



COLORADO

**Department of
Regulatory Agencies**

Colorado Office of Policy, Research &
Regulatory Reform

2016 Sunset Reviews:
Health Service Corps Advisory Council
Education Data Advisory Committee
School Safety Resource Center Advisory Board
Technical Advisory Panel

October 14, 2016



COLORADO

**Department of
Regulatory Agencies**

Executive Director's Office

October 14, 2016

Members of the Colorado General Assembly
c/o the Office of Legislative Legal Services
State Capitol Building
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

The General Assembly established a sunset review process for advisory committees and boards in 1986 as a way to analyze and evaluate their efficacy and to determine whether they should continue. Since their creation, Colorado's sunrise and sunset processes have gained national recognition and are routinely highlighted as best practices as governments seek to streamline regulation and increase efficiencies.

The Colorado Office of Policy, Research and Regulatory Reform (COPRRR), located within my office, is responsible for fulfilling these statutory mandates. To emphasize the statewide nature and impact of this endeavor, COPRRR recently launched a series of initiatives aimed at encouraging greater public participation in the regulatory reform process, including publication of a new "Citizen's Guide to Rulemaking" (available online at www.dora.colorado.gov/opr).

Section 2-3-1203(2)(b)(III), Colorado Revised Statutes, directs the Department of Regulatory Agencies to submit a report containing such analysis and evaluation to the office of legislative legal services no later than October 15 of the year preceding the date established for termination.

Accordingly, COPRRR has completed its evaluations of the, the Health Service Corps Advisory Council, the Education Data Advisory Committee, the School Safety Resource Center Advisory Board, and the Technical Advisory Panel. I am pleased to submit this written report, which will be the basis for COPRRR's oral testimony before the 2017 legislative committees of reference.

The report discusses the effectiveness of the committees in carrying out the intention of the statutes and makes recommendations as to whether the advisory committees should be continued.

Sincerely,

Joe Neguse
Executive Director





COLORADO

Department of Regulatory Agencies

Colorado Office of Policy, Research &
Regulatory Reform

2016 Sunset Reviews: Health Service Corps Advisory Council Education Data Advisory Committee School Safety Resource Center Advisory Board Technical Advisory Panel

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue the Health Service Corps Advisory Council.

The Colorado Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (Repayment Program) was established to assist in student loan repayment for eligible healthcare professionals who practice in federally designated health professional shortage areas, delivering primary healthcare services in a public or non-profit clinic. The Health Service Corps Advisory Council, which is comprised of 13 members, is charged with making a formal proposal of loan repayment awards to healthcare professionals deemed eligible to participate in the Repayment Program.

Continue the Education Data Advisory Committee.

By performing cost-benefit analysis and recommending change when needed, based on a multidisciplinary analysis, the Education Data Advisory Committee (EDAC) has been able to reduce the burdens placed on local education agencies. It has reduced those burdens while still allowing necessary data to be compiled for essential analysis. The role of EDAC as a critical statewide component in the process of education data collection, management, and security becomes more essential every year.

Continue School Safety Resource Center Advisory Board.

The purpose of the School Safety Resource Center Advisory Board is to provide policy guidance to the School Safety Resource Center (Resource Center). During the meetings, board members share information on how to best serve schools and communities throughout the state. The Resource Center depends on the information and the support provided by board members.

Continue the Technical Advisory Panel.

Under the Colorado Forest Restoration Act (Restoration Act), certain entities undertaking community-based forest restoration projects may apply to the Colorado State Forest Service (Forest Service) for grant funds from the state. The Technical Advisory Panel (Panel) is responsible for reviewing project proposals and recommending to the Forest Service which of those projects should be funded. If the General Assembly reauthorizes the Restoration Act and appropriates funds to continue to offer grants via the program, then the Panel should be continued.

MAJOR CONTACTS MADE DURING THESE REVIEWS

Colorado Department of Education

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Colorado Department of Public Safety

Colorado State Forest Service

What is a Sunset Review?

A sunset review is a periodic assessment of state boards, programs, and functions to determine whether they should be continued by the legislature. Sunset reviews focus on creating the least restrictive form of regulation consistent with protecting the public. In formulating recommendations, sunset reviews consider the public's right to consistent, high quality professional or occupational services and the ability of businesses to exist and thrive in a competitive market, free from unnecessary regulation.

