

Campus Safety and Security Task Force

MINUTES

Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Angela Caddell noted that Chancellor Allison Garrett would be unable to attend. She welcomed members and guests Chad Wiginton, Western Oklahoma State College; Ron Ramming, Connors State College; Clark Harris, Northern Oklahoma College; Wendell Godwin, East Central University; Jena Marr, Redlands Community College; Monica Trevino, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma; Kevin Leach, University of Oklahoma; Bert Miller, East Central University; Kendra Brown, Southwestern Oklahoma State University; John DeBoard, Cameron University; Jerrid Freeman, Northeastern State University; Bill Knowles, Seminole State College; Eli Zucksworth, Redlands Community College; Norman Nieves, University of Central Oklahoma; Durward Cook, Southeastern Oklahoma State University; Devin Debock, Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology; James Edwards, Francis Tuttle Technology Center; Joedon Hughes, Rose State College; Laura Hutchinson, Oklahoma Panhandle State University; Alton Jones, Eastern Oklahoma State College; Dennis Martin, Southern Nazarene University; Mark Rasor, Rogers State University; Mike Shelton, Metro Technology Centers; Emily Morrow, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; Trish McBeath, Eastern Oklahoma State College; Keila Manos, Western Oklahoma State College; Captain Lance Schroyer, Oklahoma Department of Public Safety; Andrea Hamor-Edmondson, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; and Angela Caddell, Matt Stangl, Joel Dean, Sarah Kimball and Emelia Ross, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

APPROVAL OF NOV. 1, 2023 MEETING MINUTES: Caddell asked task force members to review the minutes of the Sept. 13, 2023 meeting. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

FIRST AMENDMENT: OPERATIONAL IMPACTS: Captain Lance Schroyer of the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety, a nationally qualified speaker on First Amendment rights, shared information about First Amendment operational impacts on campus, with a focus on the appropriate procedural framework for handling those circumstances on public property. Schroyer provided an overview of the governing principle protecting the right of peaceable assembly and free speech. He also addressed time, place, and manner of speech restrictions, which must not include reference to the content of speech, must serve a significant government interest, must leave alternate channels for communication of information, and must only use buffer zones defined by local or state laws. Schroyer clarified that a buffer zone is allowed in Oklahoma, but megaphones are not allowed in or around the capitol. He said that protesters cannot legally disrupt work, and noted the need to recognize dangerous surroundings and use verbal communication skills to de-escalate tension and conflict.

Several members expressed interest in a more comprehensive training opportunity. Caddell said she would explore scheduling a workshop on this topic in 2024.

KOGNITO LEARNING MODULES PARTNERSHIP UPDATE: Andrea Hamor-Edmondson, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, reminded members about the Higher Education Prevention Services (HEPS) grant, which provides funding to support the promotion of the 988 mental health hotline, ODMHSAS continuum of care services, and suicide prevention initiatives.

Edmondson provided an overview of the Kognito learning modules partnership, which provides higher education campuses with free access to online suicide prevention training modules for faculty, staff and students – including veterans active duty military- through the Kognito platform, a computer-based online simulation tool. She shared that ODMHSAS's primary partnership with Kognito would end on June 30, 2024, and that her team is exploring options to ensure continued access to a high-quality, evidence-based online training option for higher education.

Edmondson asked members for feedback on the Kognito modules. Several members shared their campus experiences and recommendations. Edmondson thanked the members and said she would keep the task force informed as new programs and services are developed.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: In the absence of Dr. Jarrett Jobe, Joel Dean, OSRHE Government Relations and Workforce Development Coordinator, walked the task force through the 2024 Legislative Agenda, which outlines the state system's priorities for the upcoming session. Dean explained that the interim study phase was completed, including 13 studies related to higher education. He noted several anticipated topics of interest in the regular legislative session and notified members that Higher Ed Day at the Capitol would be held February 8, 2024, and Oklahoma's Promise Day at the Capitol would be held April 11, 2024.

CAMPUS EMERGENCY MANAGER CONSORTIUM UPDATE: Sarah Kimball announced the appointments of consortium chair, Norman Nieves, and vice chair, Kendra Brown. Kimball said the leadership would meet during the statewide summit to discuss next steps. She stated that consortium meetings were held semi-annually and include professional development trainings for emergency management and safety and security personnel. She invited members to reach out to her with any topic or training suggestions.

FALL 2023 STATEWIDE SUMMIT UPDATE: Caddell reminded members of the statewide Campus Safety and Security Summit to be held Thursday, Nov. 7 at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. She said the keynote speaker, Vennie Gore from Michigan State University, would share victories, lessons learned, and communication and policy implications of the February 13, 2023 mass shooting on the MSU campus, during which three students were killed and five others were injured. Caddell provided an overview of breakout session topics and notified members that approximately 250 individuals were registered to attend the summit, including representatives from 21 technology centers, 5 private institutions and all public colleges and universities. She said that Summit content was CLEET accredited for up to five hours of mandatory continuing education credit for law enforcement officers.

OPEN DISCUSSION: Caddell asked for other topics or suggestions. No comments were made.

WRAP-UP AND COMMENTS: Caddell thanked members for their attendance. She said the next task force meeting would be held Feb. 7, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. in the conference room or via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.