

Meeting Minutes

Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide Prevention

Date: June 2, 2025

Time: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location: Virtual via ZoomGov

Call to Order, Roll Call

Attendees

Members in attendance: Dean Sidelinger, Valerie Colas, Donna-Marie Drucker, Kathleen Carlson, Vanessa Timmons, Emmy Ritter, Matthew Crabtree, Jerome Sloan II, Chris Burley, James Dixon

Staff in attendance: Toni Kemple, Daisy Mitchell

Members not in attendance: Paul Kemp, Andy Leonard, Andrew White, Senator Floyd Prozanski, Senator David Brock Smith, Rep Jason Kropf, Rep. Rick Lewis

SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS:

The meeting was recorded in full and is available online at the Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide Prevention website: [Task Force on Community Safety and Firearm Suicide Prevention - Oregon Department of Justice](#)

Co-Chair Donna-Marie Drucker introduced Jens Ludwig, the speaker for today's meeting.
(see video time stamp 0:02:39)

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Presentation – What to Do About Gun Violence *Video time stamp 0:03:29*

PowerPoint presentation, "What to Do About Gun Violence", by Jens Ludwig, PH.D. – Edwin A. and Betty L. Bergman Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago; Pritzker Director of the University of Chicago's Crime Lab; Pritzker Codirector, University of Chicago Urban Education Lab; and Codirector of the National Bureau of Economic Research's working group on economics of crime.

- Unforgiving Places: The Unexpected Origins of American Gun Violence (Ludwig, 2025)
(see video time stamp 0:05:33)
- **Our uniquely American problem** (see video time stamp 0:05:42)
 - Homicide Rate per 100k by Weapon
- **The Problem** (see video time stamp 0:06:26)
- **Doesn't US vs. UK contrast suggest gun control is THE answer?** (see video time stamp 0:06:45)
 - Homicide Rate per 100k by Weapon
 - Non-gun Homicide Rate
 - Gun Homicide Rate

- **Virtual Tour – South side of Chicago** (see video time stamp 0:08:01)
 - E-Z Tree Recycling
 - Slogan “A Tree Is A Terrible Thing To Waste”
- **E-Z Tree Location** (see video time stamp 0:08:18)
 - Located at Dorchester and 71st, the boundary between Greater Grand Crossing and South Shore.
- **Per capita shooting victimization rates, 2010-2023** (see video time stamp 0:08:40)
 - Shooting Victims per 100k is 2 times higher for Greater Grand Crossing than for South Shore
- **What causes gun violence?** (see video time stamp 0:08:48)
 - What is the same and what is different for Greater Grand Crossing and South Shore
 - Gun laws - Same
- **Gun Violence = Guns + Violence** (see video time stamp 0:09:11)
- **Conventional wisdom around why people are willing to hurt one another** (see video time stamp 0:09:44)
 - Quote from the GOP Presidential Platform, 1932
 - Quote from Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1939 (see video time stamp 0:11:34)
- **What causes gun violence?** (see video time stamp 0:10:44)
 - What is the same and what is different for Greater Grand Crossing and South Shore
 - Criminal justice system- Same
 - Rate of poverty – Same
 - Segregation – Same
- **Conventional wisdom around why people are willing to hurt one another** (see video time stamp 0:11:34)
 - Quote from the GOP Presidential Platform, 1932
 - Quote from Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1939
- **Notice the common thread here** (see video time stamp 0:11:40)
 - stick + carrot = intentions
- **Chicago: June 2, 2012** (see video time stamp 0:12:40)
 - Taken from the Chicago Tribune
- **Does this look like the offender is optimizing – carrying out some rational benefit-cost analysis?** (see video time stamp 0:13:28)
- **Motives for Chicago homicides** (see video time stamp 0:14:13)
 - Sexual assault – 1%
 - Instrumental – 21%
 - Altercation – 78%
- **A different view of why people commit violence** (see video time stamp 0:14:48)
- **Kahneman, 2011, Thinking, Fast and Slow** (see video time stamp 0:11:40)
 - System 2 – Rational thinking
 - Takes effort
 - Slow