Sunset Reviews are prepared by:
Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies
Colorado Office of Policy, Research and Regulatory Reform
1560 Broadway, Suite 1550, Denver, CO 80202
www.dora.state.co.us/opr



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Background

Introduction

As part of the sunset review of an advisory committee, the advisory committee that is scheduled to repeal must submit to the Department of Regulatory Agencies, through the Colorado Office of Policy, Research and Regulatory Reform (COPRRR), on or before July 1 of the year preceding the year in which the advisory committee is scheduled to repeal:¹

- The names of current members of the advisory committee;
- All revenues and all expenditures, including advisory committee expenses, *per diem* paid to members, and any travel expenses;
- The dates all advisory committee meetings were held and the number of members attending the meetings;
- A listing of all advisory proposals made by the advisory committee, together with an indication as to whether each proposal was acted upon, implemented or enacted into statute; and
- The reasons why the advisory committee should be continued.

Importantly, sunset reviews of advisory committees do not, generally, analyze the underlying program to which the committee is expected to render advice or recommendations. If an advisory committee is sunset, the underlying program will continue.

Sunset Process

As with sunset reviews of programs, agency officials and other stakeholders can submit input regarding an advisory committee through a variety of means, including at dora.colorado.gov/opr.

The Health Service Corps Advisory Council, the Education Data Advisory Committee and the School Safety Resource Center Advisory Board shall terminate on July 1, 2017, and the Technical Advisory Panel shall terminate on September 1, 2017, unless continued by the General Assembly. It is the duty of COPRRR to conduct an analysis and evaluation of these advisory committees pursuant to section 2-3-1203, Colorado Revised Statutes.

The purpose of this review is to determine whether these committees should be continued for the protection of the public and to evaluate their performance. COPRRR's findings and recommendations are submitted via this report to the legislative committees of reference of the Colorado General Assembly.

¹ §§ 2-3-1203(2)(b)(I) and (II), C.R.S.

Health Service Corps Advisory Council

Creation, Mission and Make-Up

The Colorado Health Service Corps Advisory Council (Health Advisory Council) was created by the General Assembly in 2007. The Health Advisory Council is housed in the Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and consists of representatives of the following, who are appointed by the Governor:²

- The Commission on Family Medicine;
- A non-profit statewide membership organization that provides programs and services to enhance rural healthcare;
- A membership organization representing federally qualified health centers;
- A foundation that funds a healthcare professional loan forgiveness program;
- An economic development organization;
- A membership organization representing community behavioral healthcare providers;
- An advanced practice nurse in a faculty position at an educational institution with healthcare programs who is licensed to practice in Colorado;
- A physician who has experience in rural health, safety-net clinics or health equity;
- A nurse who has experience in rural health, safety-net clinics or health equity;
- A mental health provider who has experience in rural health, safety-net clinics or health equity;
- An oral health provider who has experience in rural health, safety-net clinics or health equity;
- A physician who is a faculty member of a medical school; and
- A citizen representative who has knowledge in rural health, safety-net clinics or health equity.

All members of the Health Advisory Council are appointed for three-year terms.³

The Colorado Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program (Repayment Program) was established to assist in student loan repayment for eligible healthcare professionals who practice in federally designated health professional shortage areas, which are located throughout the state, delivering primary healthcare services in a public or non-profit clinic. The healthcare professionals who are eligible for participation include:⁴

- Doctors of osteopathic or allopathic medicine (family medicine, geriatrics, general internal medicine, general psychiatry, general child psychiatry, general pediatrics and general obstetrics and gynecology);
- Clinical pharmacists;

² §§ 25-1.5-504(2), C.R.S.

³ § 25-1.5-504(3)(a), C.R.S.

⁴ Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. *Colorado Health Service Corps Prospective Applicants*. Retrieved August 22, 2016, from <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/colorado-health-service-corps-prospective-applicants>

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- Dentists (general and pediatric);
 - Licensed clinical or counseling psychologists;
 - Licensed clinical social workers;
 - Licensed professional counselors;
 - Licensed marriage and family therapists;
 - Certified nurse-midwives;
 - Nurse practitioners;
 - Physician assistants;
 - Psychiatric nurse specialists; and
 - Licensed dental hygienists.

