

# MARYLAND CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY OVERVIEW



**SAFETY  
FIRST**

Presented To:

Maryland State Board of Education

Edward A. Clarke, Executive Director  
Maryland Center for School Safety

October 24, 2017



# Maryland Center for School Safety

## *A New Approach to Foster Safe Schools*

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### Legislative Origin

- Task Force established which consisted of 21 individuals who met 8 times from December 2011 thru December 2012 and recommended establishing a Maryland Center for School Safety
- HB 453 (2013), sponsored by Delegate Jay Walker (District 26) created the Center to include a Governing Board
- The Center established as an Independent Unit of State Government
  - ❖ Attached to the Maryland State Police to receive fiscal and support services

### Role of Governing Board

- Develop implementation plan for the Center
- Provide general oversight and direction to the Center
- Approve annual budget for the Center statutorily set at \$500,000
- Governing Board meets quarterly



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### Center Governing Board Composition

- State Superintendent of Schools, State Department of Education, Dr. Karen B. Salmon, serves as the Governing Board Chair
- Superintendent of State Police Designee - Captain Holly Barrett, Office of Strategic Planning
- Attorney General's Office Designee - Dawn P. O'Croinin, Assistant Attorney General, Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center
- Department of Disabilities Designee - Cecilia Warren, Emergency Management Specialist
- The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM) Representative, Maryland Association of Board of Education (MABE) Representative, and School Psychologist
  - ❖ Dr. Henry Wagner, Retired Dorchester County Public School Superintendent, PASSAM
  - ❖ Mike Durso, Montgomery County Public Schools Board of Education President, MABE
  - ❖ Dr. Margaret Kidder, Baltimore County Public Schools
- Four public members – including a public school parent, non-public school representative, local school system bus driver, and at-large community member
  - ❖ Lorig Charkoudian, Theresa Detorie, and Elizabeth Watson
  - ❖ School Bus Driver Position Vacant



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### **Executive Director Appointment and Center Location**

- Edward A. Clarke hired as Center Executive Director and the Center became operational on November 18, 2013
- Mr. Clarke has 41 plus years combined law enforcement/school safety experience
- Executive Director reports to the Governing Board
- Center housed at Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC), the State's Fusion Center under the Maryland State Police
- Center is the only School Safety Center in the country to be co-located within a State Fusion Center
  - ❖ Critical school safety information is shared in a timely manner among school safety/security directors, school administrators, law enforcement, and MCAC, and homeland security staff
  - ❖ Frequent School Safety Situational Awareness Bulletins are shared to include critical information as to school bomb threats, active shooter, suicide prevention, and response actions



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### Summary of Center's 20 Legislative Mandated Functions and Duties

- Collaborate and partner with the State's school systems, law enforcement agencies, state and local government, parents, community organizations, and other stakeholders to provide a comprehensive, coordinated approach to school safety by:
  - ❖ Disseminating information on best practices, programs, and resources;
  - ❖ Providing technical assistance and training; collaborate on collection, analysis, and integration of statewide data;
  - ❖ Promoting interagency efforts that support safe schools for all students, parents, school staff, and community members;
  - ❖ Develop a website containing a searchable database of definitive research, books, videos, white papers, speakers, and other school safety resources
- Create a clearinghouse for stakeholders of research-based, and data-driven information, websites, and violence prevention strategies for creating and maintaining safe schools
- Provide an annual report to the Governor and Legislature on Center activities and accomplishments

### Center Staffing

- Executive Director and School Safety/Emergency Preparedness Administrator II
- School Prevention/Intervention Administrator II Position Vacant – looking to fill
- Governing Board approved funding to hire Deputy Director and School Safety Analyst
  - ❖ Working with MSP Human Resources to create and fill positions



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### Key Center Highlights and Accomplishments

- Developed key partnerships in the area of school safety/emergency preparedness with a multitude of stakeholders at state, local, and federal level
- Held weekly school safety conference calls among stakeholders to discuss current homeland security and school safety/emergency preparedness concerns and best practices
  - ❖ The Maryland School Safety Network has approximately 300 members
- Developed and held numerous School Safety Conferences/Trainings attended by school administrators, school safety and security directors, school security and support staff, state educational staff members, school resource officers, and law enforcement officers
  - ❖ Annual School Safety Summer Conference held in Annapolis MD
  - ❖ School Safety and Leadership Awards created and presented at this year's conference
- Participated with MSDE Staff in Student Service/School safety Site Visits/Reviews
- Developed and implemented the Maryland School Safety Initiative, a series of school safety trainings involving Ms. Michele Gay, from Safe and Sound Schools, and Retired Columbine Principal Frank DeAngelis
- Developed and conducted joint school safety trainings in partnership with the Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety known as "The Briefings"
- Co-Facilitated State-Wide Work Group with MSDE on HB Bill 1061, Emergency and Evacuation Plans - Individuals With Disabilities
- Coordinated and facilitated a State-wide Investigative Team to assist Prince George's County Public Schools in conducting an internal human resources investigation into a child sexual abuse incident



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### Key Center Highlights and Accomplishments

- Establishing a State-wide work group to review increases in child sex abuse incidents to identify prevention/mitigation strategies
- Continued to provide technical assistance to School Superintendents, Schools, Law Enforcement, and State's Attorney's in the area of gang prevention, intervention, and suppression efforts
- Providing technical assistance to Baltimore City School System and School Police in review of operational procedures and directives for transitioning to a model of community policing, problem solving, and restorative practices as well as training opportunities
- Continue to develop substance abuse prevention and intervention strategies, resources, and trainings in order to provide the same to school systems and communities impacted by substance abuse especially heroin, opioids, and fentanyl (HB 1082 - Heroin and Opioid Education and Community Action Act of 2017 (Start Talking Maryland Act))
- Continue to work with MSDE to identify needed regulations and legislation to enhance school safety and emergency preparedness
- Continue to develop a comprehensive school safety training program and conferences in the areas of:
  - ❖ Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Training
  - ❖ Active Shooter Awareness and Options-Based Training
  - ❖ Behavioral Threat Assessment Team Training
  - ❖ Psychological First Aid/Mental Health Awareness Training
  - ❖ School Resource Officer Best Practices and state-wide training curriculum
  - ❖ Restorative Justice and Mediation Intervention Training



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## *Maryland Safe School Initiative 2017 Training Team*





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**Questions and Answers**

**Thank you!**

**Ed Clarke**

**Maryland Center for School Safety**

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