

**School Resource Officer MOU Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, July 22, 2021**  
**9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Commission Members Present:**

Angela Davis (Co-Chair), Anne Gilligan (Co-Chair), Angela Brooks, Melissa Threadgill, Chief Michael Bradley, Chief Robert Ferullo, Chief Matthew Sonnabend, Phillip Kassel, Jon Evans, Dyana Boutwell, Leon Smith, Barbara Myers, Amanda Weber, Ellen Holmes, Sean Tobin, and Glenn Daly.

**The meeting was called to order at 9:13 a.m.**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Commission Co-Chairs welcomed Commission members and confirmed Commission members in attendance.

**2. Public Comments**

Public comments were presented to the Commission by Judge Jay Blitzman requesting that the Commission center on the type of behavior police in schools should be focused on, which he believes should be behavior that creates palpable public safety threats; conduct that threatens or results in serious injury. He also added that many of the issues the Commission is discussing are concerns relevant to the emotional well-being of a student and it would seem those concerns are under the domain of counselors and trained mental health professionals.

**3. Vote to Accept June Meeting Minutes**

Motion to accept June meeting minutes as distributed was accepted and approved unanimously by Commission Membership.

**4. Public Input Subcommittee Update**

Commission member Smith provided the Commission with an overview of the discussions that took place during the subcommittee meeting, held July 15, 2021. Commission members Leon Smith, Jim Cobbs, Ellen Holmes, and the Co-Chairs were in attendance. The subcommittee reviewed each question on the survey draft to ensure items had clarity, reviewed respondent categories and discussed methods for protecting the privacy of the individual respondents if they so choose.

Commission members engaged in a conversation regarding defining the grade/age range when capturing student voices on the survey. An updated draft input survey will be distributed to the Commission members that reflects this conversation. Commission members are encouraged to email the Co-Chairs with additional feedback and edits on the survey.

**5. MOU Development Subcommittee Update**

Commission member Chief Bradley provided the Commission with an overview of the discussion that took place during the subcommittee meeting, held July 8, 2021. Commission members Michael Bradley, Ellen Holmes, Leon Smith, Melissa Threadgill, Angela Brook, Matthew Cregor (designee for member Phillip Kassel), and the Co-Chairs were in attendance. The subcommittee agreed to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 9 am. Subcommittee members agreed that the 2018 model MOU will serve as the framework for the updating process. Information required by the 2021

statute will be incorporated into the 2018 model. The primary work of the subcommittee will be to create a draft version of the 2020 model to be distributed to the Commission members for discussion and feedback following their completion of the updating process.

**6. MOU Discussion Topic: (iii) the process for selecting school resource officers; (iv) the mechanisms to incorporate school resource officers into the school environment, including school safety meeting**

Both Chief Ferullo and Chief Bradley discussed their individual processes for selecting SROs for their communities. Commission members discussed parent/teacher groups as being part of this process as well as counselors. Commission members agreed multiple voices such as students, families, and community members should be heard to inform the interview process and that the Chief will work collaboratively with the Superintendent in creating the selection process for candidates. Ultimately, the Chief and the Superintendent should have joint responsibility for making the final decision on choosing the SRO.

Commission members participated in a conversation about the level of involvement the SRO should have in school trainings, school safety meetings, and engagement with the school community. Information sharing with SRO's confidential information such as elements of a child's IEP or a behavioral plan should only occur with expressed written consent of a parent/guardian. Several Commission members conveyed there is confusion on what situations an SRO should be involved in at the school and emphasized that SRO's should not be involved in discipline matters. However, school districts have had success in including SRO's on a team that addresses attendance.

In the coming year, Chief Ferullo offered to conduct forums for audiences of approximately 50-60 people, comprised of SROs, their supervisors, and school staff teams, to discuss the best practices for SRO's level of involvement across multiple program components and situations as well as opportunities for building trust within the school community. As discussed in previous Commission meetings, members reiterated that annual training for schools on the role and responsibilities of the SRO is essential.

**7. Open Session, Topics not Reasonably Anticipated within 48 Hours of the Meeting**

No additional topics were raised at this time.

**A motion was made and approved to adjourn at 10:55 a.m.**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, **August 25, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** via Zoom.