April 9, 2025 YSM Safety Committee Meeting Minutes:

* **Trespassing Incidents and Physical Security:** Anthony provided an update on recent trespassing incidents, reporting that three cases have been cleared by arrest. He also mentioned an aggressive panhandler on Cedar St. and the increased deployment of officers and camera systems to address thefts and suspicious activities in the Med school area.
  + **Arrests:** Anthony reported that three trespassing cases have been cleared by arrest, with individuals identified and arrested either on scene or via warrant.
  + **Panhandler:** Anthony mentioned an aggressive panhandler on Cedar St. who has been intimidating people. The plainclothes investigative service unit will monitor the area, and the individual will be approached and removed from Yale property if seen.
  + **Increased Deployment:** Anthony highlighted the increased deployment of officers in the Med school area, including Cedar St. and 40 Temple St., to address thefts, bike thefts, trespasses, public hazards, and suspicious person activity.
  + **Camera Systems:** Efforts are being made to ensure that camera systems are properly positioned to cover areas with reported crimes, such as larcenies, leading to a significant decrease in burglaries.
* **Physical Security and Card Reader Access:** Arnim and Duane discussed the need to tighten security and enforce card reader access in the medical campus. Duane emphasized the importance of cultural change and the support from Dean Brown and Arnim in facilitating discussions on this topic.
  + **Cultural Change:** Duane emphasized the need for a cultural change where security becomes a top priority, starting from the top leadership and supported by Dean Brown and Arnim.
  + **Card Reader Access:** Discussions have been held with department chairs and deputy deans about the need to tighten security by enforcing card reader access and closing frequently propped open doors.
  + **Support:** Duane reported significant support from the Faculty Advisory Committee and the Dean's Executive Committee for tightening security and enforcing card reader access.
  + **Phased Approach:** Duane suggested a phased approach to improving security, starting with low-hanging fruit and assessing the return on investment before addressing more complex issues.
* **Security at Entry Points:** Abigail and Jeff raised concerns about security guards at entry points not being attentive and not requiring people to show their IDs. Nicholas responded by explaining the challenges and the need for better security measures.
  + **Guard Attentiveness:** Abigail observed that security guards at 333 Cedar Street sometimes appear inattentive, once recently even with their eyes shut, which she identified as a weak link in security.
  + **ID Checks:** Jeff noted that even when guards are awake, they often do not require people to show their IDs, despite signs instructing them to do so.
  + **Response:** Nicholas acknowledged the challenges of maintaining attentiveness among security personnel and emphasized the need for better security measures, including addressing the issue of guards not requiring ID checks.
* **Weapon Detection Systems:** Nicholas provided an update on the approval of 24 weapon detection systems for the health system, which will be implemented starting at the end of the summer. These systems will enhance security at critical areas such as emergency departments and entry points.
  + **System Approval:** Nicholas announced the approval of 24 Athena Opengate weapon detection systems, which use AI to detect weapons based on density and location on a person's body.
  + **Implementation:** The implementation of these systems will begin at the end of the summer, starting with critical areas such as emergency departments and entry points.
  + **Labor Intensive:** Nicholas noted that while the systems themselves are not cost-prohibitive, the labor required to operate them is significant, which will be a consideration in their phased implementation.
  + **Trial Basis:** The systems will be implemented on a trial basis initially, with plans to expand based on the results and feedback from the initial deployment.
* **Clery Data and Sensitive Crimes:** Duane and Anthony discussed the reporting of sexual assault and stalking incidents under the Clery Act. They emphasized the importance of communication and collaboration among reporting agencies to ensure proper victim services and identify trends.
  + **Clery Reporting:** Duane explained the obligations under the Clery Act to report statistics on sexual assault and stalking incidents, regardless of the reporting source within the university.
  + **Incident Context:** Duane highlighted that the majority of reported incidents were not reported to the Yale Police Department but to other university offices, and emphasized the need for context around these numbers.
