

Mental Health Response Gun Violence Triangle



Credit: James Bueermann

Mental Health

- Mental health includes vulnerabilities and motivations for resonating to violent groups and ideologies – we will cover this more in session two.
- Framework: Work with mental health professionals and others in the community to identify professional interventions which can be taken, create a caring network of school counselors, mentors, psychologists, psychiatrists, etc. that are at your fingertips. Create a caring space that family members

and friends of a vulnerable person about to act know they can call you and you will help not simply act punitively.

- **Goal: Operationalize a program for implementing the professional mental health interventions. Just like ghostbusters - Ask yourself this far in advance – Who ya gonna call?**

Firearms

- What is the state and availability of firearms in the community?
- Framework: Operationalize a program for addressing the prevalence of guns
 - a program for storing community members' guns
 - Other ideas include a gunlock give away

Goal: Know the state and availability of firearms in your community

Opportunity

- Do you see the following things? (*see PowerPoints*)
 - Language
 - Phrases
 - Symbols
 - Goal: Operationalize programs to look and listen for warning signs
- Train dispatchers to listen for warning signs
- Train workforce to look for warning signs
- Train faith leaders to look for warning signs
- Train educators to look for warning signs

- Develop a positive but strong response.
- **Goal: Recognize the warning signs, whether on the internet or in the community**

Framework

- It's helpful to think of **extremists, mass shooters and school shooters** as individuals who all essentially fit **the same profile**
- They were **set on a pathway** and acted out culminating in these events
- They **live in our communities**
- Begins with **early childhood trauma**
- They feel **alienated**, and their behavior may have more to do with unfulfilled and frustrated emotional needs than mental illness
- They begin searching for ways to fulfil these needs, **and meet a violent group** which they can join
- That group offers, or they discover, **a legitimizing ideology** promoting violent extremism
- That group offers, or they discover, **an enabling community**—whether physical or virtual
- If they can be recognized using any of the identifying characteristics covered in the Series, then **intervention is possible**
- Policing can have great impact to help **avoid alienation** and **create resilience** in those vulnerable to becoming alienated