

Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security
Monday, September 30, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Minutes

The Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security met on Monday, September 30, 2024 in the Emergency Operating Center Room, located in the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Building in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Mr. Jacques Thibodeaux, Chair.

Commission members present were Mr. Ed Larvadain III, Mr. Caleb Kleinpeter, Mr. Rick Edmonds, Ms. Treone Larvadain (for Col. Robert Hodges), Mr. Jim Craft, Mr. Jayson Richardson, Mr. Fabian Blache, Jr., Mr. Mike Comeaux (for Mr. Cade Brumley), Mr. Mike Faulk, Mr. Tavares Walker, Mr. Clay Rives, Ms. Lorre Claiborne (for Mr. Bryan J. Adams), Mr. David Matlock, Dr. Tia Mills, Ms. Cynthia Posey (for Mr. Larry Carter), Mr. Richard McGuire, and Ms. Megan Bellas.

Mr. Jack "Jay" Galle', Jr., Most Rev. Michael Ducca, Ms. Janet Pope, Ms. Caroline Roemer, and Mr. Dawson Primes were not in attendance.

Representing the Commission staff were Louisiana Commission on Safe Schools Director Mr. Trevis Thompson, Ms. Kelly Parks, Mr. Jonathan Davis, Mr. Yancey Wade, Ms. Sarah Theriot, Ms. Wendy Gill, and Ms. Melissa Murphy, who recorded the minutes.

Agenda
Item III.

Adoption of the Agenda

On motion of Mr. Mike Faulk, seconded by Mr. Fabien Blanche, Jr., the Commission adopted the agenda.

Agenda
Item IV.

Old Business

IV.A.

On motion of Ms. Cynthia Posey, seconded by Mr. Mike Faulk, the Commission approved the minutes from the June 2024 Commission meeting.

Agenda
Item V.

New Business

V.A.

On motion of Mr. Mike Faulk, seconded by Mr. Clay Rives, the Commission approved changing the name of the grant program from Louisiana School and Nonprofit Security Grant Program to "Louisiana Center for Safe Schools" grant.

V.B.

Mr. Jacques Thibodeaux called for a roll call vote concerning the decision of a course of action for the remaining unallocated funding for FY25. Summary of grant process to date.

Grant Status Update for FY24 & FY25

- 252 applicants for FY24
 - 126 applicants awarded per vote by commission
 - 5 million awarded, \$40,180 average award
- 126 notified for FY25 notified on 6/20/24 they were being awarded
 - 78 no further action needed
 - 41 needed budget revisions
 - 7 did not follow instructions
- Current allocations for FY25
 - Ready to award 4,119,089
 - Pending review 100,000 (2 applicants)
 - No response 199,924 (4 applicants)
 - Funding still available – \$580,986 (vote how to dedicate)

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Option #1: Open the grant award to allow all schools who were part of the original application an opportunity to submit a new application.

Option #2: Open the grant award to allow schools to apply based upon those schools actively seeking help from LCSS and schools that are located in high crime areas, with ineligibility to include a school that received funding in FY24 from the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools and the Louisiana Department of Education.

Option #3: Open the grant award to allow districts that applied for FY24 funds to be eligible to apply for unallocated FY25 funds.

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Judge Madlock requested priority consideration be given to campuses that have trauma informed practices already embedded in their safety practices which could be used as a model going forward.

On motion of Ms. Cynthia Posey, seconded by Mr. Mike Comeaux, the Commission approved using Option #2 for deciding how unallocated FY25 funds would be awarded.

Yeas: Mr. Jacques Thibodeaux, Mr. Ed Larvadain III, Mr. Caleb Kleinpeter, Mr. Rick Edmonds, Col. Robert Hodges, Mr. Jim Craft, Mr. Jayson Richardson, Mr. Fabian Blache, Jr., Mr. Cade Brumley, Mr. Mike Faulk, Mr. Tavares Walker, Mr. Clay Rives, Ms. Lorre Claiborne (for Mr. Bryan J. Adams), Mr. David Matlock, Dr. Tia Mills, Ms. Cynthia Posey (for Mr. Larry Carter), Mr. Richard McGuire, and Ms. Megan Bellas.

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Absences: Mr. Jack “Jay” Galle’, Jr., Most Rev. Michael Ducca, Ms. Janet Pope, Ms. Caroline Roemer, and Mr. Dawson Primes

The motion passed.

V.C. On motion of Mr. Trevis Thompson, seconded by Mr. Jacques Thibodeaux, the approval of Commission policies was struck from the agenda due to the policies not being ready for the meeting.

V.D. Mr. Trevis Thompson gave an update on where the section is at in relation to the eight priority responsibilities of LCSS in accordance with the School Safety Act of 2023, as follows:

- Develop the Statewide Framework
- Identify and Prioritize Resources – Area Coordinators are working with districts and schools to address concerns.
- Coordinate with BESE and LDOE for Policy and Best Practices
- Facilitate the Collection and Dissemination of Information
 - LCSS cohosted a school safety summit in conjunction with LDOE.
 - Staff has been attending regional, state, and national school safety events and conferences.
 - LCSS provided presentations for the Louisiana Emergency Managers Conference and the School Resource Officers Conference.
- Provide Training and Technical Assistance
 - The LCSS website has been revamped.
 - A monthly newsletter is made available to schools to promote available training.
 - LCSS partnered with the Calcasieu Sheriff for the “I Love U Guys” response and reunification training. It was heavily attended by law enforcement and school resource officers.
- Assist in the Development and Revision of Emergency Operation Plans
 - UL School Safety class will focus on EOPs.
 - For some schools, staffing is an issue.
- Promote Safety and Resiliency
 - Our intent with school safety is that if the first man falls, the second man stands.

