

Campus Safety and Security Task Force

MINUTES

Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: Chancellor Glen D. Johnson welcomed members and guests Kendra Brown, Southwestern Oklahoma State University; David Shannon, Oklahoma Baptist University; Cheryl Evans and Sheri Snyder, Northern Oklahoma College; Ron Ramming, Connors State College; Eli Zucksworth, Redlands Community College; Elicia Berryhill, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services; Brandee Hancock, Board of Regents for Oklahoma A&M Colleges; Bill Knowles, Seminole State College; Jeff Harp, University of Central Oklahoma; Becki Foster, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education; Steve Turner, Northeastern State University; Hiram Tabler, Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security; Dan Piazza and Chris Tipton, Oklahoma City Community College; Robert Goltra, Jeana Rae Conn and Joe Batt, Rogers State University; Jackie Linville, Carl Albert State College; Joedon Hughes, Rose State College; Durward Cook, Southeastern Oklahoma State University; Kevin Leach, University of Oklahoma; Nancy Hughes, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma; Aaron Collins, Metro Technology Centers; John DeBoard, Cameron University; Bert Miller and Brandon Hill, East Central University; Chad Wiginton, Western Oklahoma State College; Roger Webb, Task Force Consultant; and Angela Caddell, Matt Stangl, Rachel Bates and Sharon Bourbeau, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 7 MEETING MINUTES: Chancellor Johnson asked task force members to review the minutes of the April 7, 2021 meeting. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: Johnson told members that he would be making the legislative update since LeeAnna McNally had accepted a position in the healthcare industry. He reported that for the 13th year in a row, legislation which would have changed current law pertaining to guns on campuses had been successfully averted. He said House and Senate leadership, particularly House Floor Leader Jon Echols and Sen. Kim David, should be thanked for their efforts, and reminded members that they would need to remain vigilant going forward.

CAMPUS CASE STUDY: BOMB/ACTIVE SHOOTER THREAT: Johnson thanked Cheryl Evans and Sheri Snyder for their willingness to present a campus case study of a recent threat incident.

Evans and Snyder told members that on March 1, NOC staff received an email containing a bomb and active shooter threat. They explained the sequence of steps that followed, including emergency alerts and ultimately, the evacuation of the main and satellite campuses. They provided an overview of the actions taken to engage multiple law enforcement agencies and the outcomes of those processes. Snyder said that there was a similar threat to another campus in a different part of the state, requiring law enforcement resources to be split between the affected campuses. Evans and Snyder shared their perspectives of the protocols they felt were successful, and some steps that would be refined going forward based on what the NOC team learned during the experience. They said that communication was generally effective throughout the incident, and that they were able to keep students, the media and other stakeholders informed. Evans and Snyder thanked State Regents' staff for the training provided through the Campus Safety & Security Summit.

Roger Webb commended Evans and Snyder for NOC's effective threat response. Angela Caddell thanked Evans for allowing one of NOC's communication team members, Scott Cloud, to share lessons learned from the event with the Communicators Council. Evans said that Cloud was actually at another NOC campus location on the day of the event, and she felt that worked to their advantage as there were communication team members available at multiple NOC sites.

TITLE IX/CLERY ACT UPDATE: Johnson asked Brandee Hancock from the OSU/A&M Board of Regents to provide an update on Title IX and Clery Act provisions.

Hancock said that in October 2020, the Federal Student Aid (FSA) office rescinded the Clery Handbook, which was last published in 2016, and replaced it with an appendix to the FSA handbook. The FSA handbook was updated in January 2021, and included a notation that contents of the appendix did not have the force and effect of law. Requirements addressed in the appendix, which went into effect in calendar year 2021, include publishing an annual security report by Oct. 1, collection and reporting of crime statistics for Clery geography, policy statements for numerous areas, and standards for campus alerts. She explained that major changes were found in the crime, campus security authorities, and Clery geography definitions.