Award amounts for full-time participants in the Repayment Program include:⁵

- \$90,000 for physicians and dentists;
- \$50,000 for physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, clinical pharmacists and licensed mental health providers; and
- \$20,000 for dental hygienists.

Award amounts for part-time participants in the Repayment Program include:⁶

- \$45,000 for physicians and dentists;
- \$25,000 for physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, clinical pharmacists and licensed mental health providers; and
- \$10,000 for dental hygienists.

Full- and part-time participants must agree to work for a term of three years at an approved site.⁷

Funding for the Repayment Program is derived from state appropriations and federal and private grants. Since 2010, there has been more than \$31,555,071 allocated for the Repayment Program.

⁵ Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. *Colorado Health Service Corps Prospective Applicants*. Retrieved August 22, 2016, from <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/colorado-health-service-corps-prospective-applicants>

⁶ Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. *Colorado Health Service Corps Prospective Applicants*. Retrieved August 22, 2016, from <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/colorado-health-service-corps-prospective-applicants>

⁷ Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. *Colorado Health Service Corps Prospective Applicants*. Retrieved August 22, 2016, from <https://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/colorado-health-service-corps-prospective-applicants>

Responsibilities of the Health Advisory Council

Applications for participation in the Repayment Program are initially screened for eligibility by Primary Care Office staff within the CDPHE. Applications that meet eligibility requirements are then forwarded to the Health Advisory Council. The Health Advisory Council is charged with making a formal proposal of loan repayment awards to healthcare professionals deemed eligible to participate in the Repayment Program.

Revenues and Expenditures

The Health Advisory Council does not have revenues and Health Advisory Council members do not receive compensation for services or reimbursement of expenses.

However, when meetings occur, Health Advisory Council members are provided lunch for the twice-per-year meetings. In fiscal year 14-15, expenditures on lunch for Health Advisory Council members were \$288. In fiscal year 15-16, total lunch expenditures were \$320.

Meetings of the Health Advisory Council

In fiscal years 14-15 and 15-16, the Health Advisory Council met a total of four times (twice in each fiscal year). All of the meetings were held at the CDPHE offices in Denver.

Proposals and Their Status

In September and November 2014 and May and December 2015, the Health Advisory Council recommended for approval a total of 123 healthcare professionals for the Repayment Program. The following is a breakdown for healthcare professionals who were recommended for approval to participate in the Repayment Program:

- September 2014 - 23 individuals comprising 6 physicians, 2 psychiatrists, 3 physician assistants, 4 nurse practitioners, 3 licensed clinical social workers, 1 licensed professional counselor, 3 psychologists and 1 dentist.
- November 2014 - 23 individuals comprising 6 physicians, 3 psychiatrists, 2 licensed professional counselors, 1 registered dental hygienist, 1 licensed clinical social worker, 3 clinical pharmacists, 3 dentists, 1 certified nurse midwife, 1 physician assistant and 2 nurse practitioners.
- May 2015 - 44 individuals comprising 11 physicians, 4 psychiatrists, 4 dentists, 3 licensed clinical social workers, 5 licensed professional counselors, 6 physician assistants, 3 clinical pharmacists, 4 psychologists and 4 nurse practitioners.

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- December 2015 - 33 individuals comprising six physicians, 1 psychiatrist, 1 certified midwife, 4 dentists, 5 licensed clinical social workers, 3 licensed professional counselors, 1 marriage and family therapist, 2 nurse practitioners, 5 physician assistants, 3 pharmacists and 2 psychologists.

In fiscal years 14-15 and 15-16, a total of \$7,519,060 was awarded to healthcare professionals who participated in the Repayment Program. The amounts awarded at each of the aforementioned meeting are as follows:

- September 2014 - \$1,635,100,
- November 2014 - \$1,339,667,
- May 2015 - \$2,593,693, and
- December 2015 - \$1,950,600.

Reasons for Continuation of the Health Advisory Council

The Repayment Program provides an opportunity for healthcare professionals to deliver primary care healthcare services in public and non-profit clinics in shortage areas throughout Colorado. Participating in the Repayment Program not only assists Coloradans in shortage areas receive valuable medical and dental care; it provides an avenue for healthcare professionals to receive monetary compensation in repaying student loans.

The Health Advisory Council's primary function is to review applications and recommend approval to participate in the Repayment Program. The Health Advisory Council's role provides a valuable service by reviewing and determining whether a healthcare professional is eligible to participate.

