

Welcome!
Statewide Safety Council
February 27, 2026, Meeting

On December 16, 2025, Governor Walz issued Executive Order 2025-13 establishing the Governor's Statewide Safety Council. This initiative responds to a series of tragic events in Minnesota in recent years and reflects a commitment to convene leaders from state government, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations to develop actionable recommendations that will inform policy and strengthen the existing legal framework to enhance public safety statewide.

Preliminary report due: April 6, 2026

Final report due: January 6, 2027

Safety Council's objectives

- Develop an immediate action plan to prevent mass violence, targeted attacks, and domestic terrorism
- Recommend strategies to combat radicalization, domestic terrorism, politically motivated violence, and extremist ideologies
- Address the intersection of mental health and gun violence
- Promote and support Threat Assessment and Threat Management Teams across Minnesota
- Coordinate with federal, state, and local partners to align efforts and share best practices
- Make policy and funding recommendations to the Governor

<https://dps.mn.gov/about-dps/associated-boards-cmtes-and-task-forces/governors-statewide-safety-council>

About DPS

- Our mission, vision and values
- Leadership
- Our history
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 - Advisory Committee on Capitol Area Security
 - Fire service advisory committee
 - Private detective and protective agents board
 - Statewide emergency communications board
 - Domestic Violence and Firearms Surrender Taskforce
 - Governor's Statewide Safety Council**
 - Governor's Statewide Safety Council reports and meeting information**
- Programs and legislative requirements

Governor's Statewide Safety Council

About the Governor's Statewide Safety Council

The Governor's Statewide Safety Council brings together leaders from public safety, health, education, the justice system and community organizations to help prevent mass violence, targeted attacks and domestic terrorism in Minnesota. [Established by Executive Order 25-13](#) and chaired by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, the council focuses on practical, coordinated actions that reduce risk, strengthen preparedness, and support communities before violence occurs.

Why this matters

Preventing violence requires more than reacting after harm has occurred. Many acts of violence are preceded by warning signs, unmet mental health needs, online radicalization, or gaps in coordination between systems. The Governor's Statewide Safety Council exists to help Minnesota identify risks earlier, respond more effectively, and strengthen the systems that protect people in schools, workplaces, public spaces, and communities across the state. By bringing partners together and aligning efforts, the council supports a safer Minnesota for everyone.

Council mission and focus areas

The Governor's Statewide Safety Council works to:

- Develop immediate and long-term actions to prevent mass violence,



Message to observing public



Refrain from behavior that disrupts the orderly conduct of the Council's work.



Leave your signage at home.



If you wish to engage members in conversation before or after meetings or during meeting breaks, offer the courtesy of first asking if they have the time. Their conversations with other members must always take precedence at these times.

Meeting outcome and agenda

Members:

- are grounded in their approach to Council work
- support how that work will unfold
- have made their first contributions to interim report early recommendations.

Reminder: take care of yourself during any discussions you find difficult. Stepping out is okay as is stepping away from the table. Help create a space in which everyone feels supported.



9:00

Welcome



9:10

Set operating agreements



9:30

Council logistics



10:00

Possible recommendations presentation



10:15

Recommendations development activity



11:25

Closing



**Relationship-
building**

**Council
operating
agreements**

“Tap in” practice

A simple act of free-form sharing to help draw your focus to this work and away from other demands on your time and attention. Members “tap in” by sharing any 1 item from the following list:

- A care/concern from “outside” that weighs on your mind as you work to re-focus your attention on the Council.
- A nugget of critical information you are eager to share with other members.
- A cause for celebration related to Council work.



