

Primary Prevention Subcommittee Meeting
Washington State Domestic Extremism and Mass Violence Task Force
August 13, 2025

Attendees: Seth, Mercedes, Leslie, Hardeep

Not in Attendance: Keara, Nate, Liz

Staff: Manveer, Sahba

SME: Cynthia

- The meeting began with AGO staff welcoming the group and doing a round of quick introductions. AGO staff reminded the subcommittee that the goal of the Task Force's final report is to provide a community-based, public health framework for addressing and preventing domestic extremism and mass violence in Washington State.
- AGO staff went over the goal of the subcommittee work: to develop potential recommendations for that public health framework for the full Task Force to discuss, finalize, and vote on next year for the final report. Each subcommittee will focus on developing recommendations within their level of prevention.
- AGO staff and SME went over what primary prevention is, highlighting where it falls within a public health framework and the distinction from primordial prevention: primordial prevention focuses broadly on strengthening protective factors for overall health and well-being, and primary prevention focuses on preventing extremism and mass violence from taking root. Both levels of prevention utilize similar, if not the same, types of interventions such as educational programming, training, building community, strong support systems, etc.
- A subcommittee member shared the prevention efforts around hate, violence, and extremism that Illinois is working to deploy as examples of primary prevention efforts in another state. Illinois is looking at their state's unique hate landscape to understand where/what resources already exist in preventing and addressing hate, what the needs are for additional resources, and then build appropriate primary prevention methods to fill those needs. Examples include educational programming, field staff for on-the-ground information, resource delivery, and understanding existing secondary & tertiary prevention initiatives can inform the gaps that the primary preventions need to fill.
- Another subcommittee member noted that existing education outreach efforts on issues can be leveraged to include education on combatting extremism and mass violence.
- The subcommittee spent some time talking about having curriculum on digital and media literacy and how to recognize ideologically charged online content in online spaces that youth frequently visit or participate in available for school districts to adopt. SME shared the importance of having resources available for use and reminded the subcommittee that school districts have autonomy in setting their curriculum, so it's important not to mandate but to instead encourage and have resources readily available

for use if a district chooses to do so. SME shared that approximately 1000 schools in New York have voluntarily adopted digital media literacy curriculum developed by PERIL to teach during events such as digital media literacy week.

- The subcommittee spent some time talking about what it could look like to reach people with educational materials that aren't necessarily involved in public forums such as schools by including educational and training materials for other community caregivers (coaches, music teachers, religious teachers, community leaders, etc.).
- The subcommittee finished up their meeting with subcommittee logistics, with suggestions to have guest speakers who are actively involved in primary prevention interventions and initiatives to help the group understand primary prevention in practice. The subcommittee decided to meet in October and November, then determine their 2026 meeting frequency.