- Logical
 - Lazy
 - Indecisive
- System 1 – Intuition & instinct
 - Unconscious
 - Fast
 - Associative
 - Automatic pilot
- **Daily Life** (see video time stamp 0:17:55)
 - “See word” (over and over)
 - “Get challenged” (over and over)
- **“If I let you kids redo just 10 minutes of your lives, none of you would be here.”** (see video time stamp 0:20:10)
- **BAM – Becoming a Man** (see video time stamp 0:20:48)
 - 15-20 hours of program participation basically cuts rates of violent crime involvement for kids in half
 - Also reduces arrest for illegal weapons carry
- **Google Budget in Trouble** (see video time stamp 0:21:53)
- **We have to learn to do more with less** (see video time stamp 0:22:55)
- **Cook County Juvenile Center** (see video time stamp 0:23:15)
 - 2693 male admits to juvenile detention center
 - 21% drop in recidivism 18 months out
- **Lenape High School** (see video time stamp 0:25:28)
 - Leading causes of death for American Adolescents – Deaths of decision-making
 - Homicide
 - Suicide
 - Overdose
 - Car crashes
- **Zero-cost public safety agenda** (see video time stamp 0:27:11)

<u>Arbitrage opportunity</u>	<u>Solution</u>
Wasted time in youth-serving institutions	Deliver BAM-like programs
Mistargeting of Paid “eyes on the street” (police, interrupters)	Better use of data & “fusion centers”
- **Ike’s Liquors** (see video time stamp 0:27:25)
 - Eyes upon the street
 - Use data to target the “eyes upon the street”
 - Ike’s Liquors as an example
- **The Big Picture** (see video time stamp 0:31:33)
 - We have designed a criminal justice system as if all human behavior is done entirely by System 2 – Rational, deliberate thinking.
 - Most violence is a function of faster thinking System 1 cognition that does not respond to incentives.

Discussion and Questions

Jerome Sloan asked if there was a similar curriculum to BAM that was designed for the ladies. Jens Ludwig talked about a program that Youth Guidance has developed called Working on Womanhood.

Kathleen Carlson asked what the unique components of BAM in its variations that make a difference and is it possible that youth mentoring here in Oregon is already providing some of these key components. Jens Ludwig noted that the jargoning term behind it is Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and the key is to make it as engaging as possible for young people. Jens Ludwig and a colleague have created and open source curriculum for juvenile detention facilities. <https://urbanlabs.uchicago.edu/news/cbt-2-0-a-behavioral-approach-to-reducing-recidivism-among-youth>

Matthew Crabtree works with youth in recovery and asked about ways to get the kids engaged. Jens Ludwig asked the question “Why do we have to wait to get to that point...why aren’t we including 3 or 4 weeks of CBT in the health curriculum in every high school?” Donna-Marie Drucker noted that the person that delivers the information is also an important component.

Meghan Crane discussed Sources of Strength, a youth suicide prevention program implemented in schools across the state. Molly Taylor talked about working with community organizations. Some discussion continued regarding prevention vs. early intervention.

2. Presentation by OHSU – Research update *Video time stamp 0:52:51*

Kathleen Carlson introduced Becca Valek and Gina Stahla, the presenters for OHSU. She also talked about a current deliverable that they are working on where they are querying community violence academic experts from across the country and summarizing their responses about the most promising evidence-based practices. Becca Valek talked about the Gun Violence Review Commission in Multnomah County, identifying at risk youth, providing services to address at risk behaviors and intergenerational trauma, the impulse to solve problems with firearms and early intervention to change that impulse.

Becca Valek gave a quick overview of the deliverables and what will be presented today.