With respect to Title IX, Hancock said that new regulations had been issued in May 2020 after three years of work and more than 124,000 public comments. The updated regulations, which included significantly revised definitions and process requirements, went into effect in August 2020. She said that President Biden issued an Executive Order in March 2021 giving the U.S. Department of Education 100 days to review the Title IX regulations, and noted the Office of Civil Rights was currently holding public hearings. Hancock added that the next step would be release of a Q&A document and that while she did not know the timeline, the administration had clearly stated that existing Title IX regulations were currently still in effect.

Hancock mentioned several free and low cost training resources available to task force members, including a four-part series on Title IX updates available on Tulsa Community College's website, training modules and guidance developed by the State University of New York, and a set of FAQs issued by the Clery Center. She reminded members that annual security reports were due Oct. 1, and shared that she and Mackenzie Wilfong had developed an annual security report template in 2016. She said that she would be happy to send that template to anyone who needed it, noting that while it would be slightly outdated due to some of the recent changes, it would still be a viable foundation and easy to edit.

Caddell thanked Hancock for her presentation and indicated she would share the presentation slide deck with members.

WORKGROUP REPORTS: Johnson asked for workgroup reports.

Campus Best Practices (Steve Turner, Chair): Turner said that materials outlining NOC's response to the recent active shooter and bomb threat on campus would be requested for inclusion in the campus resources 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 the Chancellor in developing advocacy strategies and responding to any potential legislation or interim studies pertaining to campus safety and security.

Training and Plan Development (Jeff Harp, Chair): Harp said that approximately 30 campus law enforcement officers attended a free, week-long Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training held in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS). Caddell said that given the high demand for the training and the limited number of seats available in each workshop, the goal would be to offer CIT training opportunities throughout the year.

2021 STATEWIDE SUMMIT UPDATE: Johnson asked Caddell to provide an update. She told members that the summit was planned for Monday, Nov. 1, 2021 at the Reed Center in Midwest City. She said work was underway on event structure and content planning, including a keynote address to be provided by Scott Lewis, a nationally-recognized expert on optimizing campus behavioral intervention teams. Caddell thanked the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security, which was providing funding to cover the keynote speaker fee.

Caddell shared a list of topics identified for concurrent sessions, including developing tabletop exercises, Title IX and Clery Act provisions, tactical response in a rural campus environment, campus incident communication planning, threat assessment, ransomware and cyber attacks, suicide prevention, and extreme weather events. She also mentioned that the Call for Proposals resulted in several submissions, which were under review. She said that the number of concurrent sessions would be limited, so that each could be repeated throughout the day to allow participants to access as much content as possible.

Turner acknowledged Johnson's upcoming retirement on Sept. 30 and asked Johnson to attend the Summit, if possible, since he had been a part of the Task Force since the beginning. Johnson said that he would add the event to his calendar.

INSIGHTS: PREPARING FOR FALL: Johnson asked Webb to share insights and updates with the task force. Webb encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Summit, and thanked Johnson for his many years of service to Oklahoma and steadfast advocacy for campus safety and security.

Webb told members that 2020 was an unprecedented year of challenges for both campuses and students. He encouraged campuses to review the lessons learned and carefully consider how to move forward in the wake of the pandemic, given that campuses operate like small cities, with many of the same concerns and complexities as a small city. He said that trends within cities and towns would likely spill over into the learning environment, including increased violence resulting from ongoing mental health issues related to the pandemic environment. Webb cautioned members to prepare campus safety personnel for fall, including engaging local police.

TASK FORCE MEETING DATES: Johnson called members' attention to the list of FY22 task force meeting dates.

OPEN DISCUSSION: Johnson asked if members had any agenda items to be considered. John DeBoard thanked Johnson for his commitment to the task force and to the state. He reminded members that emergency response plans must be drilled and reviewed regularly, noting that after many years of service in higher education, he concurred with Webb that the current operating environment was the most difficult it had ever been.

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

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.