

February 2026

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska** | PUBLIC POLICY  
CENTER



# POLICYTALK

The Latest in Public Policy  
Center News and Events

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## Featured News

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### Third Year of Nebraska Suicide Prevention Campaign Highlights Role of Telehealth

A statewide suicide prevention initiative led by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln is now halfway through its third year of a four-year cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The project focuses on reducing suicide rates among adult men in Nebraska through coordinated, evidence-based prevention strategies.

This effort brings together key partners across the state, including the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Injury Prevention Program, the Nebraska State Suicide Prevention Coalition, and all six Regional Behavioral Health Authorities. By strengthening collaboration across public health and behavioral health systems, the initiative aims to expand access to care and promote help-seeking among men, particularly in underserved communities.

In its third year, the campaign is placing an emphasis on the role of telehealth in reaching individuals who may be struggling—especially those in rural areas where access to in-person services can be limited. The project is led by Dr. Denise Bulling, with key contributions from Dr. Stacey Hoffman and Quinn Lewandowski, whose research and outreach efforts continue to advance suicide prevention across Nebraska. [See the campaign.](#)



### Partnership Produces New Resource for Preventing Targeted Violence in Healthcare Settings



### **Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management: Prevent and Protect**

A Leadership Guide for Preventing Targeted  
Violence in Health Care Settings

[www.aha.org/hav](http://www.aha.org/hav)   [www.fbi.gov/prevent](http://www.fbi.gov/prevent)

This month we saw the launch of "A Leadership Guide for Preventing Targeted Violence in Health Care Settings," created by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and American Hospital Association (AHA). The guide includes contributions by University of Nebraska Public Policy Center's Dr. Mario Scalora, along with other experts in Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management, Health Care, and related fields.

Recognizing the unique challenges faced by health care organizations, this guide was co-developed by the AHA and the FBI BAU-1. It provides practical, evidence-based tools and

strategies to enhance security measures and threat management protocols.

[\*\*See the Leadership Guide.\*\*](#)

## Events

### **Suicide Prevention in Telehealth**

with Laurin Jozlin, LMSW

#### **Virtual via Zoom**

April 9, 2026

1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m. (Central)

12:00 p.m.–1:30 p.m. (Mountain)



This 90-minute webinar explores how suicide prevention practices can be adapted for telehealth, including remote risk evaluation, ethical considerations, suicide screening, and safety planning, while supporting consistent, system-wide approaches to suicide prevention. This training has been approved for 1.5 continuing education hours for psychologists and Nebraska LMHP/LIMHP.

[\*\*Register for Suicide Prevention Webinar\*\*](#)

### **Practical (Basic) Behavioral Threat Assessment**

with Dr. Mario Scalora & Dr. Denise Bulling

#### **Virtual via Zoom:**

March 19, 2026

8:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. (Central)  
7:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. (Mountain)

This one-day virtual workshop is designed to provide practical information to guide implementation of behavioral threat assessment in a variety of settings (e.g., schools, communities). Note: All participants are required to complete the brief online course "Intro to Principles of BTAM" prior to attending this workshop. It takes 1.5 hours to complete the three modules of the online course. [Take the prerequisite course.](#)



[Register for BTAM Training](#)

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## Workforce Resilience Series for Public Health and Their Partner Organizations

### Virtually Via Zoom

**Time (all):** 12 - 12:30 p.m. (Central) / 11-11:30 a.m. (Mountain)

#### Dates:

- Organizational Practices - Wednesday, March 18, 2026
- Workforce Temperature - Wednesday, May 20, 2026
- Workplace Culture - Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Join this free Lunch & Learn Series to learn more about how to support workplace resilience. Learn more about [Resilience for Organizations](#).

[Register for Upcoming Workforce Resilience Sessions](#)

## Center News

### Faculty Fellows Featured in National News

Dirac Twidwell, agronomy and horticulture, was interviewed for a Jan. 14 [Silicon Prairie News article](#) on Stone Pillar International, a company that aims to use drone technology to target woody encroachment in the Great Plains. Twidwell is the principal investigator of the university's Eastern Redcedar Science Literacy Project and a co-inventor of a university-affiliated patent of drone technology to manage and fight wildfires. Another co-inventor, Carrick Detweiler, School of Computing, co-founder and CEO of Drone Amplified, and the university's annual Nebraska Ag and Spray Drone Conference were also mentioned in the article.

### National ATAP Conference Panel Focuses on Drivers of Domestic Violent Extremism

Dr. Mario Scalora and Dr. Denise Bulling attended the National Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Winter Conference to share recent research and hear from other professionals in threat assessment and management. Drs. Mario Scalora, Shuki Cohen, Jessica Stern, and Alexander Westphal spoke about drivers of domestic violent extremism.

## **Undergraduate Research Assistants named to UNL Fall 2025 Dean's List**

Center Undergraduate Research Assistants Include:

- Amany Al-Barakat, senior, Dean's List, College of Arts and Sciences, psychology and political science.
- Reem Ahmed, senior, Dean's List, College of Arts and Sciences, psychology.
- Ruth Elizabeth Bailey, senior, Dean's List, College of Arts and Sciences, political science; Dean's List, College of Journalism and Mass Communications, journalism.
- Katie Ullman, junior, Dean's List, College of Arts and Sciences, psychology.

### **University of Nebraska Public Policy Center**

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