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KARYN SPORER, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
University of Maine

## Two Lessons in Prevention: What Practitioners Need to Know to Support the Families

# PROTECT YOUR EVERY DAY

If you **see** something,  
**say** something®

## REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Call **Local Law Enforcement** or  
**9-1-1** in case of emergency



\*If You See Something, Say Something® used with permission of the NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

## RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF TERRORISM-RELATED SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY



**EXPRESSED  
OR IMPLIED  
THREAT**



**PHOTOGRAPHY**



**TESTING OR  
PROBING OF  
SECURITY**



**BREACH/  
ATTEMPTED  
INTRUSION**



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- **Broader Goals:**

- Understand the role of family members in the violent radicalization process.
- Identify barriers to reporting suspicious/concerning behaviors.

- **Today's Key Question:**

- What do practitioners need to know to support the families of homegrown violent extremists?

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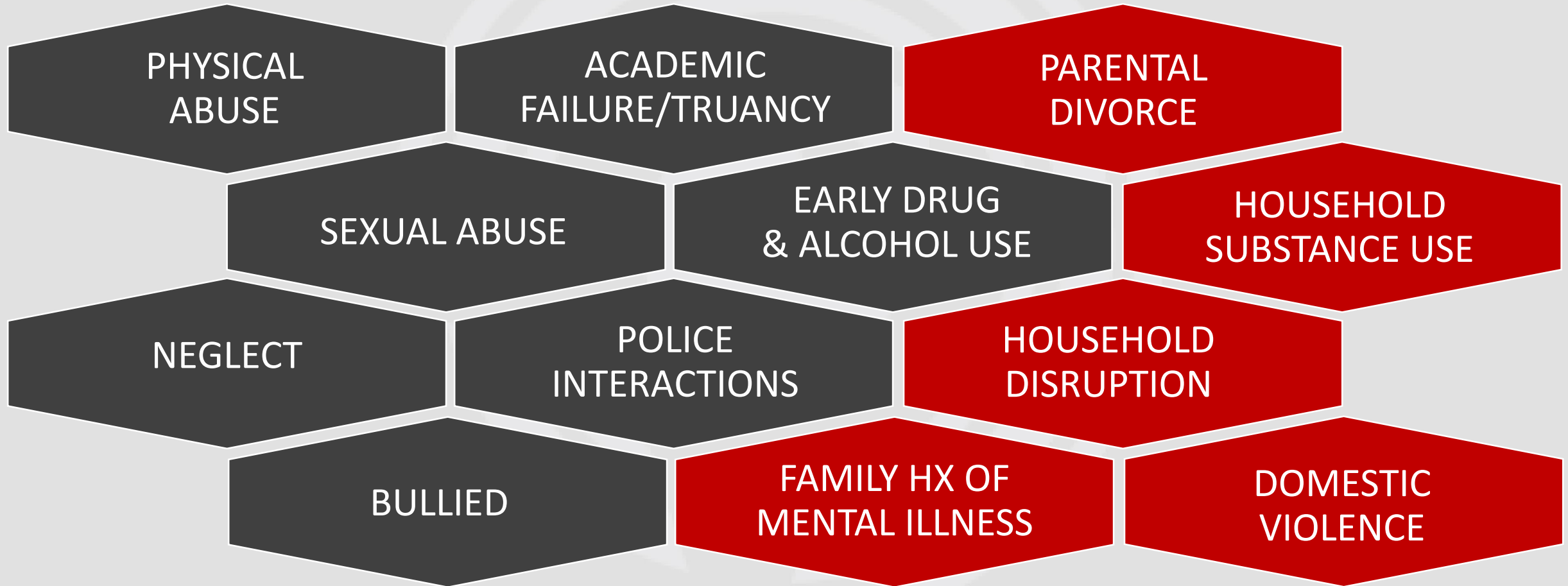
- **Data Collection**

- In-depth life history interviews
- 90 mins to 7 hours; 68+ total hours; 1,417 transcribed pages

- **Participants & Recruitment**

- 24 family members of 17 HVE
  - 10 parents, 6 siblings, 5 children, 2 partners, 1 brother-in-law
- Recruited from community support programs, referral, social media, snowball sampling
- HVE: 8 Salafi Jihadists, 8 racially-ethnically motivated, 1 anarchist

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- Lesson #1: Violent extremists & their families experience acute personal & social traumas.

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Join/found  
extremist group



