

Alliance Schools Subcommittee Meeting - January 15, 2025

Notes taken with Fathom AI Notetaker

Attendees – Committee Members: Co-Chair Mary Massey, Co-Chair Ishawn Ealy, Beth Wigham, Gordon Clay, Jon Rochelle, Justin Potts, Maryanne Mueller, Mila Rodriguez Adair, Nole Kennedy, Ritu Roy, Shanda Hochstetler, Suzie Stadelman

Attendees – Staff: Jenn Fraga

Attendees – Guests: Nusayba Guiro

[VIEW RECORDING - 84 mins \(No highlights\)](#)

[Overview of Safer universal screening toolkit @ 0:00](#)

Maryanne provided an overview of the Safer universal screening toolkit, which is designed to help schools identify students at risk of suicide and connect them to appropriate resources and support. Key points include:

- Safer is not a mandate, but a voluntary program to support schools in implementing universal screening for suicide risk
- The purpose is to identify students in need and facilitate prompt safety planning and connections to resources
- The toolkit provides guidance on readiness assessment, screening implementation, data management, equity considerations, and more

[Rationale for universal screening @ 2:52](#)

Maryanne discussed the rationale for universal screening, including:

- Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth, so early identification and intervention is critical
- Universal screening can help identify students who may be struggling but not outwardly showing signs, allowing for earlier support
- Early intervention can positively impact student outcomes like academic performance, graduation rates, and mental health

Screening process and platform @ 8:51

Maryanne provided details on the Safer screening process and the Merit platform used to administer it:

- The screening takes 5-10 minutes and includes the Columbia, PHQ-9, and GAD-7 assessments
- The Merit platform captures screening results, facilitates same-day safety planning, and coordinates referrals to care
- The platform provides both clinical and non-clinical reports to support decision-making and resource allocation

Pilot program and next steps @ 47:29

Maryanne shared information about the current Safer pilot program in Oregon:

- The pilot is being offered to schools at no cost, with Oregon Healing Collective providing the full screening and care coordination process
- After the pilot, schools will have the option to continue using Safer, potentially with support from OHA for costs and resources
- Maryanne encouraged interested schools to reach out, as there may be opportunities to participate in the pilot

Recap and next meeting @ 1:21:51

Mary Massey recapped the meeting and noted that the next meeting will focus on finalizing the committee's recommendations for the "purple paper" to submit to OHA by September. She also invited members to suggest topics for the next meeting.