

MI Co-leads Inaugural School Safety Summit in Albany

On May 31 and June 1, MI hosted a School Safety Summit in partnership with the New York State Education Department (NYSED) Office of Student Support Services. Nearly 650 school administrators and staff, school resource officers, and safety team members attended the two-day event at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany.

The Summit provided training, information, and resources on topics related to Emergency Response Plan development and implementation, and sessions designed to help create safe and supportive learning environments for school communities.



From left: Dr. Job Thomas, MI; Kathleen DeCataldo, NYSED Assistant Commissioner of Student Support Services; Aleece Behr, MI; Dr. Halley Eacker, MI; Dr. Betty Rosa, NYSED Commissioner of Education; Michele Shahn, NYSED Office of Student Support Services; Jim Dillon, MI; Kathy Oboyski-Butler, MI; and Tina Tierney, MI

“Rich content, dynamic speakers, networking, TAC booths (I gathered so much fabulous information!)”

Highlights of the Summit included:

- Opening remarks from Commissioner Rosa followed by a keynote presentation by Christina Pate, Deputy Director of the Center to Improve Social and Emotional Learning and School Safety at WestEd
- General sessions on *Trauma-Informed Lockdown Drills* with Dr. Jaclyn Schildkraut & Dr. Amanda Nickerson and *Solving Disproportionality in Suspension Requires Addressing System Gaps and Bias-Based Beliefs* with Dr. Edward Fergus
- Fifteen breakout sessions on a diverse array of school safety, positive school climate, and mental health topics, including a session on *Functional Annexes and Tabletop Exercises* led by Kathy Oboyski-Butler and Tina Tierney of MI's New York State Center for School Safety (NYS CFSS) team

“The tabletop exercises workshop left me with the most useful tools for developing and refining our District's practices.”

The Summit also featured a “Meet the Technical Assistance Centers” gallery which allowed attendees to engage with experts from various New York State agencies and contracted providers and receive free, quality resources to foster safe and supportive schools.

MI’s role in coordinating the Summit is part of our long-standing contract with NYSED to operate the NYS CFSS which provides professional development and technical assistance to districts, schools, parents, and other stakeholders across the state. For more information, visit nyscfss.org.

“There were SO MANY valuable, well-researched/informed, first-hand testimonials. The presenters were authentic and passionate about this very important topic. I love how various types of safety were addressed...personal, emotional, social, school, etc.”



Dr. Jaclyn Schildkraut co-presents a general session on Trauma Informed Lockdown Drills



Audience member participates during general session

MI’s CFSS team includes full time staff Tina Tierney (Director), Halley Eacker and Aleece Behr, and consultant partners Kathy Oboyski-Butler and Jim Dillon.



Tina Tierney delivers breakout session



Tina Tierney



Dr. Halley Eacker



Aleece Behr



Kathy Oboyski-Butler



Jim Dillon

“Getting everyone around the table and working together was huge for me.... The speakers were great! The TACS were outstanding!”



Summit attendees visit MI's Center for School Safety table during the “Meet the Technical Assistance Centers” gallery