

## Summary for MSSD Engagement Forum: A Community-Approach to Safety and Wellness from February 2, 2022

### Community Resources:

TESSA <https://www.tessacs.org/>  
NAMI <https://www.nami.org/home>  
Safe 2 Tell <https://safe2tell.org/>  
Safe Passages <https://safepassages.org/>  
KidPower <https://kidpowercs.org/>  
El Paso County Report of Child Abuse or Neglect Hotline 1-844-CO-4-KIDS; 1-844-264-5437  
Officer Mandy Strider; MSSD SRO/MSPD [astrider@mssd14.org](mailto:astrider@mssd14.org) ;719-685-5407  
Children's Hospital [Emily.Pyle@childrenscolorado.org](mailto:Emily.Pyle@childrenscolorado.org) ;719-305-9441  
MSSD Partners for Healthy Choices (PHC) [https://www.mssd14.org/departments/p\\_h\\_c](https://www.mssd14.org/departments/p_h_c)

### Questions we were not able to answer due to time constraints:

1. Can you address how the media negatively portrays people with mental illness; especially those with symptoms of psychosis as dangerous... and tell us what we should be doing to dispel this fear and show kindness and compassion so our youth feel safe to speak up without being treated like a threat.

This is an important question, especially considering that people receive information from so many different media sources and topics are approached from so many different perspectives.

An important organization that is dedicated to “building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness” is the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Here is the link to a blog post at aligns to the question:

<https://www.nami.org/Blogs/NAMI-Blog/October-2017/Stigmatizing-Media-Portrayals-What-Can-We-Do>

This can be an important addition to our ongoing commitment to trauma responsive practices, education, and community dialogue.

2. Is Kidpower coming to MSES this year?

Yes. Kidpower has been holding sessions at MSES. Here are list of the upcoming opportunities:

You may enroll in one, two, or three workshops! They build on one another but may be done separately! Space is limited, first come, first served.

Enroll here:

<https://kidpowercs.org/manitou-springs-elementary-virtual-kidpower-workshops/>

Part One: Safety In Public – Skills to Be Aware, Take Charge, and Get Help

Tuesday, March 1, 2022. 6-7 p.m.

Introduces safety rules for when kids are in a public place or on their own. Kids will learn how to walk, stand and move with awareness and confidence; Families will learn how to create Safety Plans for many situations when they are on their own including school, overnights, at the pool, skating rink, movies, or even in the front yard or neighborhood.

Part Two: Safety with Strangers – Using Your Voice and Body to Stay Safe

Tuesday, March 8, 2022. 6-7 p.m.

Kids will learn rules for staying home alone including with a sibling or for brief periods of time. They will learn the Kidpower Safety Rules to Check First/Think First before getting close to or talking to a stranger; taking anything from a stranger; changing the plan about who they are with or where they are going; and getting help in an emergency. They will learn and practice how to use strong, clear voices and to move away to safety when needed.

Part Three: Boundary Skills with People We Know

Tuesday, March 15, 2022. 6-7 p.m.

Kids will learn what boundaries are and how to set effective boundaries with people they know. They will practice using clear language to deal with emotional coercion and bribery. They will learn to tell an adult if they feel unsafe and to persist until they get the help they need. Kids will also learn ways to protect themselves from words that hurt.

3. Why has there not been security at the vast majority of indoor sporting events this year? Even if we don't need it, it would be better to have than not.

There was a recent event at a high school basketball game where there was a physical altercation after the game was over. This altercation has provided us feedback for our School Administration, Security Team, and partnership with Manitou Springs Police Department.

It is important that specific security details are not always shared publicly in order to maintain safety.

If you ever feel that a situation is not safe or there are concerns, please contact the school or district administrator on duty as soon as possible. If there is an emergency or dangerous situation, 911 should be called.