Chuck Hogan	Cynthia Rice
Rebecca Kiehl	Kayleigh Siemer
Samantha Koch	Alison Sindlinger
Crystal Lauver	Lindsay Vaughan
Liz Locke	Emily White
Leo Lutz	Ulysses Wilson

Guests:

Diane Acri, PA House of Representatives
Shaun Ali, WestEd
Patrick Bircher, PA Department of Education (PDE)
Quinten Boose, Remaining Rooted Collective
Sean Brandon, PA House of Representatives
Erika Brunelle, PA State Education Association (PSEA)
Andrew Christ, PA School Boards Association
Rae Ann Crispell, Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit
Gwenn Dando, PA Senate
Mike Deery, PA Senate
Tobi Downing, Office of the Attorney General
Carli Ducko, Montgomery County Public Safety
Emma Eglinton, PA House of Representatives
John Gooley, Cardinal Point Homeland Security Group
Kirsten Heine, Office of Attorney General, Executive Committee Chair
Kerwin Henderson, WestEd
Scott Kuren, PA Department of Education (PDE)

Shaun White, PA State Police – Homeland Security
Vicki Wilken, PA Senate
Steven Williams, PA Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Dylan Wyatt, PA Association of School Business Officials (PASBO)

Call to Order of the December 10, 2025, Meeting and Adoption of Minutes

Executive Director Kirsten Kenyon called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM and welcomed participants. A quorum of members was established. Ms. Kenyon noted the passage of the state budget, adding that the allocated grant funding and changes to the School Code will be reviewed later in the meeting. She also provided an overview of actions taken at the Commission meeting that occurred earlier in the day. Stating that the minutes from the August 20, 2025, meeting were included in the materials provided in advance of this meeting, Executive Director Kenyon called for a motion to approve them.

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 20, 2025, meeting as submitted.

Motion: Hurley. **Second:** Barnes. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Bart, Kline & Piraino. **Aye Votes:** 13. **Nay Votes:** 0.

FY 2025 Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Technical Assistance (TA) Initiative

Executive Director Kenyon invited Ms. Zoe Miner to share recommendations for the award recipient for the VIP TA solicitation. Ms. Miner provided background on the TA initiative and the work they have done with both VIP and BOOST grantees. She outlined the applications that were received and the review process to select a provider. Ms. Miner announced the resulting recommendation that WestEd, the current TA provider that has served grantees since the program launched in 2022, be the selected provider for this initiative.

Executive Director Kenyon thanked Ms. Miner for her presentation and asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she called for a motion.

Motion to adopt the approval of WestEd to serve as the VIP and BOOST technical assistance provider for an amount not to exceed \$800,000 in state funding, pending resolution of any outstanding programmatic and/or fiscal concerns.

Motion: Miller. **Second:** Fitterer. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Bart.
Aye Votes: 15. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

VIP/BOOST Funding Framework

At Ms. Kenyon's invitation, Ms. Miner continued by presenting highlights of the proposed FY25-26 VIP/BOOST funding framework. She explained the decision to make it a combined solicitation for BOOST and VIP applicants in an effort to reduce the confusion applicants experienced last year in selecting the most appropriate application option. She added that applicants will now all have the same project period and maximum budget limit. Ms. Miner stated that there is also a separate Egrants funding announcement for the statewide BOOST projects, because these are larger projects with a higher maximum budget amount. She discussed how the application process has been streamlined and the plan for creating categories for reviewing and scoring of the applications.

After thanking Ms. Miner, Executive Director Kenyon invited any questions, and hearing none called for a motion.

Motion to adopt the 2025-2026 VIP and BOOST funding framework as presented.

Motion: Feeney. **Second:** Bivens. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Bart.
Aye Votes: 15. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

Mental Health Information from 2024-2025 Surveys and Grants

Executive Director Kenyon invited Ms. Heather Masshardt to present information on the proposed release of limited mental health information from the 2024-25 surveys and grants. Ms. Masshardt reminded members that the request to consider release of this aggregate data had been raised following discussion of the 2025 Biennial School Safety Survey results, and that there have also

been requests received from legislators around total funding and eligible activities addressing mental health supports in the grant programs. She outlined the PA Public School Code requirements for confidentiality of data from grant applications, clarifying that the Committee has the opportunity to release aggregate data when they feel it will not present a risk to the safety and security of students or staff. Ms. Masshardt said that staff believe that this aggregate mental health data fit that criteria and that its release would also be helpful to legislators, school leaders, and community organizations in considering future student mental health supports.

Executive Director Kenyon thanked Ms. Masshardt and asked if members had any questions or concerns. Hearing none, she called for a motion.

Motion to approve the release of aggregate mental health information from the 2024-2025 surveys and grants, as presented.

Motion: Tuleya-Payne. **Second:** Feeney. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Bart. **Aye Votes:** 15. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

Overview of Acts 44 and 47 of 2025 – School Code Updates Impacting School Safety and Security

Executive Director Kenyon invited Ms. Masshardt to continue with an overview of Acts 44 and 47 of 2025, which amended school safety and security provisions in the Pennsylvania Public School Code. Ms. Masshardt reviewed a PowerPoint presentation outlining changes that impact school safety and security, including weapon incident notification, provisions relating to the Safe2Say Something program, details of the FY 2025-26 School Safety Grant Funding for both public school entities and nonpublic schools, new requirements pertaining to school safety and security coordinators, school security personnel training, threat assessment teams, and registered school safety and security assessors and a few updates to Committee membership and administration. She noted that the [School Safety and Security Updates - Acts 44 and 47 of 2025](#) would be posted on the PCCD website.

