

Targeted Violence: How Can We Prevent and Intervene?

THIS PRESENTATION IS INTENDED FOR 2019
COLORADO SAFE SCHOOL SUMMIT ATTENDEES
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Today you will learn about...

- What targeted violence is
- The Colorado PTV program
- CDHS Collaborative Management Program
- Threat Assessment for Schools
- Colorado Resilience Collaborative at DU

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Definition

Targeted Violence: violence committed in the name of an ideology to further political goals.

Similar terms: terrorism, violent extremism

Colorado PTV Program Background

- State All Hazards Advisory Council (SAHAC) presentation
- DHS Regional Coordinator for Strategic Engagement – PTV full time
- Colorado Resilience Collaborative - Advisory Council

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Colorado PTV Program Background Cont'd

- Internal Meetings
 - State approach. Needed to convene state agencies to determine existing programs
- National Governors Association Request for Proposals

Colorado PTV Program Goals

- Build awareness of targeted violence by developing tailored training plans and curriculum;
- Build trust among partners and establish a network for implementation; and
- Institute intervention by developing tailored intervention plans

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Colorado PTV Summit

- June 19, 2019
- 78 participants
 - State agencies: CDPS, CDE, CDPHE, CDHS, DOC, DORA, and DOLA
 - Local agencies: Adams County SO, Arvada PD, Aurora PD, Denver PD
 - Federal agencies: DHS, FBI, NCTC, USAO
 - NGOs: Anti-Defamation League, Matthew Shepard Foundation, McCain Institute, Mental Health Center of Denver, Nicoletti-Flater Associates, Faith Based Security Network
- Harvard partnership

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Colorado PTV: Current Programming

- Law Enforcement Awareness Brief (LAB) on Terrorism Prevention/Community Awareness Brief (CAB)/ CAB Train-the-Trainer

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Colorado PTV: Current Programming

- Colorado Information Analysis Center Threat Liaison Officers

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Colorado PTV: Current Programming Cont'd

Safe2Tell

- Hate/Extremism

Colorado School Safety Resource Center

- Schools threat assessments
 - “Has the student shown signs of being radicalized or researched radical groups or ideas?”

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Going forward

- Strategic/Implementation Planning Session
 - November 19, 2019
- Mental & Public Health; Social Services
 - El Paso County
- Schools

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Colorado PTV Partnerships

- Collaborative Management Program
 - Collaborative Structure for addressing PTV
 - Addresses the increasing number of families served by more than one agency or system (juvenile justice, child welfare, health/mental health, education), which has placed significant demands on agencies' resources
 - Designed to improve both the quality and cost-effectiveness of interventions for Colorado children, youth and families
 - Cases

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Shared Risk & Protective Factors

- **Risk Factors:** Characteristics or situations that increase the probability of experiencing violence (as a perpetrator or victim)
- **Protective Factors:** Characteristics that mitigate the risk of experiencing violence, and help to build resilience to thrive when faced with adversity

Shared Risk & Protective Factors Cont'd

- Risk and Protective factors can be attributed to each level of the social ecology: individuals, families, organizations, communities and societies.
- Prevention science research suggest that the most effective methods for preventing violence involves addressing both risk and protective factors at each level of the social ecology

Shared Risk Factors



Connectedness

- Community violence **C**
- Poor neighborhood support & cohesion **C**
- Coordination of resources and services among community agencies **C**
- Social isolation/ lack of social support **I/R**
- Family conflict **I/R**
- Associating with pro-social peers **I/R**
- Associating with delinquent peers **I/R**
- Connection/ commitment to school **I/R**
- Connection to caring adult **I/R**
- Gang involvement **I/R**
- Low educational achievement **I**



Social Norms

- Cultural norms that support aggression toward others **S**
- Media violence **S**
- Harmful norms around masculinity and femininity **S**
- Weak health, educational, economic, and social policies/laws **S**



Good Behavioral Health

- Weak health, educational, economic, and social policies/laws **S**
- Alcohol outlet density **C**
- Access to mental health and substance abuse services **C**
- Substance use **I**
- Poor behavioral control/ impulsiveness **I**
- Witnessing violence and/or history of violent victimization **I**
- Psychological/ mental health problems **I**



Economic Stability

- Societal income inequity **S**
- Weak health, educational, economic, and social policies/laws **S**
- Neighborhood poverty **C**
- Diminished economic opportunities/ high unemployment rates **C**
- Economic stress **I/R**








Resilience

- Family conflict **I/R**
- Skills in solving problems non-violently **I**
- Low educational achievement **I**
- Witnessing violence and/or history of violent victimization **I**
- Poor behavioral control/ impulsiveness **I**
- Lack of non-violent social problem-solving skills **I**
- Psychological/ mental health problems **I**