How to access meeting materials



Council members

- Microsoft Teams SharePoint site
- Click on the Shared tab on the top ribbon
- Meeting materials are provided by meeting #, date, and topic
- Contact Kris at Kristin.van.amber@state.mn.us if you have any issues accessing materials

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Teams SharePoint interface for the 'MMB_MAD_DPS Statewide Safety Council'. The top ribbon has tabs for 'Posts', 'Shared', and 'Notes'. The 'Shared' tab is circled in red. Below the ribbon, there are buttons for 'All documents' and 'In messages'. The main area displays a list of documents with columns for 'Name', 'Modified', and 'Modified By'. The document 'Meeting #2, Feb 27, Topic- Council Founda...' is circled in red.

| Name | Modified | Modified By |
|---|------------|-------------------------|
| Meeting #1, Jan 23, Topic - Council Founda... | January 30 | Van Amber, Kristin (SF) |
| Meeting #2, Feb 27, Topic- Council Founda... | January 30 | Van Amber, Kristin (SF) |
| Recommendation Development | February 3 | Sjogren, Stacy (MMB) |
| Overarching Council Process for Developin... | February 3 | Sjogren, Stacy (MMB) |
| Statewide Safety Council Members v2.docx | 6 days ago | Van Amber, Kristin (SF) |

- MN Department of Public Safety Website

<https://dps.mn.gov/about-dps/associated-boards-cmtes-and-task-forces/governors-statewide-safety-council>



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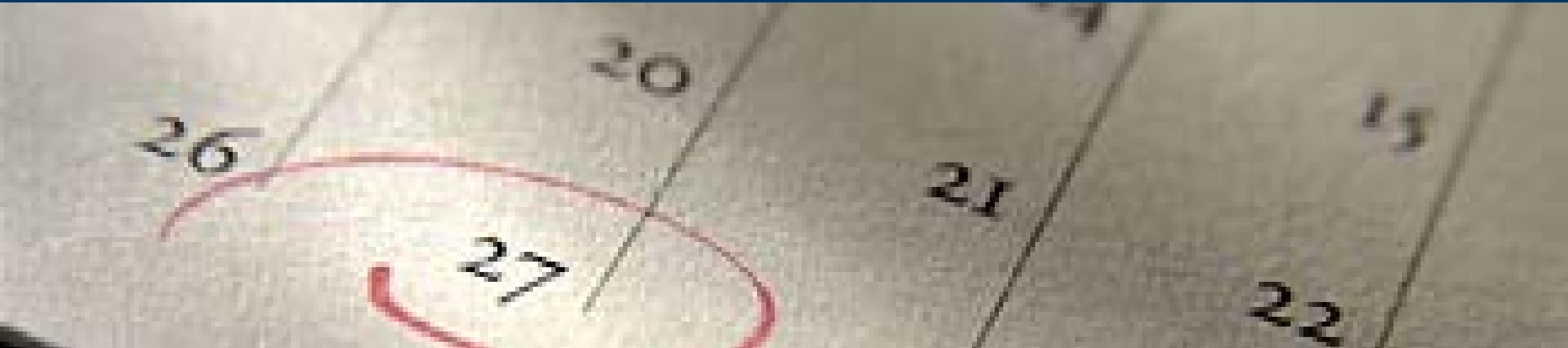
Council mission and focus areas

The Governor's Statewide Safety Council works to:

- Develop immediate and long-term actions to prevent mass violence, targeted attacks and domestic terrorism



Council Meeting Schedule and Topics March through December



March through May

| Month | Date | Time | Topic(s) | Lead |
|-------|------|--------------|--|--|
| March | 3/27 | 9:00-1:00 | Mental Health Illness Suicide | Marcus Schmit, NAMI |
| April | 4/24 | 9:00 – 11:00 | Behavioral threat assessment | Drew Evans, BCA |
| May | 5/28 | 9:00-1:00 | Social media Radicalization Child protection | Dr. Peterson, Dr. Densley, VPP Research Center |

June through September

| Month | Date | Time | Topic | Lead |
|-----------|------|--------------|---|--|
| June | 6/25 | 9:00 – 11:00 | Political and religious extremism, violence | Col. Christina Bogojevic, State Patrol |
| July | 7/23 | 9:00 – 11:00 | Schools | Deb Henton, MNASA Willie Jet, MDE |
| August | 8/26 | 9:00 – 11:00 | Victim survivors Trauma and after care | Kim Babine, MNOJP |
| September | 9/24 | 9:00 – 1:00 | Firearms | Chief Jay Henthorne, MCPA Sheriff Lon Thiele, MSA |

