



**BEST PRACTICES  
CLEARINGHOUSE**

- Lessons from the Field -

## High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans Build School Emergency Preparedness Capacity

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*Wednesday, April 24, 2024 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET*  
*SPEAKER BIOS*

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### Carlette KyserPegram

Education Program Specialist, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education Office of Safe and Supportive Schools; Lead, School Climate Transformation Group, U.S. Department of Education



Ms. Carlette KyserPegram is an Education Program Specialist at the US Department of Education in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), Office of Safe and Supportive Schools where she serves as the lead for the School Climate Transformation (SCT) group. The work of the SCT groups embraces a variety of topics relative to student health, safety, and overall student well-being including school based mental health, violence prevention, school climate, emergency preparedness, environmental health, and human trafficking. Prior to working in OESE, Ms. KyserPegram worked in the Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education and prior to then was a high school English, Language and Linguistics, and Literary Studies teacher.

## Janelle Hughes

Principal and Project Director, Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Technical Assistance Center (REMS TA Center)



Ms. Janelle Hughes serves as the Project Director for the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance Center. Over her career, she has supported the work of multiple Federal agencies including more than six U.S. Department of Education centers, offices, and programs; the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and its Administration for Children and Families, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and several institutes within the National Institutes of Health; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; U.S. Department of Homeland Security; and U.S. Department of Transportation. In her current role, she directs the creation and implementation of a multi-tiered project management plan that aims to enhance the federal government's mission to provide technical assistance and training to state, territorial, local, and tribal education and emergency management agencies on key safety and security topics. She oversees content development for and management of various resource types; plans and hosts live and virtual meetings; and leads the development of print, HTML, and mobile tools. During her tenure, the REMS TA Center has been featured in various news outlets and educational media sources, sites, and blogs.

## Zaria Zaqvi

Student and Emergency Preparedness Advocate, MD



Ms. Zaria Naqvi, a passionate sophomore at Winston Churchill High School in Maryland, is a staunch advocate for school safety. Serving as the student liaison to the Maryland School Safety Subcabinet, she actively represents student voices at the table. Additionally, she is actively engaged in the Maryland Student Council and the Maryland Governor's Youth Advisory Council, making a difference in her community.

## Steve McElroy

Director of Security, Westerville City Schools, OH



Mr. Steve McElroy is the Director of Security for Westerville City Schools in Westerville, Ohio. He previously served as the Director of Safety and Security for Columbus City Schools since 2005, obtaining his MBA in May of 2013. A retiree from the Columbus Police Department having provided 14 years of dedicated service, he brings over 22 years of experience in: Emergency Management for Schools, security assessments, grant management and writing policies and procedures.

Serving as a consultant for the U.S. Department of Education-Office of Safe and Supportive Schools and its Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center has given him the opportunity to train many school districts across the nation on Emergency Management 101. He also assisted in the development of the Federal Government's model management plan: Creating Model Emergency Management Plans for Schools, Institutions of Higher Education and Houses of Worship.

Mr. McElroy is an Executive Committee member of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), a member of the Chiefs and Security Directors Group, and was the Project Director of two Emergency Response Crisis Management Grants totaling over 1 million dollars.

## Carlton Gerald

Assistant Director, Security and Emergency Operations, Alexandria Public Schools, VA



Mr. Carlton Gerald serves as the Assistant Director of Security and Emergency Operations for Alexandria Public Schools (ACPS). Prior to joining ACPS, Mr. Gerald lead the newly created Emergency Planning and Guidance Unit for DC Public Schools (DCPS), within the Office of the Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Gerald served as the point of contact for 116 schools in the area(s) of emergency preparedness, training, and emergency response plans compliance. Mr. Gerald also worked closely with the DC Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency, as the DCPS Emergency Liaison Officer responding to district level and national capital region threats and hazards. Prior to joining DCPS, Mr. Gerald worked as the Director of Security and Risk Management for one of the districts largest PreK-12 Public Charter Schools, where he authored a number of school wide policies, designed and implemented state-of-the-art physical security, access control, and intrusion detection platforms.

Mr. Gerald's background in law enforcement in Raleigh, NC prior to migrating to the Washington D.C. area, prepared him for a new challenge as a Diplomatic Security Protection agent for the Saudi Arabia Ambassador to the United States. Mr. Gerald continues to reaffirm his dedication as a FEMA Certified Instructor, FEMA Multi-hazard Emergency Planning for Schools Train-the Trainer, FEMA Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Train-the Trainer, Virginia Center for School and Campus Safety Instructor, and finally and as a U.S. Department of Education, School Behavioral Threat Assessment Train-the Trainer.

As a security practitioner, Mr. Gerald holds a bachelor's degree from Nyack College in Organizational Management and Leadership and is board certified through the American Society of Industrial Security (ASIS) as a Certified Protection Professional.

## Kimberly Daubenspeck

School Safety Director, Office of School Safety and Transportation, Tennessee Department of Education, TN



Ms. Kimberly Daubenspeck serves as the School Safety Director in the Office of School Safety and Transportation for the Tennessee Department of Education. In that role, she manages the Regional Wellness and Safety Consultants, and provides training, technical assistance, and resources in school safety. She also works with Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to measure school climate and implement best practices to improve school climate. She is a trainer in Youth Mental Health First Aid, Restorative Practices, Building Strong Brains (Adverse Childhood Experiences), PREPARE Postvention, Emergency Operations Planning and Behavioral Threat Assessment.

Prior to her work as a School Safety Director, she has also worked at Murfreesboro City Schools and the Guidance Center.

Ms. Daubenspeck holds a M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction from MTSU and a B.S. in Psychology from MTSU and a Graduate Certificate in Data Science from MTSU.

## Krista Curley

Director, Project Prevent/Mental Health, McAlester Public Schools, OK



Ms. Krista Curley is the Director of Project Prevent and Mental Health at McAlester Public Schools in Oklahoma. She had been in a variety of roles during her nineteen years in education, including district director, high school principal, and middle school assistant principal. Ms. Curley spent 14 years teaching English and eleven years as a varsity coach.