Levels of the social ecology: Societal (S), Community (C), Interpersonal/Relationship (I/R), Individual (I)

Shared Protective Factors

Table 4.0. Shared Risk and Protective Factors Across the Critical Target Areas

	OFFICE OF SUICIDE PREVENTION*	FALLS PREVENTION*	PRESCRIPTION DRUG OVERDOSE	MOTOR VEHICLE*	CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION SYSTEM*	INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE	ESSENTIALS FOR CHILDHOOD*	MISSUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION	MENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION*	Violent Extremism
 CONNECTEDNESS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 POSITIVE SOCIAL NORMS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 GOOD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
 ECONOMIC STABILITY				✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
 RESILIENCE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*Impacts TBI

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Threat Assessment/Management with Protocols for PTV

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What is a Violence Risk/Threat Assessment?

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Overview of Threat Assessment

- The purpose is to analyze both in vivo and virtual behaviors that have created social and/or psychological disruption, whether intended or not.
- Collect information from multiple sources in order to arrive at a current risk determination.
- The data sources should include observable behaviors, verbal statements, written statements, social media activity, video games, etc.
- Is NOT intended as a medical or psychiatric evaluation and as a result, no mental diagnosis is provided.
- Should also include countermeasures for disruption of the concerning behaviors.

Risk/Threat Management: Not Just Assessment

- THERE SHOULD BE NO SUCH THING AS OBSERVATION ONLY WHEN DEALING WITH ATTACK RELATED OR RADICALIZATION BEHAVIORS
- ONCE AN INDIVIDUAL OF CONCERN ENGAGES IN ATTACK RELATED BEHAVIORS OR RADICALIZATION BEHAVIORS, YOU MUST ACTIVATE A COUNTERMEASURE

Basic Considerations

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Avengers and individuals on the pathway to radicalization tend to broadcast ahead of time.

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Development of an Avenger

- Perceived Injustice
- Feeling Victimized
- Externalization of Responsibility
- Development of a Grudge
- Obsessed with Avenging or Radicalizing. At this phase there will be development of the "Thrill of the Thought"
- Avenging Action or Radicalization will occur

Considerations in Dealing with an Insider Threat

There is plenty of time between the event threshold and the event horizon to disrupt the behavior.

THE URBAN LEGEND OF **IMMINENT THREAT** AS IT RELATES TO BREACHING CONFIDENTIALITY

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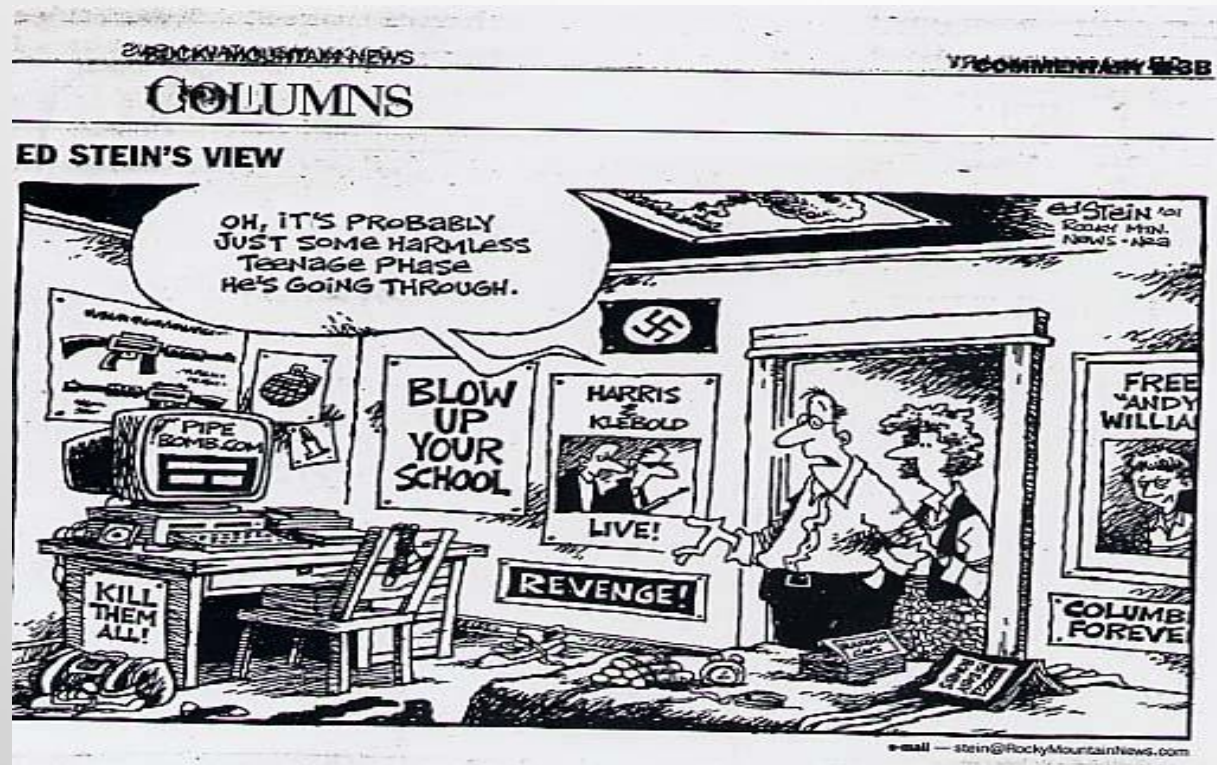
Focusing on Who Instead of What