Analysis and Recommendation

The Health Advisory Council has been in existence for more than eight years, and it serves an important role in determining whether healthcare professionals are eligible to participate in the Program.

Therefore, the General Assembly should continue the Health Advisory Council.

Education Data Advisory Committee

Creation, Mission and Make-Up

The Education Data Advisory Committee (EDAC) was created in 2007 by section 304 of Article 2, Title 22, Colorado Revised Statutes as a component of the Data Reporting and Technology Act (DRTA).⁸ The intent of the DRTA is to:⁹

- Improve the collection of educational data by streamlining the submission and reporting of data;
- Create shared goals and shared expectations for data collection and technology for elementary and secondary education in Colorado;
- Require school districts and public schools to submit data that is relevant to student achievement and that will enhance and improve the manner in which school districts and public schools provide and evaluate student instruction;
- Explore the possibility of implementing a single statewide education data collection system with the purpose of reducing the manpower and cost of submitting required data to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE); and
- Deploy the single statewide education data collection system as a system of data exchange that is based on automatic file exchanges rather than manual processes requiring personnel to upload electronic files via messaging, web uploads, or other file transfer methods requiring human intervention.

DRTA directs the State Board of Education (Board of Education) to designate five school districts, two boards of cooperative services, and one charter school to send representatives to the EDAC. The designated entities are directed by DRTA to be representative of the state as to size and population, and they should in turn designate a volunteer to serve on the EDAC.¹⁰ The EDAC, however, consists of 14 members. The DRTA does not limit EDAC membership, it directs that certain types of entities be represented. Given that it is an advisory committee, the Board of Education added two more school district representatives based on perceived need of expertise. Additionally, the CDE has four non-voting members.

Responsibilities of the EDAC

The DRTA assigned several responsibilities to the EDAC. In keeping with the DRTA mission, the EDAC duties are basically focused on either analysis or reporting. The responsibilities include:¹¹

⁸ § 22-2-301, C.R.S.

⁹ § 22-2-302(2), C.R.S.

¹⁰ § 22-2-304(1), C.R.S.

¹¹ § 22-2-304(2), C.R.S.

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- Review the statutory and regulatory data reporting requirements¹² and determine whether the benefits derived are outweighed by the increased administrative costs;
 - Identify data reporting requirements that are duplicative or obsolete and may be combined, eliminated, or otherwise streamlined;
 - Review each data reporting request made of public schools and school districts and notify school districts and public schools that the request is mandatory by statute or rule, required to acquire a benefit, or is voluntary;
 - Review all proposed data reporting requirements, inform the General Assembly or the enacting state or federal agency of the estimated costs and make recommendations whether the proposed requirements are already included in existing law or regulation and whether the proposed requirements are necessary and appropriate;
 - Advise CDE on the impact of data practices and technology on school districts and public schools;
 - Periodically review the rules for implementing the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, and recommend to the Board of Education an interpretation that will facilitate the exchange of information to the greatest extent possible;
 - Review the processes and timing for collecting student demographic data and make recommendations to the Board of Education for efficiently updating the data as necessary;
 - Recommend to the Board of Education and to the appropriate legislative committees of reference, annually or more often if necessary, the repeal or amendment of statutory and regulatory data reporting requirements identified as duplicative, obsolete, or inefficient;¹³ and
 - Identify reporting requirements that may be consolidated into a single report or a single submission for purposes of streamlining data submission for school districts and public schools.¹⁴

Revenues and Expenditures

The EDAC does not generate any revenue. All EDAC expenses are covered by CDE. The volunteer EDAC members receive no *per diem*.

During fiscal year 14-15, the EDAC expended \$2,643 on meals for the EDAC members and approximately \$4,095 on printing. During fiscal year 15-16, the EDAC expended \$2,179 on meals for the EDAC members and approximately \$4,095 on printing.

¹² § 22-2-304(5), C.R.S. - Statutory and regulatory data reporting requirements include all data reporting requirements that apply to school districts and public schools imposed by federal or state statute or by rule of a federal or state agency, including but not limited to the Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing.

¹³ § 22-2-304(3)(a), C.R.S.

¹⁴ § 22-2-304(4), C.R.S.

