



MARTHA COAKLEY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02108

(617) 727-2200
(617) 727-4765 TTY
www.mass.gov/ago

COMMISSION

Created pursuant to Section 18 of
Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2010

Commission Meeting
Thursday, September 16, 2010
10:00 am- Noon
20th floor, 1 Ashburton Place

Chair: Martha Coakley, Massachusetts Attorney General

Note Taker: Mary Sullivan, Attorney General's Office

Agenda Setting: No new issues were added to previously-issued agenda

Commission Members in Attendance:

Martha Coakley, Massachusetts Attorney General

Michael Bellotti, Sheriff, Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association

David Capeless, Berkshire County District Attorney

Steve Clem, Executive Director, Association of Independent Schools in New England

Michael Long, General Counsel, Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents

Laura Salomons, School Committee Member, Sharon, MA, Massachusetts Association of School Committees

Commission Members not in Attendance:

Mary Lyons, Police Chief, Mattapoisett, MA Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association

Others in Attendance:

John Bynoe, Associate Commissioner, Center for Student Support, Career and Education Services, Department of Early and Secondary Education (DESE)

Teri Williams Valentine, Associate General Counsel, DESE

Geline Williams, Executive Director, Massachusetts District Attorneys' Association

Sheila Calkins, Chief of Staff, Massachusetts Attorney General's Office (AGO)

Maura Healy, Chief, Civil Rights Division (CRD), AGO

Gabrielle Viator, Assistant Attorney General, CRD, AGO

Jennifer Stark, Chief, Policy & Government Division (P & G), AGO

Ed Donnelly, Assistant Attorney General/Policy Advisor, P&G, AGO

Nora Mann, Chief, Community Information & Education Division (CIED), AGO

Meeting Summary:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Approval of Minutes of June 21, 2010 meeting
- Presentation by John Bynoe and Teri Williams Valentine on DESE Model Plan for Bullying Prevention and Intervention and DESE Proposed Regulations on Notification of Incidents of Bullying or Retaliation.
 - Final action on proposed regulations by the Board of Elementary and secondary Education is anticipated on September 21, 2010.
 - DESE also continuing to work on providing evidence-based educational and professional development resources to schools and communities.
 - DESE currently conducting a feasibility assessment to determine if they can offer a web-based e-training resource to schools.
- Mary Sullivan provided a review of some statistical information on bullying and cyberbullying.
 - Discussion of data from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and also data from MARC (Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center at Bridgewater State University)
- Maura Healy gave a brief synopsis of some criminal and civil laws (both in Massachusetts and in other states) which may apply to the issue of bullying. Summary sheet - Statutory overview was provided. It was noted that the summary is a preliminary compilation and is not exhaustive of all laws that may apply to bullying.
 - Discussion that most states do not criminalize bullying.
 - Juvenile courts already overburdened and under resourced.
 - Commission requested to review summary sheet and provide feedback at November 10th meeting.
 - Commission's intent is to have parental involvement/prevention of bullying as a major focus, yet egregious cases (of bullying) must be dealt with seriously.
- Discussion of agenda for next meeting - Wednesday, November 10, 2010 – to include discussion of statutes, overview of the new harassment law and Massachusetts Civil Rights Act (MCRA) as both statutes can be used in some instances of bullying.
 - Also, will invite a bullying prevention expert - such as Dr. Elizabeth Englander from MARC - to attend and to provide some information on bullying.
 - Commission is interested in hearing from teachers, principals and SROs – people working in the field – to give input/testimony. Also the Commission is mindful of the needs of potentially vulnerable populations (such as LGBT students, students of color, students with disabilities) and is working with a variety of advocacy groups to better understand the needs of those populations.
- There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Next Steps and Person(s) Responsible:

- Invite experts to attend next meeting - November 10, 2010 – Nora Mann
- Create mechanism for receiving public comments/input regarding the charges of the Commission (via mail and via electronic transmission) – Nora Mann

- Each member of Commission will consult with their constituency and review current laws and identify potential need for revision/updating – Commission.

Materials Distributed at the Meeting:

- Agenda
- Draft minutes from June 21, 2010 meeting
- Model Plan for Bullying Prevention and Intervention
- Proposed Regulations on Notification of Incidents of Bullying or Retaliation.
- Preliminary Statutory Overview
- Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center's data on cyberbullying
- Youth Risk Behavior Survey's data on bullying