Impose beliefs  
on others



International  
travel



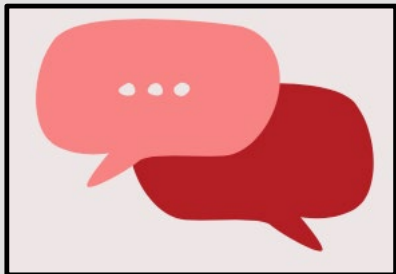
Attend extremist  
events



Isolate from  
divergent views



Attempt to  
radicalize others



Emotional  
changes



Appearance  
changes



Consume  
propaganda



Distant or  
secretive

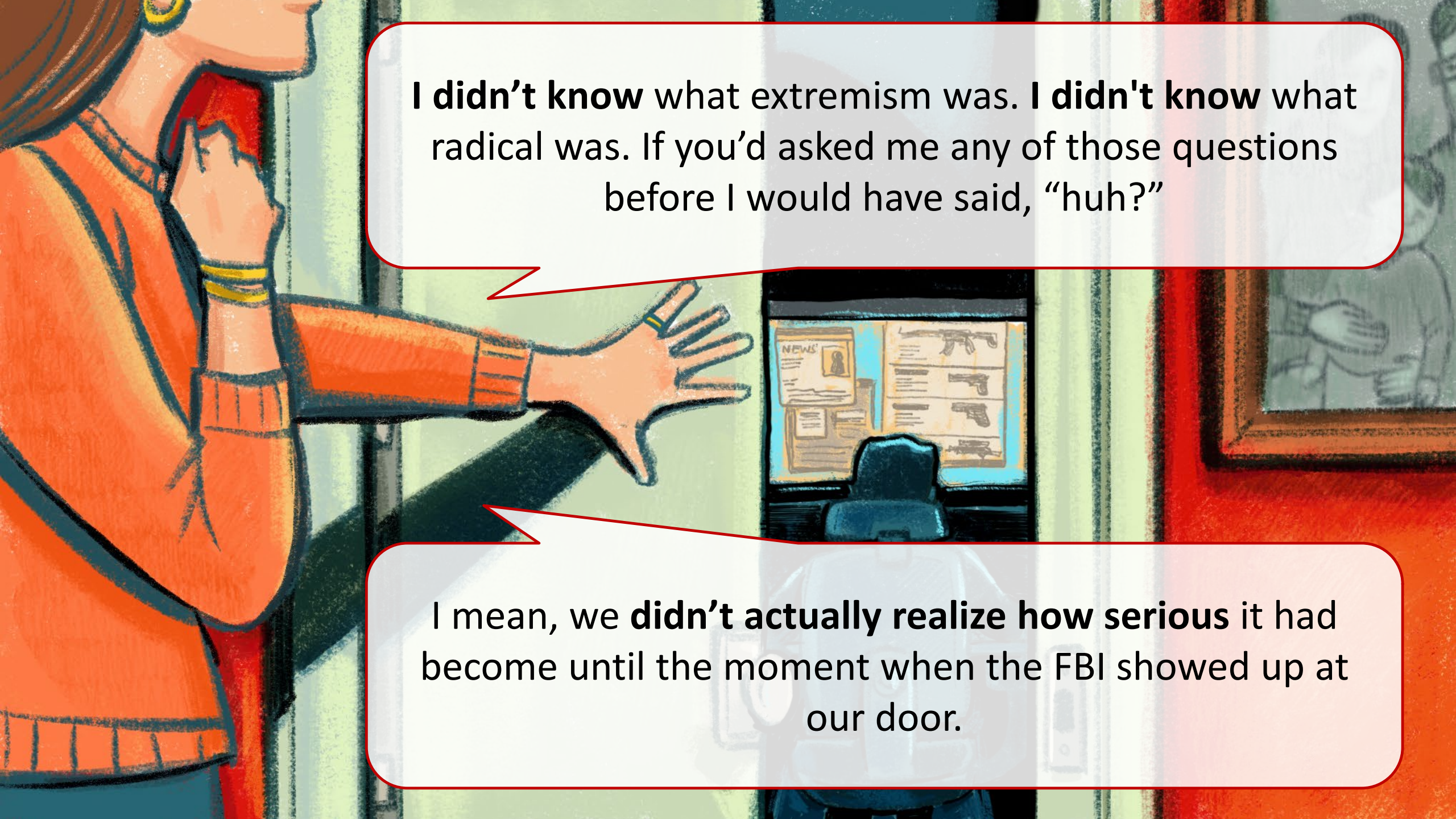


There was a point where **he was really, really wanting us to convert...** He really wanted us to convert and he had had one girlfriend for years and years and **he wanted her to convert** and she just said, "This isn't for me." And then **he ended that relationship because of that.** They were in a relationship, and it was a very settled, sweet relationship. So, toward the end that started happening.



When I went and spoke to his imam, he gave us a tour of the mosque, and he was downstairs and Mark was away from us and he said, “I notice your son’s enthusiasm in class. I don’t know him very well.” He goes, “But I **notice his enthusiasm. And it concerns me.** I’m sure you’ve noticed the **drastic change in his clothing.**” And I said, “Yeah.” And he goes, “That concerns me too...My friends at the mosque in Detroit are concerned about him because **he’s harsh and judgmental.**”

He had started **changing himself**, totally different, completely different. He was no longer Kevin. He was **changing his name**. It's like wait a minute. You're **changing your clothes**. You're changing your name. You're **changing everything about you**.



**I didn't know** what extremism was. **I didn't know** what radical was. If you'd asked me any of those questions before I would have said, "huh?"

I mean, we **didn't actually realize how serious** it had become until the moment when the FBI showed up at our door.

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- Lesson #1: Violent extremists & their families experience acute personal & social traumas.
- Lesson #2: Family members observed many indicators but the majority did not understand or appreciate the severity.

***What do practitioners need to know to support the families of homegrown violent extremists?***

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- **Families need access to trauma-informed care before *and* after radicalization.**
  - Public-health approach vs. punitive (criminal) approach.
  - At-risk youth in early stages of radicalization require a different strategy.
- **Families need access to *quality* material, knowledge, and support.**
  - Educational/training materials (in all forms).
  - Therapeutic/emotional support services for those coping with the consequences of radicalization.

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**KARYN SPORER, PhD**

University of Maine

## **Contact Information:**

[karyn.sporer@maine.edu](mailto:karyn.sporer@maine.edu)

**Thank you!**