- Stop the Bleed kits are being provided to schools that receive training based on campus population. There are enough kits for every school within the state.
- Identify and Offer Training for School Resource Officers – LCSS is working on providing training and recruiting. Once LCSS has a better idea of where SROs are in state schools and where they are not, LCSS will be better able to assist in making sure that help can be provided to fill in gaps.
- LCSS is continuing to update the statewide grant portal with SDMI.
 - LCSS Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for GMPPro
 - Reimbursement submissions with checks, balances and redundancies build in.
- Emergency Notification - RAVE has cost 1.6 million per year for the last 6 years and is still not fully implemented.
 - Deployment of new systems and existing need to be re-evaluated and have a standard defined.
 - Eighty-three percent of schools are compliant with either RAVE or another form of an emergency notification system. (check for accuracy in full compliance)
 - Clay Reeves stated EBR has 236 schools and many are not using.
 - Representatives wants to see where the funding is going and tour schools.
 - Senator Milligan – Expressed concerns regarding anonymous reporting with new legislation not allowing teachers and students to have phones. He also stated that they haven't been able to get RAVE to capitol to report in last 3 years.
 - Possibly have RAVE present a briefing at the next Commission meeting.
- Anonymous Reporting – There are roughly 600 schools “active” with the Crimestoppers program which is provided free of cost by the state. The center does not have visibility with other anonymous reporting programs being utilized by schools.

V.E.

Mr. Euclid Talley addressed the Commission concerning additional new business:

- Threats significantly increasing every year. Used to be bombs, now school shootings. See LA-SAFE fusion center report. Other states are seeing the same things. Social media campaigns and oversees threat origins.
- LSA and the Chiefs Association will possibly come up with a campaign focused towards students and parents to be proactive and to know about the strain being caused to first responders and school administrators due to school threats, especially on social media.

Captain Garner (Fusion Center) addressed the Commission concerning the LA-SAFE resources are being overtaxed. Analysis has been assigned to school threats:

- 22 parishes made arrests for school violence.
- 99 threats (from August 1 – September 22), 87 credible and 12 non-credible, along with 38 arrests
- Some kids that are reposting other peoples threats are being charged as well.
- There have been bomb threats through phone calls and email; however, most have been through social media. All social media platforms are being used.
- State Police Regions – Region 1 is seeing the highest number of occurrences while Region 3 is seeing the lowest number of occurrences.

Mr. Trevis Thompson addressed the Commission concerning threat assessment training (site assessments) from the U.S. Secret Service that is being supplied through the National Threat Assessment Center yielding Train-the-Trainer certifications for sheriffs, sheriff deputies, and school resource officers:

- There will be three trainings being provided with up to 100 participants at each training (Lafayette, New Orleans, and Shreveport).
- The dates of the trainings are still being decided upon.
- Initial buy-in for the trainings will come from the:
 - Sheriff's Association (LSA);
 - Police Chief's Association;
 - Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE);
 - Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council;
 - Association of School Resource Officers (LASRO); and
 - Louisiana Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE).

- Trainings will focus more on threat assessment, including behavioral threat assessment, addressing trauma-informed care and how it's addressed in the community.
- Trainings will possibly take place in October and November.

Mr. Trevis Thompson addressed the Commission concerning planning for the annual School Safety Summit:

- LCSS is preparing to engage in the planning process with LDOE.
- Some major components that LDOE has referenced in the past years is focusing on:
 - allowing participants to have the opportunity to receive certifications, CLUs, or CEUs; and
 - engaging in the work that is necessary for emergency operation plans and other forms of school safety, addressing these topics and concerns within the community.

Mr. Trevis Thompson addressed the Commission concerning a data call questionnaire (rename School Safety Survey) for 2025. The following was included in the first questionnaire:

- Does the school have an EOP?
- How often is the EOP revisited?
- Who is on the planning committee for the EOP?
- Is there an SRO on the campus?
- Does the SRO serve more than one campus?
- What is the most recent or advanced course that the SRO passed?
- Are there bleed kits on the campus?
- Is there anonymous reporting or emergency notification on the campus?
- Are you engaging in conducting safety assessments?
- Have you identified the members of your threat assessment teams?
- Are there district threat assessment teams?

Information gathered is not available to the public as it is highly sensitive and not discoverable. LCSS or the commission must decide who has access other than LCSS. Jacques Thibodeaux suggested the use of legislators to reach out to districts regarding participation and compliance.

Mr. Trevis Thompson brought before the Commission the new “Stop the Bleed” kit distribution map that was done in conjunction with SDMI.

Mr. Brant Mitchell from SDMI addressed the Commission concerning SDMI’s capabilities and the services that SDMI is providing to LCSS.

V.F. Mr. Jacques Thibodeaux addressed the audience and asked three times if there were any public comments.

There were no public comments.

V.G. Mr. Jacques Thibodeaux addressed the Commission concerning the next Commission meeting:

- Dates available in December 2024 for the next Commission meeting are December 2, 9, or 16. Mr. Thibodeaux asked for feedback from the Commission via an email that will be sent within the next week.
- New officers for the Commission will be elected at the next meeting.
- Mr. Thibodeaux will step down as Chair starting in January due to his obligations as the GOHSEP Executive Director.

**Agenda
Item VI**

Adjournment

On motion of Mr. Caleb Kleinpeter, seconded by Mr. Jacques Thibodeaux, the meeting was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.