

Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security
Monday, December 2, 2024
10:00 a.m.

Minutes

The Louisiana Commission on School and Nonprofit Security met on Monday, December 2, 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 10:03 a.m. by Mr. Jacques Thibodeaux, Chair.

Commission members present were Mr. Jacques Thibodeaux, The Honorable Mr. Jack "Jay" Galle, Jr., The Honorable Mr. Ed Larvadain III, Mr. Arnell Garner (designee for Col. Robert Hodges), Mr. Jim Craft, Mr. Jayson Richardson, Mr. Mike Knapps (designee for Mr. Fabian Blache, Jr., Ms. Cynthia Ryals (designee for Rev. Michael Ducca), Mr. Michael Comeaux (designee for Mr. Cade Brumley), Mr. Clay Rives, Mr. Robert Aucoin (designee for Mr. Bryan J. Adams), Mr. David Matlock, Dr. Tia Mills, Mr. Richard McGuire, Ms. Megan Bellas, Ms. Shannon Rawson (designee for Ms. Anna Larriviere), and Mr. Chris Guilbeaux.

The Honorable Mr. Caleb Kleinpeter, the Honorable Mr. Rick Edmonds, Ms. Janet Pope, Mr. Mike Faulk, Ms. Caroline Roemer, Mr. Dawson Primes, Dr. Ralph Abraham, and Mr. Larry Carter were not in attendance.

Representing the Commission staff were Louisiana Commission on Safe Schools Mr. Robbie Martin, who coordinated the meeting, Mr. Jonathan Davis, Ms. Sarah Theriot, Ms. Wendy Gill, Mr. Scott Johnston, and Ms. Melissa Murphy, who recorded the minutes.

Agenda
Item III.

Adoption of the Agenda

On motion of Dr. Tia Mills, seconded by Mr. Chris Guilbeaux, the Commission adopted the agenda.

Agenda
Item IV.

Old Business

IV.A.

On motion of Mr. Richard McGuire, seconded by Mr. Chris Guilbeaux, the Commission approved the minutes from the September 30, 2024 Commission meeting.

IV.B.

Mr. Mark Benton, Mr. J.P. French, and Mr. Brian O'Donnell, presented updates to the Commission concerning the RAVE Panic Button:

- 911 Basic allows the center to interact and communicate with the school.

- RAVE Command View is not limited in how many consoles have it. If a 911 center receives a call, then they can send the notification reversed to the site.
- It is up to school administrators to decide who should have access to the RAVE button. The use is unlimited in registrants.
- The state pays \$1.6 million for the RAVE Panic Button and approximately 65 percent (around 1,300) of schools in Louisiana are currently using the system.
- The Legislature mandates that all schools participate in a panic button system.
- The medical emergency function is the most used button, with 1.5 alerts per week.
- If a school is receiving grant money, they must have the RAVE application in use. Currently, it is being used by 1,300 schools.

IV.C

Mr. Jacques Thibodaux opened the floor for discussion concerning matters of the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools.

- Mr. Jacques Thibodaux stated that starting in 2025, the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools personnel will be giving the briefings at Commission meetings with the Commission Chair controlling the meetings.
- Ms. Melissa Murphy provided an update concerning the current state of FY24 and FY25 grant figures:
 - a. For FY24: the current allocations pending approval are \$73,915; the current amount that has been invoiced is \$931,858; and the amount that has been requested for advance payment \$662,763.
 - b. For FY25: advance payment will be an option; and recipients will be able to start the reimbursement process in January 2025.
- Mr. Jon Davis provided an update concerning program management:
 - a. Stop-the-Bleed Kits:
 - i. To this day, 232 SWAT-Ts, 23 TMTs, and 53 Curaid Kits have been issued.
 - ii. LCSS has partnered with LERN (Louisiana Emergency Response Network) to provide trainings on how to use Stop-the-Bleed kits.
 - iii. The biggest issue to date is logistics, with 1,800 schools that need Stop-the-Bleed kits.

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Dr. Tia Mills recommended that LCSS coordinate with Superintendent's offices to determine when Principal's Meetings are conducted to streamline distribution of the Stop-the-Bleed kits.

Mr. Jon Davis countered the recommendation stating that LCSS has sent out emails to all of the schools along with a Data Call that LCSS sent to all schools.

Dr. Tia Mills re-countered Mr. Jon Davis' statement by recommending that LCSS reach out to the School Board Association and Principal's Association as other avenues to help coordinate Stop-the-Bleed kit disbursement.

Mr. Jacques Thibodeaux made a recommendation to leverage the Sherriff's Association to help coordinate Stop-the-Bleed kit disbursement.

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- Mrs. Janice Ihaza provided an update concerning matters pertaining to behavioral threat assessment and management:
 - a. The 2024 Louisiana Statewide K-12 Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) Prevention Training has been successfully completed.
 - b. The Louisiana State Police (LSP) has received a grant (\$222,500) from the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to provide regional BTAM training to school administrators/personnel, mental health professionals, school resource officers/law enforcement, and other stakeholders and partners that may support schools and district BTAM teams.
 - c. Deisinger Consulting, who are national/international BTAM subject-matter experts, provided the training consisting of seven 2-day BTAM Foundational Trainings to all eight BESE school districts, which were attended by over 415 participants.
 - d. LSP provided four statewide 2-day BTAM Train-the-Trainer/Facilitator Trainings.
 - i. One hundred seven participants were trained as BTAM Facilitators.
 - ii. A BTAM Train-the-Trainer/Facilitator Pool has been established statewide to provide training.
 - e. Under the grant, BTAM Facilitator Manuals and Practitioner Guides were purchased and provided.
 - i. The Guides are currently available for distribution.
 - ii. The Guides can be downloaded from LDOE's and LCSS's websites.
- Mr. Noel Bellas provided an update on developing a training for Physical Assessment Train-the-Trainer classes.
 - a. This is an 8-hour course.

