

Statewide Safety Council Meeting Notes

April 24, 2026

Meeting Outcomes

Rational objective:

- Review recommendation results of March topic: intersection of mental illness and gun violence
- Learn national, state, and local perspectives on Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) and explore recommendations that could improve the system in Minnesota.

Experiential objective:

- Members feel confident they can weigh in on draft recommendations related to BTAM and suggest enhancements unique to their agency/organization.

Attendance

Present

- Bob Jacobson, DPS
- Kate Weeks (alt), DCYF
- Dr. Macarre Traynham (alt), MDE
- Catherine Diamond (alt), MDH
- Teresa Steinmetz (alt), 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

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

Commissioner Bob Jacobson reviewed the meeting's topic cadence, noting that this is the second topic meeting, focused on behavioral threat assessment and management (BTAM). He introduced the speakers for the session: Dr. Karie Gibson, Unit Chief for the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit 1; members of the Minnesota FBI BAU; and

members of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's (BCA) Behavioral Threat Assessment Management (BAT) team.

Facilitator Stacy Sjogren then highlighted the agenda, which includes the BTAM presentations, a presentation from Drs. Jillian Peterson and James Densley on the results of the mental health recommendations survey stemming from the March Council meeting, and a Council discussion to inform BTAM recommendation development.

Behavioral Threat Assessment Management Presentations

The following presentation was closed to the public as permitted by section 13D.05, subd. 3(d) to discuss the FBI Threat Assessment and Threat Management program which included security information as to how they manage this program and indicators they look for related to people who can be a threat to commit mass violence.

The presenter, Dr. Karie Gibson, has provided permission for the summary below.

How We Prevent Mass Violence - Dr. Karie Gibson, Unit Chief for the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit 1

Preventing targeted violence is a community-wide responsibility that requires a multidisciplinary, proactive approach—not just law enforcement or arrests. The FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit leads national efforts to identify and support "persons of concern," focusing on early intervention, understanding motivators like unmet needs, lack of healthy identity formation, humiliation, and the need to reduce risk factors and warning behaviors.

Most individuals show warning signs or "leakage," so communities need systems to receive and act on those signals. Bystanders play a critical role, as bystander inaction when concerning behaviors are observed increases risk. Effective prevention combines behavioral threat assessment and management (BTAM) with access to a community of support services, interventions that assist with reducing stressors, and strengthening protective factors through skill building, relationship building, and resources.

Following the Las Vegas and Parkland attacks, the National BAU Threat Assessment and Threat Management Initiative expanded partnerships between the 56 FBI field offices and their local law enforcement agencies, hospitals, schools, universities, mental health practitioners, and community resources. Kindness, connection, and helping people feel valued and seen are key elements of prevention—suicide prevention is homicide prevention.

Major obstacles include the belief that "it won't happen here," resource limitations, and underestimating contagion effects (10 to 13 days) after major attacks. Overall, prevention works best when risk is shared across partners and communities, with consistent communication, a proactive mindset, and with care and kindness.

Resources may be found at: [Prevent Mass Violence — FBI](#)

Minnesota Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Overview

Special Agent in Charge, Michelle Frascone, introduced the presenter, Assistant Special Agent (ASA) in Charge, Stefanie Dressen.

The BCA BTAM team was created to proactively help keep Minnesota communities safe. They use a thoughtful, systematic approach to identify and investigate concerning behaviors, understand potential threats, and prevent targeted violence. From there, they work with partners to find supportive interventions and resources that help manage and reduce the risk of harm.

The BTAM team is still new, and the need is clear and growing. ASA Dressen shared that the team handled 122 cases in 2025, and as of April 24 this year, they have already received the same number.

ASA Dressen provided an overview of the materials and handouts available to help local organizations, and law enforcement partners, and the public understand the Pathways to Violence and Threatening or Concerning Behaviors.

The BTAM team reviews cases brought forward through tips, reports, and other contacts, working with local partners to ensure safety and determine whether anyone is at risk. The team assesses access to weapons, conducts initial open-source investigation and gathers data. Using a multidisciplinary team approach to focus on the pathway to hope.

ASA Dressen highlighted the three training courses currently available and shared the contact information for requesting training: BCA.BTAM@state.mn.us.

1. Threat Evaluation and Reporting Course
2. Basic Threat Evaluation and Reporting Course
3. Threat Evaluation and Reporting Overview

Resources may be found: [Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management Team \(BTAM\) | Minnesota Department of Public Safety](#)

Presentations Discussion

Council members reflected on what they learned from the presentations, and the facilitator, Stacy, invited them to consider the following question to support Superintendent Evans, Drs. Peterson and Densley in developing BTAM recommendations:

Considering what you learned today, what specific cautions, suggestions or resources do you have to offer Drew, Jillian and James as they develop recommendations or strategies related to BTAM?

Themes generated from Council member answers

1. Need for clear structure and communication
 - Teams want guidance on what information to provide when requesting help.
 - A consistent intake template and clearer expectations would support more effective collaboration.
2. Capacity challenges and advocacy
 - With small teams managing high caseloads, there is a need to help BTAM advocate for staffing, resources, and sustainable workload levels.
3. Growth of local BTAM capacity
 - Building or strengthening local multidisciplinary teams is essential, especially for smaller jurisdictions.

- Growth includes training, technical assistance, and expanding local expertise to improve statewide coverage.
 - Addressing emerging issues like political violence is part of future capacity building.
4. Information sharing and legal constraints
 - HIPAA, FERPA, and other privacy rules create barriers to timely threat-related information.
 - Interest in legislative solutions that would allow limited, safety-focused information sharing (e.g., provider notifications to law enforcement).
 - The role of clinicians sharing concerns within their professional boundaries remains important.
 5. Challenges related to immediate release and limited resources
 - Individuals are often released quickly from care due to resource limitations, creating safety challenges.
 - BTAM sometimes must proactively contact facilities and share documentation to support holds or civil commitment assessments.
 6. Importance of multidisciplinary teams and Cross-Sector Trust
 - Threat management is most effective when local partners—law enforcement, mental health providers, schools, prosecutors, judges—work together.
 - Trust is strongest at the local level, where relationships and context matter.
 7. Workforce Development and Training Needs
 - Effective threat assessment requires comprehensive training for institutions, especially hospitals and crisis responders.
 - Clarifying what constitutes a “true assessment” and setting consistent expectations are ongoing needs.
 8. Youth-Specific Considerations
 - Children are not simply “smaller adults.” Systems must avoid unintended harm by designing processes that reflect youth development and the unique ways young people interact with systems.
 9. Focus on Prevention and Positive Intervention
 - The goal is not only managing threats but reducing them by addressing grievances, supporting mental health, and stabilizing life needs.
 - Prevention is strengthened by coordinated intervention and meaningful, actionable strategies.

Closing

At the close of the meeting, the facilitator reminded Council members the next meeting is May 28, and the topic is social media, radicalization and child protection online.