  + **Collaboration:** Duane and Anthony stressed the importance of collaboration among reporting agencies to ensure proper victim services and to identify troubling trends, with Officer Ariel Melendez playing a key role in this effort.
  + **Victim Services:** Anthony emphasized the need to inform victims about available services, even if they do not wish to pursue criminal charges, to ensure they receive the support they need.
* **Bomb Threat Response:** Nicholas described the hospital's response to a recent bomb threat, highlighting the importance of communication, collaboration, and chaos management. He emphasized the need for real-time drills to better prepare for such incidents.
  + **Threat Response:** Nicholas detailed the hospital's response to a bomb threat, including notifying police departments, reallocating security personnel, and protecting critical areas such as oxygen farms and radiological storage.
  + **Communication:** Nicholas emphasized the importance of communication and collaboration with law enforcement and hospital leadership to manage the threat without causing panic.
  + **Real-Time Drills:** Nicholas advocated for real-time drills to better prepare for such incidents, rather than planned events, to ensure readiness and effective response.
  + **Continued Vigilance:** Even after the threat was deemed not credible, Nicholas maintained heightened security measures for 72 hours to guard against potential copycat threats.
* **Shuttle Service Updates:** Joseph provided an update on the new shuttle lines, reporting positive feedback and increased ridership. Abigail shared student feedback on the Orange East line and the need for better communication regarding shuttle routes.
  + **New Lines:** Joseph reported that the new Orange East line has serviced 400 passengers since March 30th, nearly triple the ridership of the Cedar Express in a month.
  + **Feedback:** Joseph acknowledged receiving both positive and negative feedback, with only three negative comments, which he has passed along to Peggy.
  + **Route Confusion:** Abigail shared feedback from a student about confusion between the Orange East and Orange lines, suggesting the need for clearer communication and possibly different naming conventions.
  + **Flexi Stop Service:** Joseph explained the implementation of a flexi stop service on the Orange East line, allowing passengers to request stops along the route for more efficient service.
* **Committee Charter and Membership:** Arnim and Maia discussed the committee charter and the process for nominating new members. The charter was formally adopted, and members were encouraged to bring guests to meetings if they could benefit from the discussions.
  + **Charter Adoption:** The committee formally adopted the charter, which outlines the scope of work, membership, and responsibilities of the committee.
  + **Membership Nominations:** Maia will send an email with a link for members to nominate new participants or indicate their desire to remain on the committee.
* **ICE and Federal Law Enforcement:** Duane and Nicholas addressed concerns about ICE and federal law enforcement presence on campus. They emphasized the importance of communication and collaboration with federal partners and the need to follow legal protocols while protecting the community.
* **Vehicle Thefts at Temple Street Garage:** Robert raised concerns about an uptick in vehicle thefts and vandalism at the Temple Street garage. He suggested putting pressure on the New Haven Parking Authority to address these issues and improve security measures.

Follow-up tasks:

* **Security Guard Diligence:** Address the issue of security guards not paying attention at 333 Cedar Street and ensure they are more diligent in their duties. (Sharon)
* **Trespassing Incidents:** Monitor the area around Cedar Street for the aggressive panhandler and approach him to inform him he cannot be on Yale property. (Anthony)
* **Physical Security Assessment:** Conduct a walkthrough on April 15th at the Med School to assess additional points for better coverage. (Sharon, Dan Killen, Nevins, Duane Novello)
* **Card Reader Access:** Revisit the topic of physical security and card reader access in interior spaces and enforce the closing of frequently propped open doors. (Duane)
* **Postdoc Representation:** Ensure that the postdoc community is represented on the committee by nominating a postdoc member. (Arnim, Maia)
* **Temple Street Garage Security:** Connect with the New Haven Parking Authority to address the uptick in vehicle thefts, break-ins, and vandalism at the Temple Street garage. (Robert, Duane)
* **Committee Membership Nomination:** Send an email with a link to allow committee members to nominate new members or indicate their desire to remain on the committee. (Maia)