

Governor's Statewide Safety Council

Statewide Safety Council Meeting Notes

August 26, 2026

Meeting Outcomes

Rational objective:

- Learn about victims, survivors, victim services, trauma and resiliency in Minnesota.
- Suggest potential Council recommendations and adjustments to existing recommendations that could improve safety in Minnesota.

Experiential objective:

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

Member Attendance

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| • Bob Jacobson, DPS | • Kim Babine, MM OJP |
| • Kate Weeks, DCYF | • Matt Hillman, MNASA |
| • Dr. Macarre Traynham (alt), MDE | • Lon Thiele, MDS |
| • Catherine Diamond (alt), MDH | • Brittany Haeg, AHA |
| • Michelle Lakso (alt), DHS | • Molly Peterson, NAMI |
| • Jenn Super (alt), MN Supreme Court | • Jay Henthorne, MCPA |
| • Dana Gotz (alt), BCA | • Chuck Roehrdanz, MN AGO |
| • Christina Bogojevic, DPS | |

Welcoming announcements

Chair Jacobson reminded members of the meeting objectives and the topical cadence of meetings. The final report is due early January.

Chair Jacobson reflected on the purpose of the Council and acknowledged that it has been one year since the Annunciation School shooting. He recognized Brittany Haeg for her service on the Council and for the trauma she and her family have endured and continue to navigate. He expressed his gratitude for her contributions and her courage in sharing her perspective with the Council.

Tap In

At the start of each Council meeting, members are invited to respond to a question related to the meeting's topic. This month topic question is:

From the perspective of your organization / agency, what are the benefits of victim and survivor services?

Member's responses included the following themes:

- Early response and prevention to improve mental health outcomes.
- Ensuring families and communities have resources for prevention, intervention, and response.
- Supporting educators and families with both immediate and long-term guidance.
- Collaboration with justice partners to ensure victims and survivors feel supported and can participate in legal processes.
- Assisting children affected by traumatic incidents in navigating what comes next.
- Providing on scene, immediate, personal support during crises.
- Using emergency management practices to prevent further victimization and support recovery.
- Ensuring justice by helping families process grief and stay engaged.
- Embedding victim relations staff to guide families through investigative processes.
- Ground-level support to connect victims with services and coordinate with law enforcement.
- Breaking cycles of generational violence and providing prevention and post incident support, including in cases of suicide and trafficking.
- Centering humanity and compassion in victim services across DPS programs, acknowledging both the importance and the emotional toll on providers.

Presentations

- Becky Raab, Deputy Director of External Relations; Kaleena Burkes, Director of the Office for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls; and Kim Babine, Executive Director of the Office of Justice Programs, presented on victim services (slides 9 – 25), support provided after mass-victimization incidents (slides 26 - 33), including the recovery efforts to the Annunciation School shooting, and recommendations to fill current service gaps (slide 34).

Council discussion

As a large group, the council discussed the following question:

What cross-agency (or agency-organization) connections must be in place to better respond to people impacted in mass victimization incidents?

Member's responses included the following themes:

- Need to clarify whether regional crisis response should focus solely on schools or be expanded to communities.
- Identifying existing regional systems and exploring navigator models, including community health workers trained in emergency response.
- Confusion caused by overlapping or redundant mobile response systems across agencies; need to better understand the full landscape.
- Misalignment in how agencies define regions, creating challenges for data sharing and coordination, especially outside the metro.
- Missing role of emergency managers, who are key connectors for families and services.
- Opportunities for emergency managers to access grants and be more formally integrated into crisis response; need for outreach and education.
- Strengthening collaboration with emergency management through shared meetings and coordinated processes.
- Questions about federal partners (e.g., FBI) and clarity around when they are engaged.
- Value of tabletop exercises focused specifically on victim services response during mass casualty incidents.
- Renewing family assistance center resources through the Association of Emergency Managers.
- Importance of intentional reassurance efforts for children interacting with first responders after traumatic events.
- Need for clear protocols for family information, reunification, and initial notifications in the first 24–48 hours.
- Role of MNVOAD and the ELC in providing voluntary resources and organizing reunification support.

Tap out

At the end of each Council meeting, members are invited to respond to a question related to the meeting's topic or Council process. This month topic question is:

From your organization/agency perspective, what are the primary challenges are you experiencing relative to how you approach victim/survivor support?

Member's responses included the following themes:

- Identifying and meeting the varied needs of each victim through appropriate services.
- Involving social workers and ensuring effective delivery of supportive services.
- Securing funding to expand existing programs and address unmet needs.
- Supporting and caring for those who provide victim services.
- Guiding communities in safely memorializing events and ensuring survivors are included.
- Balancing the desire to return to normal with the need for healing and emotional recovery.
- Scaling services to meet both immediate and long-term support needs.
- Recognizing that first responders and judges may also be victims, despite assumptions about their resilience.
- Ensuring responders understand available resources and can direct victims appropriately.
- Reducing the burden on victims by minimizing repeated retelling of traumatic events; setting clear expectations and providing a single point of contact.
- Clarifying roles and expectations between state agencies and local officials, especially regarding operational plans.
- Understanding that some cases must originate at the county level before reaching the state.
- Honoring meaningful acts of compassion from responders (cold Gatorade from Kowalski's) that provide comfort and support during crises.

Adjourn

Chair Jacobson thanked the members, and Stacy reminded the Council that the September meeting location and topic. The topic will be firearms.