

# Statewide Safety Council Meeting Notes

## March 27, 2026

### Meeting Outcomes

#### Rational objective:

- Review draft of interim report and conduct recommendation vote.
- Identify challenges at the intersection of mental health and gun violence, assess what practices effectively prevent gun violence, and determine opportunities to implement these best practices.

#### Experiential objective:

- Members are confident the 90-day report and recommendations are the Council's best work when considering content and time.
- Members feel heard when describing the challenges they see in the intersection of mental health and gun violence and confident the Council can identify ways to implement best practices.

### Attendance

#### Present

- Bob Jacobson, DPS
- Kate Weeks (alt), DCYF
- Dr. Brooke Cunningham, MDH
- Shireen Gandhi, DHS
- Jenn Super (alt), MN Supreme Court
- Drew Evans, BCA
- Christina Bogojevic, DPS
- Chuck Roehrdanz, AGO
- Chief Jay Henthorne, MCPA
- Kim Babine, MN OJP
- Lon Thiele, MSA
- Deb Henton, MNASA
- Brittany Haeg, AHA
- Marcus Schmit, NAMI

#### Absent

- Willie Jett, MDE

### Topic

#### Welcome

Commissioner Bob Jacobson opened the meeting by welcoming Council members and observers, emphasizing appreciation for observer's interest in the work. The Council follows open meeting laws and meeting materials (agendas, slides, and meeting notes) may be found on the Dept. of Public Safety's website:

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

Given the tremendous amount of work the Council has before them, there are no plans to collect public input during Council meetings.

## Agenda Highlights

Facilitator Kris Van Amber highlighted the primary objective of confirming Council satisfaction with the 90-day report draft, learning more about mental health and mental illness and the intersection with gun violence, and allowing for small group discussion to develop potential Council recommendations to be assessed through the gradients of agreement process following the meeting.

### 90-day report draft

Dr. Jillian Peterson presented an overview of the draft 90-day report, focusing on the format and the thinking behind the 10 recommendations included in the report that emerged from group process at the February meeting and subsequent member survey input. She noted that Recommendation #10 emerged from comments post meeting:

***Recommendation 10: Fund mental health support for communities after a targeted violence incident.***

*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.*

Legislation enacted two years ago requires prevention training elements although funding isn't in place to implement the requirement.

Members identified the following minor concerns with the 90-day report:

- (Cunningham/Weeks) While it is challenging to define what a Qualifying Incident is, children exposed to any violence need a fair opportunity to access funds for support. We should stress there are multiple approaches to healing that could be funded. There was concern about the availability of any federal funding. Others voiced concern that post-trauma healing support selected based on data driven success.
- (Cunningham/Weeks) Suggested introduction take more care not to “normalize violence in our public spaces” even while tying the work of the Council to the scope of the executive order. A general caution was voiced that domestic violence also impacts school violence.
- (Thiele) Reminder that rural resources and challenges look much different than the metro area.

Based on this feedback Dr. Peterson will work on strengthening a few key areas of the report and will send out a list of changes. Marcus Schmit (NAMI) will also monitor the legislative bills in play and share that information with the report authors.

Schmit moved to approve the draft report for release once changes discussed at the meeting have been incorporated. Second by Thiele. Motion approved unanimously.

## **Presentation**

Molly Peterson, NAMI, and Dr. Jillian Peterson, The Violence Prevention Project, led a presentation exploring the intersection of mental health and gun violence. More information about the presentation is available in the meeting slide deck.

## **Discussion**

Small group discussion to discuss challenges, opportunities, and to develop possible recommendations. Groups were composed of members in similar or complementary occupations/agencies. Dr. Peterson concluded the discussion period by drawing attention to similarities, and emerging thinking she noted while observing the work of each group.

## **Closing**

At the close of the meeting, the facilitator reminded Council members they would be receiving their small group rough draft and be asked to provide quick feedback. That revised work would be forwarded to Dr. Peterson and Dr. Densley to develop a new set of recommendations related to mental illness and gun violence. This new set will be compiled and come back to all members again through a forms survey for them to weigh in on using the gradients of agreement.

The next Council meeting is April 24, and the topic is Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM).