

SafeUT & School Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: July 17, 2026

Scheduled Time: 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Ric Cantrell, Chair
Barbara Stallone
Anne Brown
Sen. Heidi Balderree
Michael Staley
Jennifer Hebdon-Seljestad
Denia-Marie Wright
John Degrey
Attorney General Derek Brown

Members Absent

Laura Warburton
Katie Mazzie
Brent Kious

Associate Members Present

Rebecca Hyde
Michelle Knnight
Erin Wynn
Brent Kious
Laura Warburton
Annika Hunt

Call to Order

Chair Ric Cantrell convened the meeting, welcomed members, and called for approval of the June 19 minutes. A motion and second were received and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair Transition

Chair Ric Cantrell announced this would conclude his nine years as Chair. Members and Attorney General leadership recognized his leadership, innovation, and role in establishing and expanding SafeUT. Erin Wynn was appointed as incoming Chair and accepted the appointment, committing to continue the Commission's mission.

SafeUT Data Report

Dema Wright presented June utilization metrics. Discussion included seasonal decreases during summer, active users, chats, tips, lifesaving interventions, school threats, top issue categories, and the anticipated annual report. Commissioners discussed the impact of school cell-phone restrictions on utilization and appropriate sharing of public dashboards.

SafeUT National Guard Funding

The Commission reviewed expiration of temporary funding and discussed three options: discontinue the program, merge it with Frontline, or secure ongoing dedicated funding.

Members unanimously supported preserving SafeUT NG as a separate program because of its unique military audience. Discussion emphasized permanent legislative funding, marketing/outreach, integration with Guard leadership, and long-term sustainability. Motion carried to maintain SafeUT NG as a separate program, pursue ongoing funding, affirm permanence, and strengthen marketing/outreach.

Subcommittee Reports

Third-Party Vendor: no report. Data Subcommittee clarified its role in reviewing data requests and initiated discussion regarding Commission letters of support. Members agreed to continue policy discussion at the next meeting after Barbara Stallone circulates background information.

Legislative Update

Senator Balderree agreed to pursue funding options for SafeUT NG and continue legislative coordination.

Roundtable

Members expressed appreciation for Chair Ric Cantrell's leadership and reflected on SafeUT's impact, recognizing thousands of lives positively affected. Barbara Stallone requested an agenda item be added to August's meeting.

Action Items

- Dema Wright to verify National Guard funding amount including marketing costs.
- Senator Balderree to pursue ongoing legislative appropriation.
- Develop enhanced marketing/outreach strategy.
- Barbara Stallone to distribute email regarding letters-of-support policy.
- Add retreat priorities and letters-of-support policy to next agenda.
- Erin Wynn assumes Chair responsibilities.

Adjournment

Following final remarks and expressions of appreciation, the meeting adjourned.

Detailed Discussion Narrative

The Commission engaged in extensive discussion regarding program operations, governance, funding stability, outreach, data trends, partnerships, and future strategic priorities. Members emphasized maintaining the collaborative model that has characterized SafeUT since its inception, preserving specialized services for students, frontline professionals, and Utah National Guard members, while continuing to improve utilization, public awareness, and measurable outcomes. Commissioners repeatedly highlighted the importance of evidence-based decision making, sustainable funding, strong interagency partnerships, and maintaining focus on suicide prevention and behavioral health support across Utah.

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 August 21, 2026.

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