October through December

| Month | Date | Time | Topic | Lead |
|----------|-------|------------|---|---------------|
| October | 10/22 | 9:00-4:00 | Council recommendation synthesis | Planning team |
| November | 11/19 | 9:00-11:00 | Final report structure and finalize recommendations | Planning team |
| December | 12/17 | 9:00-11:00 | Review and approve final report | Planning team |

**Contacts
and
resources**

**What
feedback do
you have for
the planning
team?**

Concerns

Council objectives

Align recommendations



The Safety Council's objectives are to:

- a. Develop an immediate **action plan** to prevent mass violence, targeted attacks, and domestic terrorism;
- b. **Recommend strategies** to combat radicalization, domestic terrorism, politically motivated violence, and extremist ideologies;
- c. Address **the intersection** of mental health and gun violence;
- d. **Promote and support** Threat Assessment and Threat Management Teams across Minnesota;
- e. **Coordinate with federal, state, and local partners** to align efforts and share best practices;
- f. Make **policy and funding recommendations** to the Governor;
- g. Meet monthly or at the call of the chair;
- h. Submit a preliminary report to the Governor **within 90 days**; and
- i. Submit a final report to the Governor **within 365 days**

Overarching approach to developing recommendations

Step 1 Pre-meeting

Members submit information on what agencies/etc. are already doing regarding prevention/support related to the topic of the upcoming meeting. MAD will use Forms survey to collect the information.

Step 2 Council Meeting

Topic presentation is accompanied by collected prevention activities.

Meeting activities are run to generate potential recommendations on the topic.

Step 3 Post meeting

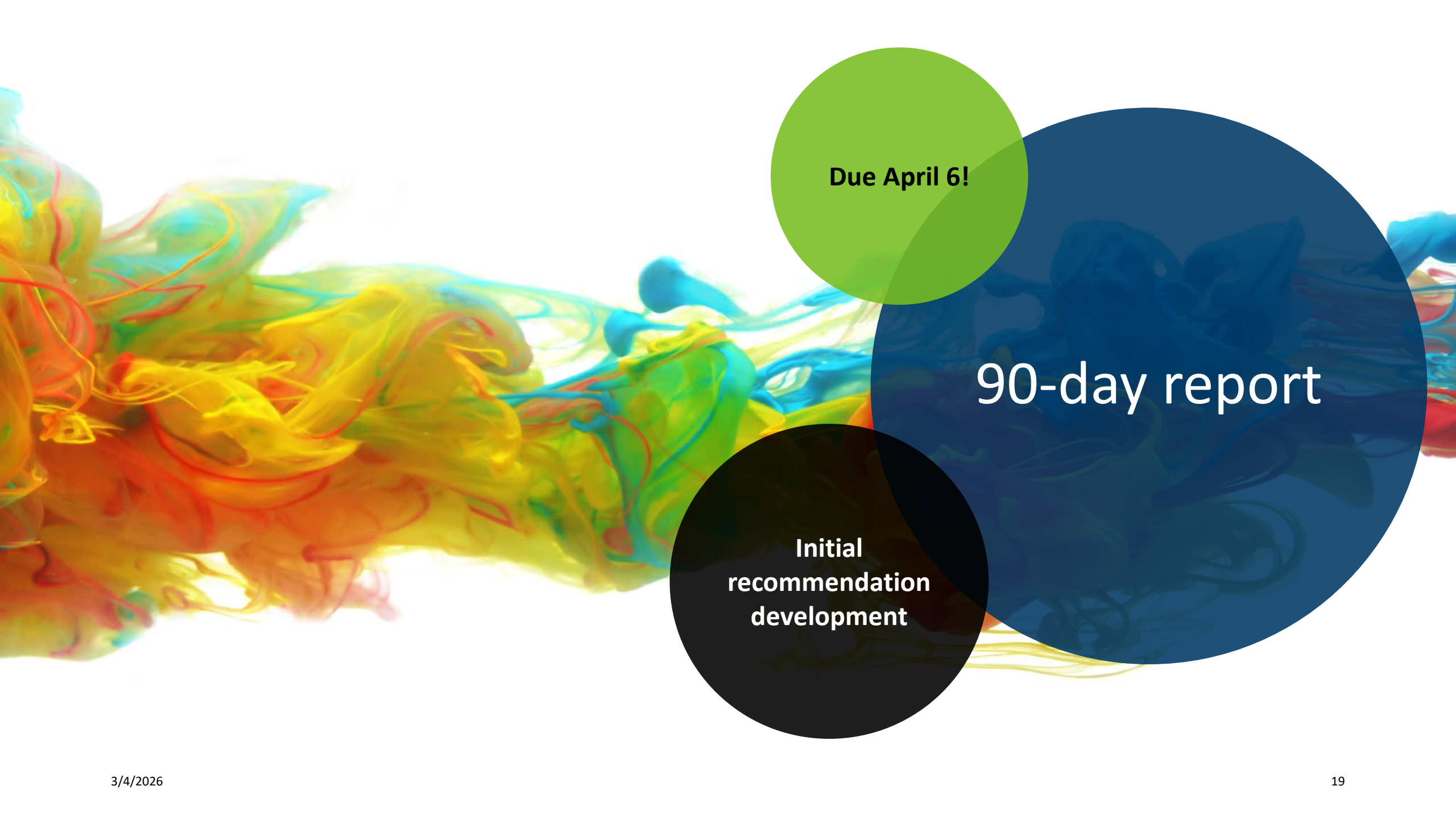
Members receive gradients of agreement Forms survey to weigh in on potential recommendations generated at the meeting.

