

Public Meeting #2 of the School Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) Advisory Group

Meeting date: Jul 19, 2022

Attendees

Carlton Gerald, Chris Lewis, Eliza McCoy, Emily Milton, Gabriel Elias, Jim Page, Kate Tagert, Keisha Culbrith-Brooks, Kevin Harris, Laurie Tasharski, Lt. Micheal May, Matthew McLaughlin, Micheal Diggins, Paula Gormley, Phylis Lawrence, Simma Reingold, Jossalyn Wilson, Namratha Bharadwaj, Kenya Shujaa, Marriam Ewaida

Introduction

The objective of the meeting was to create a shared learning experience for committee members to deepen their understanding of Police and School Division Relationships.

The external facilitators kicked-off the meeting with a check-in question, and a review of the meeting objectives and group mission. The attendees reviewed the overall timelines for the project and agreed on dates for the next 3 public meetings, as follows: Meeting #3 Sep 12, 2022, Meeting #4 Nov 14, 2022, Meeting #5 Dec 5, 2022.

Subcommittee Updates

Each of the 3 ACPS SLEP subcommittees met prior to the meeting, and the leads from each of the subcommittees provided an update of the key takeaways from their respective meetings.

MOU Subcommittee Meeting Key Takeaways:

- Reviewed current MOU and discussed the process of its creation, major changes from previous versions, and stakeholders involved.
- MOUs should be well-understood by all essential stakeholders, especially the SROs, so that they are aware of the interventions that are in scope.

Research Subcommittee Meeting Key Takeaways:

- Effective training is what makes an SRO a good SRO. The subcommittee plans to research other jurisdictions that have longer training workshops to help inform future SRO training at ACPS.
- The subcommittee identified having (i) performance measures, (ii) clearly defined outcomes and (iii) discretionary guidelines as important, and plans to do more research and literature reviews around these topics, and also plans to research other school divisions, review their practices and MOUs.

Communication and Community Relations Subcommittee Meeting Key Takeaways:

- The team considers themselves as the voice of this committee to the community. Subcommittee members discussed the importance of doing our work in parallel to what other committees in the school district are doing, and not in isolation. There is other work taking place that aligns with improving the safety of students and staff in schools. The team would like to start reviewing the work other committees are doing for areas of alignment.

Policing & Schools Report Review

The external research team shared a [summary](#) of the '[Policing in K-12 Schools](#)' research report created for ACPS, and highlighted 6 key findings from the research:

- Key Finding #1: MOUs should spell out expectations for all participants in an SRO program, and establish clear boundaries for the role of SROs to prevent SROs from assuming inappropriate responsibilities such as supporting student discipline.
- Key Finding #2: In effective SRO programs, SROs fulfill educational and counseling functions in addition to providing law enforcement services.
- Key Finding #3: SROs should not support day-to-day discipline for non-criminal behavior.
- Key Finding #4: Some studies suggest SROs appear to reduce some forms of violence in schools, and that they impact stakeholders' perceptions of school climate and safety.
- Key Finding #5: Research presents mixed findings on the relationship between exclusionary discipline and the presence of SROs.
- Key Finding #6: Several studies find that disproportionalities in law enforcement referrals and school disciplinary sanctions for historically marginalized students increase in schools with SROs.

Reactions from attendees to key findings:

- ACPS MOU covers all the base elements of the Hanover report, no surprises in the report with respect to the MOU.
- It is important for us to list out what teachers should and should not involve SROs in, and use it in teacher/admin training.
- Our work should also be considering SSOs and not just SROs, as they also have a role to play in ensuring school safety, and most campuses have far more SSOs than SROs.

The external facilitators provided a '[Playlist of Resources](#)', with multi-modal verified resources collected from across the spectrum of opinion on law enforcement in schools, and shared with the audience as an opportunity to educate and inform on different perspectives on the issue.

Small Group Discussions

The external facilitators then split up the attendees to 3 random groups, with the objective to identify the main factors to consider while designing the surveys and focus group sessions that are to be facilitated over the next few weeks.

The topics for the small group discussions were as follows: (i) what information do we need to understand the current experience and needs of students? (Information), (ii) are there traditionally marginalized voices or subpopulations of students that you are particularly interested in learning from? (Voice) and (iii) what might be needed to support and activate students' voices? (Action). All 3 groups brainstormed on the prompts given, and their notes can be found here: [Group 1 notes](#), [Group 2 notes](#), [Group 3 notes](#).

Next Steps

The next steps for the attendees are as follows: (i) Review the research to expand your knowledge, hear new perspectives and (ii) Meet as a subcommittee at least once.

The external facilitator and researcher teams will (i) develop the surveys and design the focus groups, (ii) follow up with ACSP leads subcommittee members on open-questions, and (iii) organize meeting #3 to be held on 9/12/2022.