- What is a 'who'?
 - Mental Health Diagnosis (i.e., psychotic, bipolar, PTSD, sociopath etc.).
 - Security Clearance Categories
 - Ethnicity
 - Gender (just a girl)
 - Age (just a child)
 - Religious Affiliation
 - Political Affiliation
 - Other Affiliations

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RATIONALIZATION -- Inserting 'JUST' in the behavioral description



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RATIONALIZATION -- Inserting 'JUST' in the behavioral description cont'd

- JUST JOKING
- JUST ANGRY
- JUST A SLIP OF THE TONGUE
- JUST THE WAY HE/SHE IS
- JUST HAVING A BAD DAY

More Reasons & Excuses

- Afraid to do anything because you might “set the person off”
- Assuming that the potential attacker is not dangerous because he/she is talking to you in the counseling sessions

If They Broadcast It – Believe It!

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Skip the “Tea Leaf” Reading

**If a concerning behavior occurs, go to
a countermeasure.**

When describing individuals of concern's verbalizations try changing the word '**fantasizing**' to '**planning**' and see what that does to your concern of an Attack Behavior or a Radicalization Behavior

Always Interrupt / Disrupt the Behavior

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IN THE WORLD OF VIOLENCE THREAT
MANAGEMENT THERE IS NO SUCH
THING AS **OBSERVATION ONLY**

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Behavioral Coding Options

- Normal Behaviors
- Boundary Probing Behaviors
- Attack Related Behaviors
- Attack Behaviors

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Normal Behaviors

- Must be defined according to:
 - The specific environment
 - The individual
 - The event
- In reality, “normal behaviors” refer to behaviors that are accepted and tolerated.
- There cannot be any universal definition of “normal behaviors.”

Boundary Probing

- Involves pushing rules, regulations and tolerance levels.
- The purpose is to determine how much he/she can get away with.

Important Issue

If you allow a boundary probe to occur without a disrupter, then by default that behavior becomes normal. **It also allows the individual to develop the 'THRILL OF THOUGHT'**

Attack Related Behaviors

- **Desensitization Behaviors (threat making – direct, veiled, conditional)**
 - In Vivo
 - Virtual
- **Dehumanization Behaviors**
 - In Vivo
 - Virtual

Attack Behaviors

- **People**
- **Property**

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What are the attack or radicalization ingredients?

TOADS

- TIME
- OPPORTUNITY
- ABILITY
- DESIRE
- STIMULUS

WHICH ONES CAN YOU CONTROL?

Predicting Future Violence

The best predictor of future behavior is
not past behavior but post-
intervention behavior.

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Interpreting Lack of Compliance

If the concerning behaviors continue after an intervention, then two possible hypotheses have been generated:

1. The individual is choosing to disregard rules when it suits him/her.
2. The individual does not have the capacity to control his/her actions.

Colorado Resilience Collaborative

Mission Statement

An interdisciplinary initiative that **supports those impacted by identity based violence due to radicalization and discrimination.** Focusing on race/ethnicity, nationality, faith, and ideology.

Trauma informed, culturally competent, and inclusive approaches.

Building collaborative partnerships that support personal, social, cultural, and political action.

2019 Active Partnerships

Challenge Denver

Street Fraternity

Denver Police Department's Bias-Motivated Crimes Unit

Aurora Police Department's Co-responder program and Crisis Services

Antidefamation League

Department of Human Services

Collaborative Management Program

Department of Public Health and Environment

The Center on Colfax- LGBTQ services and support

Interfaith Alliance

Islamic Society of Denver

Aurora Public Schools

Department of Corrections

Nicoletti-Flater Associates

Safe-2-Tell

Department of Homeland Security

U.S. Attorney's Office

Federal Bureau of Investigation

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