

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

School Safety and Security Committee Meeting

May 28, 2025

MINUTES

Members/Designees:

Lt. Governor Austin A. Davis, Chairman
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
Ms. Angela Fitterer, Designee for Acting PDE Secretary Rowe
Mr. Michael Hurley, Member
Ms. Brittney Kline, Designee for Attorney General Henry
Senator Nick Miller, Member
Director Randy Padfield, Member
Dr. Gennaro "Jamie" Piraino, Member
Dr. Helena Tuleya-Payne, Member
Representative Dane Watro, Jr., Member

Staff:

Pamela Bennett	Leo Lutz
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
Alison Gantz	Derin Myers
Heather Hewitt	Debra Sandifer
Chuck Hogan	Cynthia Rice
Daniel Hull	Kayleigh Siemer
Kirsten Kenyon	Amanda Spahr
Rebecca Kiehl	Lindsay Vaughan
Samantha Koch	Mandy Weiser
Crystal Lauver	Emily White
Elizabeth Locke	

Guests:

Diane Acri, PA House of Representatives
Patrick Bircher, PA Department of Education (PDE)
Carmen Bloom, PA School Boards Association (PSBA)
Erika Brunelle, PA State Education Association (PSEA)
Mark Carollo, Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU)
Andrew Christ, PA School Boards Association (PSBA)
Gwenn Dando, PA Senate
Kristin Daniels, PA State Police – Homeland Security
Mike Deery, PA Senate
Stephen D'Ettorre, PA Office of the Governor
Tobi Downing, Office of the Attorney General
Carli Ducko, Montgomery County Department of Public Safety
Emma Eglinton, PA House of Representatives
Kirsten Heine, Office of the Attorney General
Jason Henry, PA Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Bradley Keen, PA House of Representatives
Scott Kuren, PA Department of Education (PDE)
David Lauver, Northern Lebanon School District
Nicholas Melchiorre, Chester County Department of Emergency Services
Beth Sanborn, Montgomery County Department of Public Safety

Guests, Cont.:

Brian Surmacz, Convergint
 Shannon Walker, PA House of Representatives
 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 May 28, 2025, Meeting and Adoption of Minutes

Chairman Davis called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM and welcomed participants. A quorum of members was established. Stating that the minutes from the March 19, 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 March 19, 2025, meeting as submitted.

Motion: Hurley. **Second:** Padfield. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** Miller.

Aye Votes: 11. **Nay Votes:** 0.

Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Technical Assistance Initiative & PCCD Staff Administrative Support Augmentation

Chairman Davis invited Ms. Zoe Miner to present information on this proposed action item. Ms. Miner provided some historical context on this funding, noting that it was divided into three main areas:

- Support for the technical assistance needs of VIP and Coordinated Community Violence Intervention (CCVI) Strategies award recipients awarded to WestEd, in partnership with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC);
- A detailed evaluation of the VIP and CCVI grantees conducted by National Opinion Research Center (NORC); and
- Administrative support utilized by PCCD staff.

Ms. Miner shared the recommendation of PCCD staff to utilize a portion of the uncommitted funding to augment WestEd/LISC's grant for training and technical assistance needs and allocate the remainder to cover PCCD's administrative support needs, which have risen due to the increased volume of VIP grantees. She described the need for this augmentation and how the funds would be used. Chairman Davis asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

Motion to adopt the proposed augmentation to support the VIP TA Initiative & PCCD Administrative Support in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 in state Violence Intervention and Prevention funding, pending resolution of any outstanding programmatic and/or fiscal concerns.

Motion: Barnes. **Second:** Tuleya-Payne. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** None.

Aye Votes: 12. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

Revised Act 55 School Safety and Security Training Standards for School Employees

Chairman Davis invited Ms. Heather Masshardt to cover the proposed updates to the Act 55 School Safety and Security Training Standards for school employees that were presented as an informational item at last month's meeting. Ms. Masshardt went over the statutory requirements for review of the standards at least every three years, which falls this year.

