

SafeUT & School Board Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: March 20, 2026

Time: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Virtual / Teleconference

Members Present:

Chair Ric Cantrell
Cassidy Dragunat
Rep. Steven Eliason
Barbara Stallone
Ken Wallentine
Brittnee Bassett, Staff

Members Absent:

Anne Brown
Shauntelle Cota
Jennifer Hebdon-Seljestad
Michael Staley

Associate Members Present:

Dan Lund
Ashley Tryon
Laura Warburton
Denia-Marie Wright
Erin Wynn
Annika Hunt
John Degrey
Brent Kious
Karina Rasmussen

1. Call to Order & Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order upon confirmation of quorum.

SafeUT's 10-year anniversary milestone was recognized.

The program's role in crisis intervention and public safety was emphasized.

Appreciation was expressed for staff, partners, and stakeholders.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

No prior meeting minutes were presented for approval.

3. SafeUT Program Updates & Data Report

A rolling 13-month analysis of usage trends was reviewed.

Seasonal variation observed: lower usage in summer, higher during the school year.

Top concerns included suicide ideation, bullying, substance use, self-harm, and school complaints.

A decline in utilization was noted, consistent with national trends.

Potential causes include cellphone restrictions and post-COVID behavioral changes.

February data breakdown was presented; discrepancies in download data noted for follow-up.

Continued collaboration with Frontline and National Guard acknowledged.

4. System & Technology Update

A scheduled 5-minute downtime occurred for system updates with no user impact.

Enhancements included IPv6 compatibility for improved forensic capability.

Strict confidentiality protocols remain in place under a controlled 'break-the-glass' model.

New real-time outage alert system implemented.

5. Research & Quality Improvement Report

Survey data (~200 users) indicated high levels of pre-use distress, including suicidal ideation.

Post-interaction outcomes showed reduced anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts.

87% of users reported feeling supported.

Barriers to care include fear of parental involvement and cost.

School staff reported positive impact, with moderate workload increases.

Active rescue follow-ups showed high satisfaction and perceived life-saving outcomes.

Ongoing NIH-funded study comparing Utah and Colorado is in progress.

Preliminary findings suggest reduced ER visits related to suicide attempts.

6. Artificial Intelligence & Innovation

AI is being explored for training and performance analysis.

Optimal counselor workload identified as 3–4 concurrent chats.

A simulated crisis-response chatbot is in development for training purposes.

No patient-facing AI use is currently approved.

Governance and ethical considerations are under development.

7. Subcommittee Report – Third-Party Vendor Engagement

Discussion held with Larkin Mortuary regarding potential collaboration.

No formal partnership established at this time.

Consideration given to public perception and branding sensitivity.

8. Key Takeaways & Action Items

SafeUT demonstrates strong impact in crisis intervention.

Declining utilization requires further analysis and outreach strategies.

Continued investment in research, system reliability, and responsible innovation is essential.

Follow-ups include resolving data discrepancies and improving survey participation.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned after completion of all agenda items by Chair Ric Cantrell.

Minutes prepared by: Brittnee Bassett, Office of the Utah Attorney General

DRAFT Minutes will be voted on for approval by the SafeUT & School Safety Commission on May 15, 2026.