

2023 Iowa Homeland Security Conference

October 11-13, 2023

Speaker & Professional title:

Madalena DeAndrea, Senior Manager of Strategic Projects, Recovery, and Resiliency for Jeffco Public Schools

Speaker Biography:

Madalena is the daughter of retired Deputy Chief AJ DeAndrea. The backdrop of her childhood were the events of her father's historic career. Following her undergraduate studies, Madalena went out for a night of dancing with her friends at Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks, CA and the unthinkable happened - a gunman came in and started shooting. Madalena was able to find safety in the attic above the bar where she stayed for the remainder of the tragedy, as 12 people were killed.

In the aftermath, Madalena made a choice to not let evil win and to be a force for good in the world. After serving for four years as an Emergency Management Specialist for Jeffco Public Schools, the School District she grew up in, Madalena now proudly serves as the Senior Manager of Strategic Projects, Recovery, & Resiliency for Jeffco. In this first of its kind position, Madalena supports the implementation of strategic safety initiatives and recovery planning, prior to crisis occurring.

In her spare time, Madalena also travels the country telling her story. She is passionate about empowering individuals and communities with the mindsets and tools needed to build resiliency even in the face of life's uncertainties!