



SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

February 5, 2025

A meeting of the Safety & Security Committee was held on February 5, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by the Environmental Health & Safety, Risk Management Manager, Derrick Johnson.

Members Present: Derrick Johnson, Chris Moore, Dayna Schwab, Monica Diego Schmidt, Sarah Adams, Michael Finton, Dan McNeil, Tamara Holthaus, Robert Sedillo, Mike Dimmick, Tom Medel, Frances Asio, Veronica Sadowski, Valerie White, Dan Lynds, Kimberlee Ahinger

Members Absent: Christine Winterle, Ryan Williams, Ann Jensen, Sina Laie, Tracy Fung

Guests: David Rice

Recorder(s): Allison Tyra and Victoria de la Torre

Approval of Minutes:

1. The minutes from December 4, 2024, were approved. Minutes are posted on the Palomar College website: [Current – Safety and Security Committee \(palomar.edu\)](https://www.palomar.edu/safety-security-committee)

Discussion/Information Items

1. Workers' Compensation: No new information to report. No injuries for December 2024 or January 2025.
2. Campus Police: Welcome to the new semester. Ticketing on parking without proper pass will begin in the next few weeks. Campus Police is working with our Diversity & Inclusion Officer at multiple campus locations to reassure faculty, staff and students that Palomar Police Officers do not enforce activities related to immigration issues. Chief Moore presented police support or coverage at each campus location for the Spring semester.
3. Risk Management: (de la Torre)
 - a. District P&L Claims – December 2024 (0), January 2025 (1).
 - b. Received notice of an employee tripping over a water spigot and after evaluating the location, confirmed that it does pose a tipping hazard. Facilities was sent a remedy for the Grounds department to correct the hazard.
 - c. COVID-19 – Have not experienced the wave of high COVID-19 cases that was expected by the CDC.
 - i. **January 2025 = 0 (STU), 3 (EE)**
 - ii. **December 2024 = 0 (STU), 1 (EE)**
 - iii. November 2024 = 0 (STU), 2 (EE)
 - iv. October 2024 = 5 (STU), 2 (EE)
 - v. September 2024 = 12 (STU), 12 (EE)
 - vi. August 2024 = 9 (STU), 6 (EE)
 - vii. July 1, 2024 = 5 (STU), 22 (EE)

Effective February 3, 2025, some COVID-19 regulations have sunset. However, Palomar College continues to prioritize the health and safety of its employees as outlined in the [District's Injury and Illness Prevention Program \(IIPP\)](#).

Sunsetting/expiring:

The key changes include:

- **Notification of Exposure:** Employers will no longer be required to inform employees of potential exposure due to close contact with a positive COVID-19 case.
- **Outbreak Reporting and Tracking:** Employers will no longer need to report or monitor COVID-19 outbreaks. An outbreak is any three - twenty employees with a positive COVID-19 case in an “exposed group” within 14 days.

Continued Reporting & Responsibilities:

- Employers must continue tracking all employee COVID-19 cases through February 3, 2026.
- **Employees testing positive for COVID-19 should report their illness using the District’s [Employee COVID-19 Self-Reporting Notice](#).**
- Palomar will no longer provide employees with COVID-19 isolation periods, guidance, or exposure notifications. The [COVID-19 Resources & Updates](#) website lists the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#) link for guidance.

4. Health Services:

- a. Behavioral Health had 12 urgent visits in the month of December, and 2 urgent visits in January. The Student Health Center had zero urgent visits in December and 2 urgent visits in January. Staff are noticing an increase in flu-like or Covid-like symptoms, so students are asked to take a Covid test before entering the clinic. Health Services hours for each campus location are listed on their website, on Student Services website and on the outside of each clinic’s door.

5. Associated Student Government: No report

6. Environmental Health & Safety:

- a. Fire extinguisher (simulation) training was held on January 21, 2025, during Flex Week and was very informative. Eleven staff members attended.
- b. CPR certification and AED training were held on January 23, 2025. Sixteen people attended and found the training very helpful. Attendees will receive their CPR certifications soon.
- c. For the months of December and January, there were 30 ergonomics assessments, consultations, and installs. There were 27 Haz/Bio/Path-Waste collections, inventories and ship-outs.

7. Other Items:

- a. New security camera request for the Cashiers Office has been approved but is waiting on final approval from the VP of Human Resources. Meanwhile, Information Services has received the quote for the equipment and funds have been approved by the Budget Committee for this project.
- b. A suggestion for a campus-wide security patrol after hours from 11:00pm to 5:00am was brought to Safety & Security due to safety concerns on campus last year. Chief Moore believes security cameras are a better use of district resources.
- c. Alert system upgrades to T and D Buildings have been approved by ECCC. Meanwhile, Information Services has received the quote for the equipment and funds have been approved by the Budget Committee for this project.
- d. EH&S is looking into the best process, method and cost to identify all golf carts used on campus. Victoria will report on this at the next meeting.
- e. A formal bid to make improvements to the pedestrian crosswalk near parking lot #12 and Avenida Azul has been submitted to Purchasing. Dayna will report back at the next meeting.
- f. The blue emergency telephone at the Escondido Center has not yet to be repaired. Campus police and Information Services are considering removing this one telephone and/or researching other options.
- g. There was a complaint regarding a terrible odor coming from the plumbing in NS-217 and NS-225. After much investigation, it was determined to be an issue with the containment receptors or buckets underneath some of the sinks in those Biology lab classrooms. The plumbers removed, cleaned and replaced the containment buckets. An indoor air quality assessment was conducted with Ninyo & Moore. All data collected were within normal indoor air quality parameters for a safe environment. The odor has dissipated.

- h. The improvements and repairs to the M Building are about 75% completed. The rodent infestation has been remedied as well as broken windows and exhaust fans in the men's shower areas have been repaired. A new HVAC unit was installed in December. Facilities have been working diligently to ensure the building is safe for staff and students.

8. Safety Concerns

- a. Car drivers in parking lot #1 are speeding. Please research adding a speed bump in front of the Administration (A) building. Facilities and Campus Police will investigate this concern and make recommendations for improved safety in this area.
- b. Many employees have mentioned safety concerns regarding unhoused people or people who are not students camping out or finding spots to sleep around the Performing Arts Center and the M&O Building. Campus Police have added cameras to these vulnerable locations and have removed people or made arrests. This should be a priority for the district to minimize risk to employees and students.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38p.m.

Reminder: Next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. via Teams