Meetings of the EDAC

The 14-member EDAC typically meets on a monthly basis 10 times per year, excluding July and August. The meetings are scheduled to run from 9:30 to 4:00. During fiscal years 14-15 and 15-16, each year nine meetings were held in Denver and one meeting, the June meeting, was held in Leadville. The meetings held in fiscal year 14-15 are listed in Table 1.

Table 1
EDAC Meetings
Fiscal Year 14-15

Date	Location	Members in Attendance
September 5, 2014	Denver	11
October 3, 2014	Denver	9
November 7, 2014	Denver	10
December 5, 2014	Denver	10
January 9, 2015	Denver	12
February 6, 2015	Denver	10
March 6, 2015	Denver	10
March 20, 2015	Denver	9
May 1, 2015	Denver	12
June 17, 2015	Leadville	12

Table 1 indicates that average attendance was approximately 11 members. During March the EDAC met twice in lieu of holding an April meeting. Table 2 shows the meeting schedule for fiscal year 15-16.

Table 2
EDAC Meetings
Fiscal Year 14-15

Date	Location	Members in Attendance
September 4, 2015	Denver	12
October 2, 2015	Denver	10
November 6, 2015	Denver	10
December 10, 2015	Denver	14
January 8, 2016	Denver	11
February 5, 2016	Denver	12
March 4, 2016	Denver	14
March 18, 2016	Denver	13
April 29, 2016	Denver	10
June 10, 2016	Leadville	11

Table 2 indicates that the average attendance increased during fiscal year 15-16, to approximately 12 members per meeting.

Accomplishments and Proposals

The EDAC has operationalized its mission by reviewing the data collection requests and mandates (collectively, “data collections”) that are sent to local education agencies in Colorado. It analyzes data collections for redundancy, efficiency and cost/benefit.

If the EDAC approves a data collection, it places a stamp on it indicating if a form is mandatory, required to obtain a benefit, or voluntary. Table 3 shows the results of the data collections reviewed for the period examined for this sunset review.

Table 3
Form Compliance Evaluations
Fiscal Years 14-15 and 15-16

Fiscal Year	Mandatory	Required to Obtain a Benefit	Voluntary	Total
14-15	45	68	26	139
15-16	47	75	25	147

Table 3 shows that during fiscal year 14-15, the EDAC performed 139 reviews of data collections. Of those, 46, or one-third of the total were on newly required data collections established through legislation or CDE rule. The remaining 93 were reviews on existing data collections.

During fiscal year 15-16, the EDAC performed 147 reviews of data collections. Of those, 68, or 46.3 percent, of the total were on newly required data collections established through legislation or CDE rule. The remaining 79 were reviews on existing data collections.

The EDAC is also directed to make recommendations for improving the efficiency and effectiveness (E&E) of data collection tools. Table 4 shows the results of the E&E reviews conducted during the period examined for this sunset review.

Table 4
E&E Reviews
Fiscal Years 14-15 and 15-16

Fiscal Year	Approved No Changes	Approved With Changes	Not Approved-Resubmit	Not Approved-No Stamp	Total
14-15	97	38	4	0	139
15-16	110	35	2	0	147

Table 4 shows that some level of change was recommended to 79, or 27.6 percent, of the combined fiscal years 14-15 and 15-16 data collections reviewed, before they were given the EDAC stamp of approval. However, Table 4 also indicates that no data collections were denied. Therefore, it is reasonable to infer that the agencies requesting data are typically amenable to the EDAC recommendations.

During fiscal year 13-14, the EDAC acted as an advisory body on the introduction and execution of the Data Pipeline. The Data Pipeline is designed to move gathered data from districts to CDE in a well-organized manner. The Data Pipeline is a collaborative effort between CDE and the local education agencies. The EDAC continues to give input as needed as the Data Pipeline moves forward.

The recommendations that the EDAC makes to the General Assembly are broad in nature and do not necessarily produce specific bills to meet an end goal. For example, in the 2015 legislative recommendations the EDAC recommended that the General Assembly should, “Protect local education agencies.” The recommendation explained that they should be protected by considering a moratorium on major education legislation. In this recommendation the EDAC was requesting that the General Assembly consider school district workload while considering new legislation, rather than requesting a specific bill.

An exception to this general standard is a 2016 legislative recommendation to, “Require vendor protections for data.” This recommendation contributed the General Assembly passing the Student Data Transparency and Security Act (House Bill 16-1423) which protects student personal data.