Step 4 Council Meeting

MAD (quickly) shares recommendations gradients of agreement survey results and flags those recommendations where additional work might be necessary in months leading up to October refinement retreat.

Guidance for developing recommendations

| Characteristics of Strong Recommended Steps | Reflection Questions and Considerations |
|---|--|
| Reflect specific, actionable change | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does the recommendation describe a concrete change or activity, not just a general goal?• Is there enough detail to begin planning implementation based on this description?• Someone reading the plan should be able to recognize what challenge the step is addressing relatively easily and understand what would change if the recommendation was implemented. |
| Realistic in scope | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is the recommendation addressing something that can be achieved within Minnesota over a 5-10-year time horizon?• What related or interconnected milestones would have to happen for this recommendation to become real?• Does this recommendation occur before, alongside, or after any of the other recommendations? |
| Clear about the “Who” | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who should be involved for the recommendation to be successfully implemented?• Are there perspectives or identities that should be prioritized in implementation or when assessing impact? |
| Written using plain language | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Would someone affected by the recommendation be able to understand what it’s proposing?• Is there a shorter, everyday word or phrase that could be used without losing the meaning?• Avoid jargon, acronyms (or define them), and unnecessary fancy language (e.g. utilize, strategize, elucidate) |



Due April 6!

90-day report

**Initial
recommendation
development**

Initial recommendations for consideration

James Densley and Jillian Peterson

12 Recommendations across 5 focus areas

Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management

Standardizing threat identification and reporting protocols

Social Media Data and Online Threats

Preserving digital evidence and protecting minors

High-Risk Crisis Response

Integrating firearm safety into crisis intervention

Firearm Access During a Crisis

Standardizing ERPO processes and safe storage messaging

Healing, Learning, and Recovery After Violence

Supporting communities through trauma and recovery

Recommendation 1

Define what counts as a reportable threat and make reporting easy

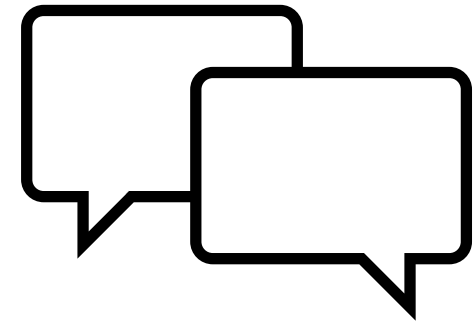
Right now, what one school counselor flags as threatening, another treats as venting or joking. That inconsistency is a gap. The Safety Council should recommend establishing a plain-language statewide standard (e.g., specific behaviors, specific words, specific patterns) that triggers a report to the BTAM system. Alongside that standard, publish a simple, single reporting pathway so schools, mental health providers, and community organizations know who and how to call.



