

Oversight, Management, and Accountability Subcommittee

House Committee on Homeland Security

Lt. Col. Chris Kelenske

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Thank you Chairman Correa, Ranking Member Meijer, and distinguished members of the subcommittee for allowing me to discuss the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program. My name is Lieutenant Colonel Chris Kelenske, and I am the Deputy Director in charge of the Field Support Bureau of the Michigan State Police, or MSP. In this role, I oversee MSP's Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, as well as the Intelligence Operations Division, among other areas. MSP was awarded a grant of \$451,255 from the fiscal year 2021, DHS Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program. Today I will be discussing how we are using this important federal support.

Too many times in recent years, we have experienced incidents across our great nation where individuals have targeted others and committed acts of violence leading to far too many senseless deaths. The Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention grant is a tool that is helping us in Michigan to hopefully prevent these incidents before they occur by establishing a regional Behavioral Threat Assessment Management Team and a statewide Fusion Liaison Officer program.

Our Behavioral Threat Assessment Management Team consists of multidisciplinary and multijurisdictional partners who identify individuals who are on a pathway to violence and intervene by providing them with productive alternative outcomes.

The statewide Fusion Liaison Officer program includes law enforcement, first responders, and private sector partners across Michigan who will enhance awareness and strengthen collaboration and information sharing to aid in preventing targeted acts of violence.

We recognize the need to develop behavioral threat assessment management capability in our state to ensure prevention frameworks are adopted that will allow local stakeholders to participate in communications addressing radicalization to violence. To address our behavioral threat assessment management gap within the terrorism prevention and targeted violence framework, we are developing one regional concept Behavioral Threat Assessment Management Team that covers three counties. These three counties include the seat of state government and the state capitol of Michigan, have a combined total population of just under 500,000 people, and are comprised of both urban and rural communities. This Behavioral Threat Assessment Management Team will serve as a conduit to identify persons of concern who pose a threat of targeted violence, and then provide referrals to independent programs as a form of prevention.

This initial, multi-disciplinary team that this grant is helping to create is comprised of professionals from the local community who will collaborate to increase communications, develop protocols, and work with individuals who have risk factors of targeted violence and terrorism. Using our grant funds, we are hiring a specialist who will be on-board within the next

month who will be responsible for developing and managing the team, providing intervention and threat assessment training for team members, and for developing team protocols.

A critical success factor for this program is having the funds to keep this specialist employed beyond the grant period, as this would provide communities with the coordination, training, and confidence to identify at-risk individuals and respond with a coordinated community approach for successful targeted violence intervention and prevention. Future grant opportunities will help us to expand this regional team concept statewide.

Additionally, through this grant and in partnership with Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships or CP3, we have recently begun to collaborate with Michigan State University School of Medicine and the National Policing Institute on a project that will train a highly skilled set of clinicians to be deployed across Michigan who will supplement the regional behavioral threat assessment teams by providing advanced care and safety or management plans for those most at-risk for becoming radicalized toward acts of targeted violence.

I want to mention that we are sensitive to the protection of privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties, which is why the privacy policy of the Michigan Intelligence Operations Center will be adhered to in all cases brought to the attention of the Behavioral Threat Assessment Management team. Individuals associated with cases that pose a public safety risk will be treated with the same constitutional protections as any other individual encountered by law enforcement.

The goals of the Fusion Liaison Officer program are to provide training to increase awareness of targeted violence through outreach, community involvement, and intervention. As part of this grant, we received funding for two part-time, contract analysts to assist with the delivery of the Fusion Liaison Officer training, which is in-person training provided to law enforcement, first responders, and private sector personnel. This training seeks to increase awareness of the risk factors and radicalization to violence process, strengthen strategic partnerships, and bolster information and intelligence sharing.

To date, we have hired one of two-part time contract analysts to assist the Fusion Liaison Officer coordinator, finalized our educational materials, held a Joint Community Awareness Briefing with our DHS CP3 partners that included 30 of our state intelligence members, and conducted one of the scheduled ten training sessions.

Once the initial groundwork is complete and the program is established, the Fusion Liaison Officer coordinator, who is a senior intelligence analyst in the Michigan State Police, will be capable of managing the program independently without the sustainment of the contract analysts beyond the grant performance period.

Thank you for your time and this opportunity to share our experiences in Michigan. At this time I am happy to take any questions you may have for me.