

# SITUATION TABLES

A MODEL FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING (CSWB) IN BRITISH COLUMBIA



Ministry of  
Public Safety and  
Solicitor General

## What is a Situation Table?

- The Situation Table is a risk-based, collaborative, rapid triage model
- It focuses upstream to connect individuals/families facing situations of acutely elevated levels of risk (AER) – as seen across multiple agency lenses – to the services they need, immediately
- It is neither a new entity nor a formally structured organization. Rather, it is a carefully disciplined conversation, and a new tool for human service professionals as they perform their existing roles
- The Table is guided by the Four Filter Approach, which is a structured process designed in consultation with privacy officials in multiple jurisdictions
- The only data it records is risk-based data to track risk factors in the community, and the agencies involved

## How Does it Work?

- Front-Line Human Service and Justice professionals come together once a week for 90 minutes to address situations of AER in a collaborative setting – while using the Four Filter Approach to properly and safely navigate privacy implications – in order to identify which agencies need to be involved in a supportive intervention
- The group of agencies determined to have a role will ultimately mobilize immediate (ideally within 24-48 hrs) and multi-agency supports, leading to a connection to all essential services required to mitigate the evident AER factors and ensure improved pathways to care and support
- Following the intervention, the ongoing work is carried on by the agencies involved, in a typical collaborative care manner, but away from the Table

## What are the Benefits?

- Offers a new way for Human Service and Justice professionals to improve service delivery, reduce barriers, and connect individuals to the services they need
- Uses a multi-lens cross-sector approach to viewing risk factors and their cumulative impacts
- Risk-driven as opposed to incident-driven, allowing the Table to focus upstream and provide an opportunity to address situations of AER before incidents occur
- Takes collaboration to a new level, building increased trust and strengthening inter-agency relationships
- Risk-based data can help inform local decision making and policy development related to community safety and well-being
- Mobilizes the system in a new way

## What Agencies are Involved in a Situation Table?



## Understanding AER

Acutely Elevated Risk (AER) refers to situations where individuals and/or families are facing a composite level of risks factors, spanning across multiple human service and justice disciplines, and where there is a high probability of harm occurring soon.

The Four Filter Approach is essentially the triage process that the Table participants follow in order to determine if AER is present, and if so, move to the Intervention.