Reasons for Continuation of the EDAC

The EDAC protects Colorado’s local education agencies from undue data collection burdens by performing duties such as:

- Reviewing proposed statutory and regulatory reporting requirements;
- Informing the General Assembly of associated costs of requirements;
- Removing duplicative items, whether in specific data fields or an entire data collection;
- Streamlining data collections for efficiency;

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- Performing compliance evaluations to determine if a data collection is mandatory, required to obtain a benefit, or voluntary;
 - Advising CDE on the impacts of proposed data collections; and
 - Reducing time and effort spent on data reporting requirements which allows resources to be expended on student instruction.

Because it works with data collections, the EDAC's relevance and visibility has increased as the public focus on data privacy has increased. This focus was the genesis of the Student Data Transparency and Security Act.

The most noteworthy and significant benefit of the EDAC is its composition. It is comprised of representatives from boards of educational cooperatives and school districts from around the state. The representatives have backgrounds in human resources, special education, charter schools, assessment, data management, technology, budget and finance, federal programs, and rural interests. The EDAC is proactively committed to the mission of reducing the burdens placed on Colorado public education agencies.

Analysis and Recommendation

The EDAC provides valuable services to the education community, CDE, the General Assembly, and therefore to the citizens of Colorado. By performing cost-benefit analysis and recommending change when needed, based on a multidisciplinary analysis, the EDAC has been able to reduce the burdens placed on local education agencies. It has reduced those burdens while still allowing necessary data to be compiled for essential analysis. The role of EDAC as a critical statewide component in the process of education data collection, management, and security becomes more essential every year. For all of these reasons, EDAC should be continued to so that it may remain a force to analyze, innovate, and lead.

Therefore, The General Assembly should continue the EDAC.

School Safety Resource Center Advisory Board

Creation, Mission and Make-Up

The School Safety Resource Center Advisory Board (School Safety Board) was created in 2008 by Senate Bill 08-001 as part of an effort to foster safe and secure learning environments in all preschool through higher education schools.

The School Safety Board makes policy recommendations to the Colorado School Safety Resource Center (Resource Center), which supports schools and local agencies to address all types of emergencies and crisis situations. The Resource Center accomplishes this by providing free consultation, resources, training and technical assistance to preschool through higher education schools and community partners throughout Colorado.

Housed in the Colorado Department of Public Safety (Public Safety), the School Safety Board consists of at least 14 members:¹⁵

- A representative of the Colorado Department of Education, appointed by the Commissioner of Education;
- A representative of an elementary or secondary school, or a school district, with professional expertise in behavioral health treatment, appointed by the Commissioner of Education;
- An administrator, appointed by the Commissioner of Education in consultation with the a statewide association of school executives;
- A representative of state universities and colleges, appointed by the Executive Director of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education;
- A representative of community and junior colleges, appointed by the State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education;
- A representative of a parents organization, appointed by the Governor;
- A district attorney, appointed by the Governor;
- A representative of the Office of Behavioral Health in the Colorado Department of Human Services (DHS), appointed by the Executive Director of DHS;
- A representative of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), appointed by the Executive Director of CDPHE;
- A representative of the Colorado Department of Law, appointed by the Attorney General;
- A representative of Public Safety, appointed by the Executive Director of Public Safety;
- A professional with expertise in school security, appointed by the Executive Director of Public Safety;
- A professional in law enforcement, appointed by the Executive Director of Public Safety; and
- A school resource officer, appointed by the Executive Director of Public Safety in consultation with a statewide association representing school resource officers.

¹⁵ § 24-33.5-1804(2)(a), C.R.S.

The School Safety Board has the authority to add additional members with a majority vote of approval by the board and approval of the Executive Director of Public Safety.¹⁶ As a result, the School Safety Board has added five members:

- A representative of the Colorado School Districts Self-Insurance Pool, appointed by the Executive Director of Public Safety;
- A school principal, appointed by Executive Director of Public Safety;
- A classroom teacher, appointed by the Executive Director of Public Safety;
- A representative of the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB), appointed by CASB; and
- A school administrator from the Front Range, appointed by the Commissioner of Education.

