
A Brief Introduction to Situation Tables

The Situation Table is a rapid triage model. Informal and conversational by design, Table meetings are carefully guided by the Chair to identify persons or families, pre-crisis but facing situations of acutely elevated risk (AER) as recognized across multiple human service lenses, while carefully protecting personal information and privacy. This is achieved through a structured process, designed in cooperation with privacy officials in multiple jurisdictions, known as the Four Filter Model. Our Global Network team of advisors and educators are among the original architects of this model and since 2010, we have advised, trained and supported adoptions in over 100 communities in Canada and the USA.

Subject to consensus, tables will ultimately mobilize immediate and multi-agency supports (goal is within 24-48 hrs.) leading to a connection to all essential services required to mitigate the evident AER factors, immediately reduce risk to manageable levels, and to ensure improved ongoing pathways to care and support. **The Table is not about enforcement. It is about connecting individuals and families with the services they need.**

The Situation Table is an important step to advancing community safety and well-being (CSWB) in communities, but 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, periodically and deliberately in a highly collaborative fashion. Most Tables will meet weekly (some twice weekly), and most will have 20-25 front line or supervisory members representing local human service and justice agencies, across multiple disciplines.

Experience has continued to reinforce that proper training in the theory and practice of the Situation Table is essential to the fidelity of the model and the effectiveness of its members. Strong local leadership is also vital to supporting the work of Table members in their 'collaborative action' that uniquely characterizes the Situation Table.

Situation Tables also generate a new source of insight essential to community planning for CSWB, in the form of de-identified Risk Tracking Data (RTD) that is captured during the triage process, analyzed and periodically dash-boarded. A uniform RTD model, consistently replicated across Canada and the USA, is provided to adopting communities by Global Network.