Ms. Masshardt stated that staff from PCCD and our training partner, Risk and Strategic Management (RSM) reviewed the training standards for school employees and found that minimal revisions were needed, given the positive feedback from those who have taken the training and the few legislative changes impacting the current training standards. She reminded members that rather than convening a formal workgroup, the updated standards were presented to the Committee at the March meeting as an informational item to provide members an opportunity to review and provide any feedback on the proposed revisions, which she then briefly described.

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 Training Standards for School Employees, as presented.

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

Assessor Registry Updates and Revised Registration Criteria

Chairman Davis invited Ms. Masshardt to continue with updates to the provider registry for school safety and security assessments and revisions to the assessor criteria for the Committee's consideration. Ms. Masshardt reminded members of the statutory requirements and development of the registry and noted the current number of physical security, behavioral health, and dually approved assessors in the registry. She informed the Committee of the survey that was sent to approved assessors to confirm or amend their contact information and have them attest to using the new Assessment Criteria for all future assessments, adding that staff are amending the registry as needed and following up with assessors who have yet to submit their survey.

Ms. Masshardt stated that the survey also collected information on the number of assessments that the provider completed in the past 3 years and which school entities they assessed in the past year. Once collection and analysis of this data is complete, she will provide an overall report of the results to the Committee, adding that they may want to consider whether such details beyond an approved assessor's contact information should be provided on the registry.

Finally, Ms. Masshardt reviewed the proposed changes to the assessment provider registration criteria, which were included in the meeting materials. These included an introductory note regarding the connection between assessments and grant funding; links to legislation, regulations, and physical security accreditation examples; updated language; additional examples; and some recommended changes to align the criteria with other standards. 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 School Safety and Security Assessment Provider Registration Criteria, as presented.

Motion: Tuleya-Payne. **Second:** Barnes. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** None.
Aye Votes: 12. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**

Act 55 School Safety and Security Coordinator Training Standards

For the next agenda item, Chairman Davis asked Ms. Masshardt to share information on the Act 55 School Safety and Security Coordinator Training Standards. Referencing her earlier comment during the Act 55 training standards for school employees discussion, Ms. Masshardt reiterated that 2025 is also the year in which the training standards for School Safety and Security Coordinators (SSC) are required to be reviewed. As with the employee standards, PCCD and RSM staff examined the SSC training standards and, given the positive feedback from Coordinators and minimal revisions needed, she presented the revised standards as an informational item for consideration with action planned for the next meeting.

Ms. Masshardt reviewed highlights of the proposed revisions, including minor language changes for clarity or consistency with other materials, updated resources, and adjusted timing based on feedback received. She invited members to contact her with any questions or comments they may have in going through these revised training standards. Chairman Davis asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he invited Ms. Masshardt to continue with her final update.

2025 Annual School Safety and Security Coordinator Survey

Ms. Masshardt briefly shared information on the annual School Safety and Security Coordinator Survey, noting that a copy was included in the meeting materials. She stated that the survey is very similar to those in previous years with one notable addition of questions regarding school security personnel to comply with the new requirements of Act 55 of 2024. Ms. Masshardt anticipated that the survey would be sent out to public school entities within the next week, adding that members will be informed when it is released to facilitate their assistance in getting the word

out to schools and coordinators. She will provide a follow-up report on the results of the survey at a future meeting.

Executive Committee Update

Chairman Davis stated that the Executive Committee convened on Thursday, March 20 and Thursday, May 15, 2025. As noted at the last meeting, he confirmed that Kirsten Heine, Executive Deputy Attorney General, began her tenure as the new chair of the Executive Committee and invited her to provide their report.