Each member serves a two-year term.¹⁷ If any member vacates his or her office during the appointed term, the Executive Director of Public Safety must appoint a replacement for the duration of the term.¹⁸

Responsibilities of the School Safety Board

The School Safety Board is charged with making policy recommendations to the Resource Center.¹⁹

Revenues and Expenditures

The School Safety Board costs are paid for by the Resource Center. Costs include only travel expenses for the board members to attend meetings. The members are not allocated per diem.

The School Safety Board spent \$215 in fiscal year 14-15 and \$1,935 in fiscal year 15-16 to reimburse members for travel expenses.

Meetings of the School Safety Board

The School Safety Board typically meets four times a year. In fiscal year 15-16, one meeting was cancelled due to snow and was not rescheduled. On average 11 of the 19 members attended each meeting.

¹⁶ § 24-33.5-1804(2)(c), C.R.S.

¹⁷ § 24-33.5-1804(2)(a), C.R.S.

¹⁸ § 24-33.5-1804(3), C.R.S.

¹⁹ § 24-33.5-1804(1), C.R.S.

Proposals and Their Status

In fiscal year 14-15, the School Safety Board voted unanimously to add a representative from CASB to the membership.

Status: The Executive Director of Public Safety approved the change.

In fiscal year 14-15, the School Safety Board voted for the 2015 Colorado Safe Schools Summit to be funded in part by sponsors.

Status: This was successful, and the Resource Center will continue to seek sponsors to help fund future summits.

In fiscal year 15-16, the School Safety Board voted unanimously for the Resource Center to charge a registration fee to help fund the 2016 Colorado Safe Schools Summit.

Status: The 2016 summit is scheduled for October 12 and 13. The registration fee is set at \$90 for both days, \$80 for early registration and \$50 for one day only.

Reasons for Continuation of the School Safety Board

The Resource Center serves all schools in Colorado, preschool through higher education. In 2015, the staff provided 157 trainings with 4,933 participants, and staff distributed 58,364 school-safety materials, such as fact sheets, toolkits, brochures, posters and booklets. The materials cover a variety of topics from the prevention of suicides to establishing a continuity of operations plan. The Resource Center has also created nine online training courses.

The School Safety Board provides the Resource Center with perspectives from the board members, which informs the staff on how to best serve schools and communities throughout the state. The School Safety Board ensures that the Resource Center understands the current and emerging needs of Colorado students and schools, and the members also help to disseminate information to the districts and various state agencies represented by board members.

Additionally, individual board members have collaborated with staff on trainings, conference presentations and workshops.

Analysis and Recommendation

The purpose of the School Safety Board is to provide policy guidance to the Resource Center. While few action items are listed on the board agendas, during the meetings, board members share information with the Resource Center staff. This information then helps guide staff on how to best serve schools and communities throughout the state. The Resource Center depends on the information and the support provided by board members.

Therefore, the General Assembly should continue the School Safety Board.

Technical Advisory Panel

Creation, Mission and Make-Up

The General Assembly created the Technical Advisory Panel (Panel) in 2007 when it passed the Colorado Forest Restoration Act (Restoration Act). The Restoration Act created a pilot program²⁰ that allowed entities undertaking community-based forest restoration projects to apply to the Colorado State Forest Service (Forest Service) for grant funds from the state. Proposed projects had to be located in areas having an approved community wildfire protection plan; address certain objectives, such as the reduction of wildfire risk, the preservation of old and large trees, and replanting trees in deforested areas; and meet other statutory requirements. The amount of each grant was capped at 60 percent of the total project cost, not to exceed \$1 million, with the remaining funding coming in the form of cash, stumpage (the price a private company pays for the right to harvest standing timber), or in-kind donations.

Beginning in 2008, the General Assembly authorized up to \$1 million per year to the program to pay out to grant applicants, as funds were available.

The General Assembly reauthorized the Restoration Act once, in 2012, and it is once again subject to repeal on July 1, 2017. Only the Panel, however, is subject to sunset review.

The Director of the Forest Service convenes the Panel to evaluate the proposed projects and recommend which projects should receive funding. The Panel consists of 7 to 11 members, including:²¹

- A representative of the Department of Natural Resources;
- At least one representative of federal land management agencies;
- At least two scientists with experience in forest ecosystem restoration; and
- Equal representation from conservation interests, local communities, and commodity interests.

The Forest Service facilitates the project review process.

²⁰ The General Assembly made the program permanent in 2012.

²¹ § 23-31-310(5), C.R.S.

