

SafeUT & School Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: June 19, 2026

Scheduled Time: 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Ric Cantrell, Chair

Barbara Stallone

Rep. Steven Eliason

Sen. Heidi Balderree

Michael Staley

Jennifer Hebdon-Seljestad

Denia-Marie Wright

Members Absent

Anne Brown

Cassidy Dragunat

Ken Wallentine

Associate Members Present

Rebecca Hyde

Karina Rasmussen

Erin Wynn

Brent Kious

Laura Warburton

Jenelle Daley, Staff Substitute

1. Call to Order

Due to technical difficulties experienced by Commission Chair Ric Cantrell at the beginning of the meeting, Erin Wynn facilitated discussion until a quorum could be established. Members agreed to proceed with informational agenda items while awaiting the Chair's arrival. Upon joining the meeting, Chair Cantrell welcomed commissioners, agency representatives, and guests and formally called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Following confirmation of a quorum, the Commission considered approval of prior meeting minutes.

Barbara Stallone moved to approve the November 21, 2025 and May 15, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Senator Heidi Balderree seconded the motion. No amendments were proposed.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. SafeUT Updates and Data Reports

Denia-Marie Wright presented updates regarding SafeUT operations and outreach efforts.

Ms. Wright reported implementation of a new push-notification capability within the SafeUT application. A summer awareness notification was recently distributed to all registered users, including students, parents, and educators. The notification reminded users that SafeUT services remain available throughout the summer months despite schools being out of session.

Commission members discussed the importance of maintaining visibility of mental health and crisis resources during periods when students may have reduced contact with school personnel. Staff indicated that future utilization reports will be reviewed to determine whether the outreach effort results in measurable increases in user engagement.

Ms. Wright also reviewed current utilization information and discussed download statistics and user activity trends. Commissioners discussed fluctuations in download data and the need to continue monitoring engagement patterns.

SafeUT National Guard Program

The Commission reviewed updates related to the SafeUT National Guard initiative.

Ms. Wright reported that outreach activities are planned during the summer months, including participation in National Guard and military-community events intended to increase awareness and utilization of SafeUT resources.

Commission members discussed ongoing funding requirements needed to sustain the program. Members expressed support for identifying long-term funding solutions and ensuring continuity of services for National Guard personnel and their families.

Senator Balderree agreed to assist with future discussions regarding funding opportunities. Representative Eliason noted that permanent funding options had previously been discussed and may warrant future legislative consideration.

4. School Safety Center Update

No substantive School Safety Center report was provided during the meeting because designated presenters were unavailable.

Representative Eliason briefly noted that a recent School Safety Conference had occurred but indicated that he was unable to attend and therefore had no significant update to provide.

The Commission agreed to revisit the topic during a future meeting.

5. Subcommittee Reports

Third-Party Vendor Subcommittee

Commission members reported that no new third-party vendor requests or actions required review during the reporting period.

Data Subcommittee

Barbara Stallone reported that several routine data requests had been reviewed and approved by the Data Subcommittee.

Discussion focused on requests submitted by Dr. Brent Kious and whether certain requests fall within the intended scope of the committee's responsibilities. Members discussed the importance of balancing transparency, data governance responsibilities, and protection of sensitive information.

Barbara Stallone and Chair Cantrell agreed to meet with Dr. Kious to discuss expectations and clarify future procedures regarding committee review of data requests.

6. Legislative Update

Representative Eliason reported that the Legislature is not currently in session and that there are no significant legislative developments requiring Commission action at this time.

Senator Balderree likewise reported that no legislative updates were available.

7. Multilingual SafeUT Initiative

Denia-Marie Wright and Karina Rasmussen provided an update regarding efforts to expand multilingual support within the SafeUT platform.

Staff reported that development efforts are focused on providing support for multiple languages and improving accessibility for diverse user populations. Commissioners discussed potential testing opportunities and future demonstrations of the technology.

Senator Balderree expressed interest in assisting with testing efforts, including evaluation of Japanese-language functionality once available.

8. Commission Appointments

Chair Cantrell discussed current Commission membership and vacancy status.

The Chair announced the appointment of Denia-Marie Wright to fill the Commission seat vacated by Rachel Lusinski. Chair Cantrell commended Ms. Wright for her leadership, professionalism, and commitment to the SafeUT mission.

Commission members expressed strong support for the appointment and congratulated Ms. Wright.

The Commission also discussed the retirement of Ken Wallentine. Members expressed appreciation for his years of service, leadership, and contributions to public safety initiatives and the work of the Commission.

Discussion also included plans to identify a qualified replacement to represent the law-enforcement community on the Commission.

9. Roundtable Discussion

Rebecca Hyde introduced herself as the new Director of Community Crisis and Intervention Support Services and discussed her role overseeing programs that include SafeUT.

Karina Rasmussen welcomed Ms. Hyde and provided additional comments regarding organizational transitions and ongoing SafeUT initiatives.

Erin Wynn provided an update regarding the previously reported cybersecurity incident involving a third-party vendor system used before implementation of Utah's current SafeUT infrastructure. Ms. Wynn reported that legal and investigative review remains ongoing and that limited information is currently available for public release.

Commission members emphasized the importance of continued monitoring of the matter and ensuring appropriate safeguards for any potentially affected information.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the SafeUT & School Safety Commission is scheduled for July 17, 2026.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Commission, Chair Ric Cantrell thanked commissioners, staff, and stakeholders for their service and participation.

The meeting was adjourned following closing remarks from the Chair.

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

DRAFT Minutes were approved by the SafeUT & School Safety Commission on July 17, 2026.