Ms. Heine reviewed the updates and items discussed during the two meetings, including:

- The Attorney General's Office will consider the LBFC report recommendations regarding the Safe2Say program; Over 30,000 tips have been received this year, with an uptick in weapons-related tips though those related to bullying, suicide ideation and threats remain the most common
- PEMA has not received many reports on school violence recently; They are working on a report of any trends this year impacting school safety; Noted similar trends to those received by the Safe2Say Something program
- PDE is reviewing the process for addressing persistently dangerous schools and providing additional assistance to those school entities
- PCCD provided updates on School Security Personnel Waivers and the Assessment Criteria approved by the SSSC; Shared the [Anonymized Threat Response Guidance](#) toolkit and webinar resource from CISA, which will be included in the Act 55 training resources; Provided an overview of the aggregate data from the 24-25 school safety and mental health grants related to activities funded under physical security and behavioral health categories
- FBI briefing on crime trends impacting youth and student safety and security

General Updates

Chairman Davis invited PCCD's newly appointed Director of the Office of Research, Evaluation and Strategic Policy Development, 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 761 have now been awarded. She added that the 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 347 completed applications of which 291 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 submitted their applications, and all have been fully awarded except one which is still working through the approval process. For the FY 24-25 VIP grants, she reported that 53 applications (82%) 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 a waiver has been issued to one more school district, bringing the current total to 42.

Act 55 School Safety and Security Training Updates

Reminding members that Risk and Strategic Management Corporation (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 over 255,600 times, as of April 30, 2025. She added that the Emergency Training Drills session required to be taught in person, nearly 1000 individuals have completed one of the 60 Training of Trainer (ToT) sessions held thus far, noting that RSM will be scheduling additional ToT sessions later this year.

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 178 participants have completed the online course that launched in October 2024. Ms. Vaughan announced that RSM is the process of scheduling additional in-person trainings for this fall, noting that these sessions will incorporate any approved updates to the Coordinator Training Standards.

Biennial School Safety and Security Survey

Ms. Vaughan informed the Committee that after the March SSSC meeting the Biennial Survey on School Safety and Security was sent out to all School Safety and Security Coordinators and their chief school administrators. She reported that while 430 responses have been received thus far, since the survey is quite lengthy school entities have been offered some additional time to complete it. She stated that staff will be following up in a few weeks with school entities that did not submit a response and she anticipated providing an update on the survey results at the next Committee meeting.

Act 33 of 2023/Chapter 10 Regulations update

Ms. Vaughan reminded members that Act 33 of 2023 created [Section 1306.2-B](#) of the PA Public School Code, which directs the School Safety and Security Committee, in consultation with the PA Department of Education (PDE), to promulgate regulations to implement [Article XIII-B](#) of the School Code. These regulations would replace what is currently known as Chapter 10 of the State Board of Education Regulations on school safety and the model Memorandum of Understanding with Law Enforcement. Mindful of the statutory timeline to have these regulations in place by December 2026, Ms. Vaughan stated that PCCD staff met with individuals from PDE and the State Board of Education to begin preliminary discussions on these regulations and establish a process for reviewing the current language and making modifications in accordance with the School Code directive.

PCCD Program Updates

Ms. Vaughan concluded with apprising the Committee of the following updates from PCCD.

- *2026-2030 Strategic Planning Framework*: Ms. Vaughan stated that preparations and activities to develop this strategic plan are underway, noting that over 450 responses were received from the Applicant & Grantee Feedback Survey released in April, including a number of school safety and security grant recipients. She encouraged members to keep an eye out for a survey soliciting their input in this process.
- *Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP)*: Ms. Vaughan announced that PCCD recent released the OGVP's [2025 Initial Report & Strategic Plan](#) which reflects insights from community partners, national and state leaders, and other experts and stakeholders and makes recommendations to fulfill key directives under [Executive Order 2024-02](#). Ms. Vaughan added that PCCD will also be releasing new funding opportunities, developing a statewide youth gun involvement reduction plan, releasing findings from a statewide needs assessment on resources for victims of gun violence, and working on a new public-facing Gun Violence Data Dashboard
- *General Updates*: Ms. Vaughan referenced information on approved Act 55 providers, approved assessors, and some additional details on PCCD program updates that were provided in the meeting materials.

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.

Adjournment

Chairman Davis 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 1:34 PM.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: Tuleya-Payne. **Seconded:** Davis. **Abstentions:** None. **Not Present for Vote:** None.
Aye Votes: 12. **Nay Votes:** 0. **Motion Adopted**