Responsibilities of the Panel

The Panel has one core purpose: to review project proposals and recommend to the Forest Service which of those projects should be funded. In evaluating a proposed project, the Panel must consider the eligibility criteria established in statute, the project's effect on long-term forest management, and the number of acres treated relative to state dollars spent. The Panel uses a consensus-based decision-making process in developing its recommendations.²²

Revenues and Expenditures

The expenses associated with the Panel are minimal, consisting of postage costs to mail proposal packages to Panel members in advance of meetings and lunch on the meeting days. The Forest Service does not offer Panel members a per diem or otherwise compensate them for their service.

The Panel's activities do not generate any revenue.

Meetings of the Panel

The Panel meets once each year, in accordance with the annual grant funding cycle.

Nine Panel members attended a meeting on June 12, 2014. The Panel reviewed 47 project proposals and recommended awarding 14 grants.

Eight Advisory Panel members attended a meeting on August 27, 2015. The panel reviewed 37 applications and recommended awarding 15 grants.

Proposals and Their Status

In fiscal year 14-15, the Forest Service followed all of the Panel's recommendations and awarded 14 grants totaling \$1,007,366 to forest restoration projects in 9 counties.

Table 5 shows, for fiscal year 14-15, the grants awarded, including the name of the applicant and the dollar amount granted.

²² § 23-31-310(5), C.R.S.

Table 5
Forest Restoration Grants Awarded in Fiscal Year 14-15

Entity	Grant Amount
Donald Westcott Fire Protection District	\$253,255
Denver Water Board	\$145,000
City of Colorado Springs Forestry Division	\$109,034
Boulder County Parks and Open Space	\$100,000
Jefferson Conservation District	\$82,680
San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership	\$63,531
Town of Winter Park/Winter Park Resort/USFS/Winter Park & Grand County #1 Water & Sanitation	\$60,000
Falls Creek Ranch	\$50,000
La Plata County	\$45,000
USDA Forest Service San Juan National Forest	\$36,000
Boys and Girls Club of Metro Denver	\$24,000
Sheep Creek LOA	\$19,266
Preserve at Pine Meadows HOA	\$13,000
Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	\$6,600

In fiscal year 15-16, the Forest Service awarded 14 grants totaling \$1,212,010 to forest restoration projects in 8 counties. The Forest Service declined to fund one recommended project due to limited resources, and the priority to disperse the funds across a variety of applicants in different areas of the state.

Table 6 shows, for fiscal year 15-16, the grants awarded, including the name of the applicant and the dollar amount granted.

Table 6
Forest Restoration Grants Awarded in Fiscal Year 15-16

Entity	Grant Amount
Jefferson Conservation District	\$195,000
Lefthand Fire Protection	\$170,500
Coalition for the Upper South Platte	\$167,147
Coalition for the Upper South Platte	\$150,000
Genesee Foundation	\$112,800
City of Colorado Springs Forestry Division	\$105,000
Wildlands Restoration Volunteers	\$86,065
City of Steamboat Springs	\$62,000
Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$50,000
City of Longmont	\$40,800
Stonewall Fire Protection District	\$33,548
Mountain Studies Institute/San Juan Headwaters Forest Health Partnership	\$17,550
Colorado Springs Fire Department	\$15,000
Pinewood Lake Fire Protection District	\$6,600

According to the Forest Service, funded projects are designed to help protect water supplies and restore ecosystem function in forested watersheds through a range of activities, such as thinning to increase forest resiliency and mitigate wildfire risk, replanting trees in burned and flooded areas, and riparian forest restoration to respond to stream health and eradicate invasive species.

Reasons for Continuation of the Panel

Panel members represent a diverse array of stakeholders and bring considerable subject matter expertise to their review of proposed forest restoration projects. The Forest Service generally follows the Panel’s recommendations. As long as the Forest Service continues to offer grant funding under the Restoration Act, the Panel should be continued.

Analysis and Recommendation

The future of the Panel depends on whether the General Assembly determines to reauthorize the Restoration Act, which is not subject to this sunset review and is scheduled for repeal by operation of law on July 1, 2017. If the General Assembly does not reauthorize the Restoration Act, the Panel will have no duties to fulfill and it should be allowed to sunset. If the General Assembly reauthorizes the Restoration Act and appropriates funds to continue to offer grants via the program, then the Panel should be continued.