Executive Director Kenyon thanked Ms. Masshardt and asked if members had any questions regarding the presentation. A member asked several questions related to the process and other aspects of the review of registered assessors and how many school entities are using the [PCCD Provider Registry](#). Ms. Masshardt addressed her questions and will include information on the Registry utilization in the general updates provided at the next meeting.

Another member asked how teams that collaborate to complete an assessment would be reviewed. Noting that staff have not seen a group assessment yet, Ms. Masshardt stated that as long as the individual's name is on the report she anticipated that it should be acceptable, but staff will take that into consideration in approaching how such assessments are reviewed.

School Safety and Mental Health Funding Framework

Executive Director Kenyon invited Ms. Lindsay Vaughan to present the funding framework for the 2025-2026 School Safety and Mental Health grants for public schools. Ms. Vaughan provided an overview of the funding framework included in the meeting materials and also referenced some of the elements that Ms. Masshardt had outlined in the presentation related to the new eligible activity on cybersecurity measures for these grants. She explained that applications would be reviewed and approved on a rolling basis and also outlined the timeline. Ms. Vaughan explained the new PCCD internal policy addressing incomplete and declined grant applications and how those would be handled moving forward, as well as the plan to communicate with grantees.

After thanking Ms. Vaughan, Executive Director Kenyon invited any questions. Hearing none, she called for a motion.

Motion to adopt the 2025-2026 School Safety and Mental Health funding framework as presented.

Motion: Bart. **Second:** Kelly.

Following the motion, a member expressed concern about the timeline given the holiday break and asked for consideration of giving applicants an extra week or two. Another member agreed and also encouraged consideration of flexibility on the application due date.

Executive Director Kenyon stated that PCCD staff would review the due date and also explained that while a due date is established, staff understand the need for flexibility with school entities. She stated that since these are noncompetitive funds, staff will reach out to school entities to give them opportunity to apply following the due date and provide extension as needed.

Abstentions: None. **Not Present for Vote:** Kilfoy. **Aye Votes:** 15. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

Executive Committee Update

Executive Director Kenyon invited Kirsten Heine to provide the report on the Executive Committee from their last meeting on November 20, 2025. Ms. Heine described the *Handle With Care* program and outlined discussions regarding integrating that program with the *Safe2Say Something* program for some schools and counties who requested it. She also provided updates from the PA State Police regarding online threats, the PA Department of Education regarding student mental health, and PCCD regarding a federal grant application to support behavioral threat assessment training.

General Updates

Executive Director Kenyon invited Ms. Masshardt to share the following general updates.

Status of School Safety & Mental Health Grants

Ms. Masshardt gave a brief update on the status of the various grant programs under the Committee's purview. She stated that all submitted applications for both the FY 24-25 School Safety & Mental Health and BOOST grants have been fully awarded. She added that there are just two FY 24-25 VIP grants that are still working their way through the final approval process.

For the FY 24-25 Targeted School Safety Grants for Nonpublic Schools, Ms. Masshardt reported receipt of 349 completed applications of which 324 have been fully awarded with the remainder working their way through program and fiscal approval.

School Security Personnel Waivers

Regarding the process approved at the November 2024 meeting for administering school security personnel waivers to school districts, Ms. Masshardt noted that the majority of the approved waivers expire the end of this month, though schools can reapply if they continue to need a waiver. She reported that since the last meeting 11 school districts have been granted a waiver that is either new or was a reapplication since the last meeting, bringing the total to 48 school districts that have been issued a waiver through this process.

Act 55 School Safety and Security Training Updates

Ms. Masshardt explained that the detailed information and training numbers for the Act 55 training for school employees and School Safety and Security Coordinators had been included in the General Updates document of the meeting materials for this meeting, since there had already been a lot of information packed into this meeting. She invited members to reach out with any questions.

She also informed members that Risk and Strategic Management (RSM) Corporation, PCCD's training partner for Act 55, recently conducted their annual End of Year Survey to school employees and Coordinators to assess the needs and impact of the Act 55 training, and that they look forward to presenting those survey results in the new year.

Ms. Masshardt noted that additional information on Act 55 training providers, approved assessors, currently approved Act 67 training providers and other details is included in the General Updates document in the meeting materials and invited members to reach out with any questions.

Member Updates/Comments/Questions

Executive Director Kenyon asked if any member had updates or other business to bring before the Committee.

A member apologized that she had not been able to attend the full meeting and asked if Act 44 of 2025 regarding the new requirement for schools to provide notification about weapons incidents on school property had been addressed. She explained that several questions have arisen among schools related to interpretation of the new School Code provisions incorporating Act 44 and outlined some of those concerns. Ms. Kenyon stated that Ms. Masshardt had provided a brief overview of Act 44 as part of her presentation on the School Code updates. She invited the member to reach out to discuss her questions and concerns with Ms. Masshardt in order to collaborate with other agencies and see how PCCD and the Committee can assist in getting additional information out to schools, which the member was pleased to do.

Public Comment

Executive Director Kenyon invited any public comment, with none heard.

Adjournment

Executive Director Kenyon stated that the next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2026, from 1-2 pm. She thanked the staff for pulling together all of this information for the Committee's consideration in such a quick timeframe following the passage of the state budget on November 12. On behalf of PCCD and the Committee, Executive Director Kenyon wished everyone a happy holiday season and following the vote, adjourned the meeting at 2:36 PM.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Tuleya-Payne. **Seconded:** Kelly. **Not Present for Vote:** Barnes, Kilfoy, Kline, Miller & Young. **Aye Votes:** 11.