A. Community Safety Protocols – Gina Stahla, presenter (*see video time stamp 1:02:45*)

- Think about community safety protocols at hospitals and behavioral health facilities with a goal of trying to understand what is happening within facilities in Oregon; identify best practices to help inform protocols for those facilities; and then determine what the barriers to facilitators are to the implementation.
- Conducted interviews and reviewed the peer reviewed and grey literature on safety best practices
- Literature review (*see video time stamp 1:03:45*)
- Best Practices Overview (*see video time stamp 1:04:40*)
- Spoke with 10 people across the state and review of the results (*see video time stamp 1:05:29*)

- Barriers to implementation (*see video time stamp 1:09:41*)
- Response to the question regarding the one thing the Task Force or State could do to help (*see video time stamp 1:10:09*)
- Final Summary (*see video time stamp 1:10:59*)

Discussion and Questions

Brief discussion of the types of facilities contacted. Gina Stahla indicated that most of the responses were from private organizations. Brief reference to current bills under consideration in the legislature, e.g., SB 537.

B. Mass Violence in Oregon – Becca Valek (*see video time stamp 1:17:39*)

- Examining data from the Gun Violence Archive, an online publicly accessible data source, and data from Oregon’s Extreme Risk Protection Order were used to examine mass violence incidents that occurred in Oregon.
- Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) (*see video time stamp 1:19:01*)
- Fact Sheet (*see video time stamp 1:20:25*)
 - A mass shooting incident is defined as 4+ people being injured or killed, not including the shooter (*see video time stamp 1:20:39*)
 - From 2018 to 2023
 - 18 mass shooting incidents occurred
 - 13 individuals were killed
 - 73 individuals were injured
 - Primarily occurred on weekends and in the late evening or early morning hours
 - Location of the shootings (*see video time stamp 1:21:54*)
- Threats of mass violence (*see video time stamp 1:22:50*)
 - From 2018 to 2023
 - 835 ERPO petitions were filed
 - 92 (11%) cited mass violence threats
 - Most were filed by LEOs
 - What were the primary targets of these mass violence threats (*see video time stamp 1:23:36*)
 - Most common locations named as targets in threats were schools or universities
 - Example scenario (*see video time stamp 1:24:58*)

Discussion and Questions

Brief discussion about use of firearms or other means of mass violence. Becca Valek noted that for Gun Violence Archives the data source is focused on firearms, and for ERPOs it is mostly firearms, but there were other threats such as use of explosive devices or other forms of violence. Becca Valek responded to a question about the average age of the perpetrators and indicated that there is not always information about whether they legally owned the guns.

Molly Taylor asked about how long an ERPO stays in place. Becca Valek explained that when they are granted, they are in place for 1 year and can be renewed. When an ERPO is served to the respondent, the respondent has 30 days to request a hearing to contest the ERPO.

Chris Burley asked if in the research they were “parsing out the difference between somebody that maybe is posting information on social media about going out and perpetrating a mass violence attack and then carrying through on that” and differentiating those mass violence events in which it was not necessarily premeditated. Becca Valek talked about the information from court records that they used.

Jerome Sloan asked if there was any mention of referrals to behavioral health services in compliment of removal of firearms. Becca Valek indicated that in about 25% of cases, there are referral to services. *(see video time stamp 1:36:01)*

Next Meeting

Jess Marks from the Alliance Safe Oregon will be presenting. University of Oregon will be presenting an update on their research.

Emmy Ritter recommended Fernanda Rossi as a potential speaker.

A follow-up email for availability for the July and August meetings will be mailed to the Task Force members. Please respond with your availability as soon as possible.

DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO:

The following documents were discussed at the meeting and are available on request by emailing community.safety@doj.oregon.gov or visiting the website at:

<https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/office-of-the-attorney-general/task-force-on-community-safety-and-firearm-suicide/>

- PowerPoint Presentation by Jens Ludwig, Ph.D.
- OHSU Fact Sheet

Next Meeting:

Date: June 7, 2025

Time: 10: 00 am to Noon

Via: ZoomGov