

**College of San Mateo**

**Campus Safety Committee Meeting Summary**

**November 19, 2020**

**2:00 - 3:00 PM**

**Via Zoom**

**Members in Attendance:** Robert Gutierrez, Cynthia James, Micaela Ochoa, Chuck La Mere, Ben Zara Minkin, Viji Raman, Michele Rudovsky, Janis Wisherop, Jane Wong

**Guests:** Vince Garcia, Edna Letran, Cheryl Navarrete, Rene Renard, Yen Tran

**Student Representative:** Megha Rai

Micaela called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM and began the meeting by welcoming everyone and reviewing the agenda. The meeting agenda was approved as presented.

The group reviewed the minutes from the October 22, 2020 meeting. After review, the October 22, 2020 meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

**Safety Videos**

Vince Garcia presented an overview of the safety video which covers active shooter incidents. While the likelihood of finding yourself in an active shooter incident is small, the risks are real and such events are happening with increasing frequency on college campuses and elsewhere. Our objective is to help put you in control of the outcome. Everything discussed in the video can be summed up in three words: **Run, Hide, Fight.**

First, what is an active shooter? An active shooter is someone with a gun attempting to kill people in a confined populated area. The purpose of this video is to give you the tools necessary to survive an active shooter attack.

How will you know when an active shooter attack is underway? Know that gunshots don't always sound like they do on TV. If it sounds like a gun or even firecrackers, then consider that it may be an attack. Do not wait for confirmation and do not seek a second opinion. If it sounds like gunfire assume that it's gunfire.

The same goes for screaming. Screaming doesn't always indicate danger. It may be a reaction to something terrible. Keep in mind that police are minutes away, not seconds, so you must plan for your yourself. During this time, you cannot wait for the police to arrive. You cannot wait to act.

## **Run**

If you are outside run away from the attack sounds. Don't stop running until you are certain you are away from danger and reach a safe area. When running try to make yourself a more difficult target and DO NOT turn around to see what's happening behind you. Slowing down to look for the shooter is not a smart strategy. Once out of immediate danger dial 911 letting them know there is an active shooter and inform them of your location.

## **Hide**

Active shooters seek easy targets. Hiding places could be a room with no windows. Turn off the lights and shut the blinds. Choose cover over concealment whenever possible. If possible, use furniture such as file cabinets or office partitions to create a barricade. Turn phones to silent. Once you are hidden, prepare to stay hidden a long time. Whenever you are on campus, be aware of your surroundings and ask yourself where you could hide if something happens. What are the options in the classroom? What could be used to barricade the door?

## **Fight**

If no other option is available, defend yourself. Fighting back is the best option for survival. When you fight back your goal is to overwhelm the attacker and minimize their ability to use weapons effectively by limiting their vision or physically disabling them. The police need to be ready to take immediate and decisive action, so your behavior is critical. Put your hands in the air, avoid sudden movements, and obey all commands.

Micaela thanked Vince and Ben Zara for their updates.

## **COVID Update**

Ben Zara mentioned that the state has shifted to assigning each county a tier color based on various measurements. Every county in California is assigned to a tier based on its test positivity and adjusted case rate.

- At a minimum, counties must remain in a tier for at least 3 weeks before moving forward.
- Data is reviewed weekly and tiers are updated on Tuesdays.
- To move forward, a county must meet the next tier's criteria for two consecutive weeks.
- If a county's metrics worsen for two consecutive weeks, it will be assigned a more restrictive tier.
- Public health officials are constantly monitoring data and can step in if necessary.

- Tier 1- Purple: Widespread (soft restart, essential infrastructure)  
Purple indicates extensive spread with more than seven new COVID cases per 100,000 people per day and more than 8% positivity. Most non-essential business operations must remain closed. Closed for indoor lectures and student gatherings. Some courses conducted in certain indoor settings, like labs and studio arts, may be open.
- Tier 2- Red: Substantial (restricted operations)  
Restricted class operations, Instructional continuity, conduct student activities virtually when possible. Examples of on-campus instruction that are allowed in this stage: Biology/Biotechnology, Nursing, Dentistry, Police Academy, Fire Academy, EMT, Respiratory Therapy, Radiology Technology, Medical Assisting, Athletic Conditioning (outdoor). Occupancy of spaces not based on normal enrollment, but on what that space can actually contain. The focus is on social distancing and spacing elements. For instance, a lecture hall that can hold 100 people maximum would only be allowed 25% capacity. However, any activity that can be done virtually will continue to be done virtually.
- Tier 3- Orange: Moderate (Health & Safety Plan)  
Orange indicates moderate spread, with 1 to 3.9 new COVID cases per 100,000 people per day and 2 to 4.9% positivity. Some businesses can open with modifications and 50% indoor capacity.
- Tier 4- Yellow: Minimal (Modified Operation)  
Yellow indicates minimal spread, with less than 1 new COVID case per 100,000 people per day and less than 2% positivity. Most business operations can open with modifications.

This system gives each county some latitude of understanding for their planning and is much clearer than what was available at the beginning of the pandemic. Ben Zara said that the District has been updating plans to bring SMCCCD into alignment with the different tiers established by the state.

(See attached presentation for additional information.)

Ben Zara shared that the District Office has been doing a very good job and staying up on the situation and making sure that our health and safety plans are being updated to make sure that we meet the new requirements.

Agenda item requested by Ben Zara for December 17, 2020 meeting: The purpose/scope of the safety committee.

Micaela adjourned the meeting at 2:55 PM

Next meeting date: Thursday, December 17, 2020, 2PM - 3PM via Zoom