- b. There will be 3 trainings with up to 100 participants in each training.
- c. Classes will be held in Lafayette, New Orleans, and Shreveport.
- d. CISA will be involved in the first part of the class. The second part of the class will be specific to conducting physical assessments.
- e. There will be a practical part for participant's feedback, which will be input into STEMS.
- f. The goal is to train 300 people in the first year (completed by July).
- g. This class is recommend for OHSEPs, Fire Marshalls, etc.
- Ms. Wendy Gill and Ms. Sarah Theriot provided updates concerning their activities as Area Coordinators for LCSS.
 - a. The Fourth Annual School Safety Summit
 - i. Last year's Summit was virtual.
 - ii. LDOE was in charge of the previous Summits.
 - iii. LCSS has taken over the responsibilities of the Summit and will work in conjunction with LDOE.
 - iv. LCSS wants to provide a more structured and engaging approach, providing certifications, whether it's Stop-the-Bleed training, EpiPen training, EOP planning, etc. There is a diverse need for these types of trainings.
 - v. LCSS will provide a variety of classes at the Summit, from beginner's level to advanced level classes.
 - vi. LCSS is researching venues for holding the Summit. It was held at the Baton Rouge River Center in the past, but LCSS is seeking to move the venue depending upon funding
 - vii. Currently, July 8, 2025 through July 18, 2025 is being looked at as possible dates for holding the Summit. Superintendents have been notified to keep these dates open.
 - viii. LCSS is planning on having the Summit in person for two days.
 - b. LCSS is doing a School Safety Survey, building off of the Data Call that was done previously.
 - i. The survey was renamed to School Safety Survey to more closely align with terminology that school administrators utilize.
 - ii. The questions are being updated to go more in-depth, seeking to see what the needs of the schools are and to gage any improvements that may have occurred since the initial Data Call was distributed.

**Agenda
Item V.**

V.A.
READ

New Business

Mr. Jacques Thibodeaux took an en globo vote for the Commission to defer until the March 2025 Commission meeting the discussion concerning Commission policies. A vote for deferring discussion of Commission policies was passed unanimously.

V.A.

Mr. Jacques Thibodeaux opened the floor to nominations for a new Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission.

- Sheriff Jayson Richardson was the only nominee for Chair.
- Sheriff Jayson Richardson spoke to the Commission concerning why he would like to be Chair: The biggest reason is because in Desoto Parish we have great working relationship in my parish with the State Superintendent of Education, who was the former Superintendent of Education for Desoto Parish. One of the primary goals is that school safety is at the forefront and recognize communication is one of the biggest factors in creating safe environments.
- A vote was taken en globo and the Commission unanimously voted for Sheriff Jayson Richardson to become the new Chair with no opposition.
- A vote was taken en globo for a new Chair for the Commission. Dr. Tia Mills was the only nominee for Vice-Chair of the Commission.
- A vote was taken en globo for a new Vice Chair of the Commission. The Commission unanimously voted for Dr. Tia Mills to become the new Vice Chair with no opposition.

V.B.

Captain Arnell Garner provided updates concerning the LA-SAFE Fusion Center were presented to the Commission.

- CIU statistics as of August 1 to November 2024 related to threats:
 - a. One threat came over an Xbox Live chatroom. A picture was taken of a gun and sent to another user in the chatroom, warning the other person not to go to school on the following day.
 - b. Eighty-eight arrests were made in Region 1.
 - c. Twenty-eight arrests were made in Region 2.
 - d. Thirty-six arrests were made in the Northern part of the state.
 - e. A majority of the tips came in via law enforcement agencies.
 - f. Seven tips came in through the Safe Schools LA App.

Investigator Raphael Myers from the Criminal Intelligence Unit provided updates to the Commission, stating that he works with local agencies to assist with investigations, is responsible for nine parishes, as well as serving on the FBI task force, noting that:

- a. the RAVE application works and is being used;
- b. the FBI eGuardian System has presented a challenge concerning getting in touch and communication with schools regarding threats;
- c. there needs to be a statewide procedure on processing and managing threats that come in after-hours;
- d. the federal government is lacking is a system to deal with juveniles, so the State has to take action; and
- e. arrests are now being made, so now is the time to go into the school systems and communicate to the students that this is serious and arrests will be made for making threats.

V.C. Mr. Chris Guilbeaux requested that an update on anonymous reporting be presented at the March 2025 Commission meeting.

V.D. Mr. Jacques Thibodeaux opened the floor to public comments. No comments were received.

V.E. The Commission discussed dates for the next Commission meeting, deciding on March 10, 17, or 24, to be decided at a later time.

**Agenda
Item VI.**

Adjournment

VI. Sheriff Jayson Richardson adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.