Recommendation 2

Tell people clearly what they can share and with whom

The two laws that cause the most confusion are FERPA and HIPAA. The Safety Council should recommend commissioning a set of concrete, scenario-based guidance documents (not legal briefs, but real situations with real answers) that spell out exactly when a teacher can call a probation officer, when a crisis counselor can loop in law enforcement, and when a principal can share records without a release.



Recommendation 3

When a credible threat appears online, lock the evidence

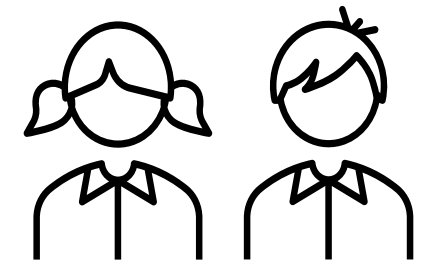
Posts get deleted. Accounts get taken down or scrubbed. Minnesota needs a standard preservation request — one form, defined timelines — that law enforcement and researchers can send to platforms the moment a credible threat is identified.



Recommendation 4

Require age verification for platforms serving harmful content to minors

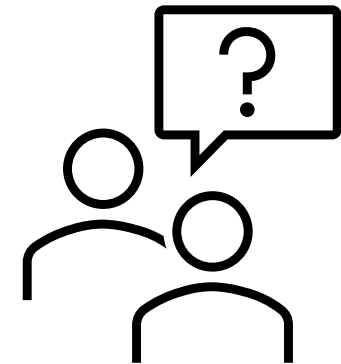
This is not a new idea, but Minnesota can move on it. Sites hosting content that is demonstrably harmful to minors, including content that facilitates self-harm or extremist radicalization, should be required to verify user ages before granting access. The Council should recommend legislation and identify an enforcement mechanism.



Recommendation 5

Mobile crisis teams ask about guns

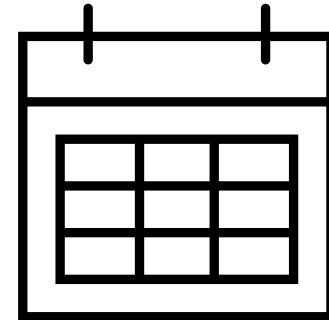
When a mobile crisis team responds to someone in psychiatric distress, firearm access is often the difference between a crisis and a fatality. Right now, there's no consistent protocol requiring crisis responders to address it. Every mobile crisis team in Minnesota should complete a documented safety plan that includes: Is there a firearm in the home? Is the person willing to store it temporarily? Do they know about ERPO? This isn't about seizing guns. It's about getting through the next days, weeks, and months safely.



Recommendation 6

Five-Day follow-up for high-risk individuals

A crisis call ends. What happens next? For individuals assessed as high risk, a five-day follow-up (a call, a home visit, or whatever fits the situation) should be standard practice statewide, with firearm access and storage revisited in that contact.



Recommendation 7

Standardize the process statewide

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) exist in Minnesota, but the process varies county to county. The Safety Council should recommend establishing a single statewide standard: one set of forms, clear timelines for hearings, defined storage procedures, and a transparent process for returning firearms when an order expires. Counties should also report basic ERPO data — filings, outcomes, timelines — monthly or quarterly, publicly.

01

Standardized Forms

Uniform statewide forms

02

Clear Timelines

Defined response protocols

03

Storage Procedures

Consistent firearm storage

04

Transparent Return Process

Clear firearm return pathway

05

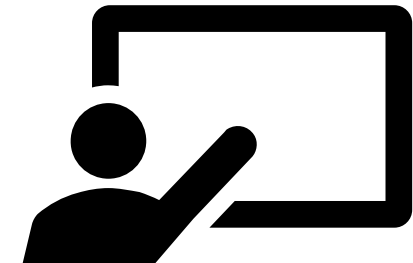
Public Reporting

Monthly/quarterly data transparency

Recommendation 8

Train everyone who might file an ERPO

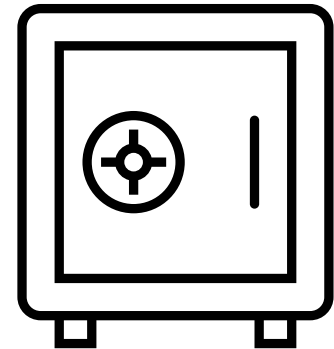
Law enforcement can file ERPOs, but so can family members and household members in Minnesota. Most people — including school administrators, hospital staff, and clergy — don't know that. And even many officers haven't been trained on when and how to use the tool effectively. The Safety Council should recommend funding a statewide training initiative that reaches law enforcement, K-12 and higher education staff, healthcare workers, and community faith leaders.



Recommendation 9

One Clear Message About Safe Storage

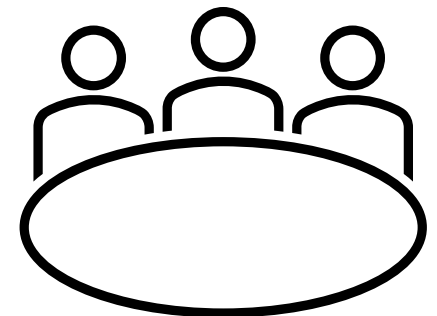
Right now, safe storage messaging is fragmented. Schools get one version, pediatricians another, public health programs a third. The Council should recommend developing a single set of multilingual safe storage materials available in the languages most spoken by Minnesotans and push them through schools, healthcare visits, and public health programs simultaneously. One message, repeated consistently, from sources people trust.



Recommendation 10

Conduct After-Action Reviews After Every Targeted Violence Incident

The Safety Council should recommend establishing a standing protocol: any targeted violence incident in Minnesota triggers a structured, non-punitive after-action review led by the Department of Public Safety. Findings go directly into policy and training updates.



Recommendation 11

Fund Long-Term Community Mental Health Support

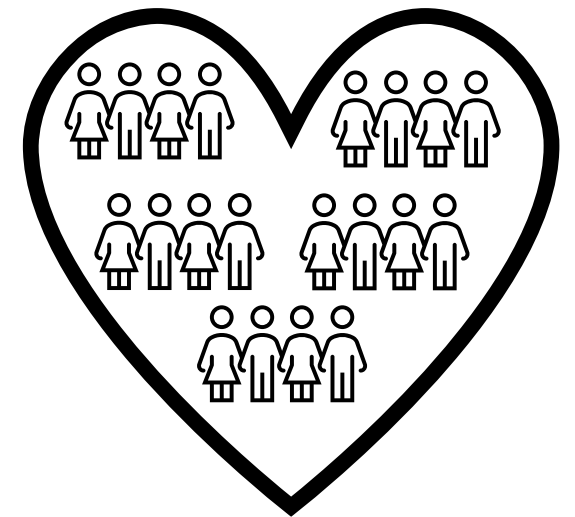
The immediate response gets resources. The long tail — the months and years of grief, hypervigilance, and trauma in affected communities — is largely unfunded. The Safety Council should recommend a dedicated survivors and community recovery fund, modeled on similar funds in other states, that activates automatically after a qualifying incident to provide ongoing, community-grounded mental health support.



Recommendation 12

Support Children Impacted by Gun Violence

The Safety Council should recommend ensuring every school district in Minnesota has access to training that covers both the immediate trauma responses and the longer-term developmental and behavioral impacts of gun violence exposure — including for students who witnessed violence in their own homes or neighborhoods, not only in school settings.



Tap out Round robin

A simple act of free-form sharing to call attention to what you are taking away from the work done together that day. You can “tap out” by sharing any 1 item on the following list:

- An emotion (and why) you are carrying with you from the work done here today
- A gratitude you wish to express
- A commitment for a particular task
- A caution you feel is important to express

