Addressing the Impact of Trauma When a Mass Violence Incident Occurs

Moderator: Diane Alexander

Featured Hosts: Krista Flannigan Herman Millholland

July 26, 2017

The session is being recorded. The audio for today's session will play through your computer speakers.
Technical Overview

- If you are experiencing any technical issues with the audio for this session, please let us know in the Chat box.

- As with all technology, we may experience a momentary lapse in the webinar session. In the event of a problem, please be patient and remain on the line. If the problem persists, please contact our technical specialist, Jason Adams, by sending him a private chat or by emailing him at jadams@ovcttac.org for technical assistance.

- Today’s session will be recorded and made available on the OVC TTAC Expert Q&A Past Sessions tab.

- Please type your questions in the Chat box, and we will address as many as possible during this session.
Overview of Adobe Connect

Applying for VOCA Formula Funds on the State Level:
How to Navigate the New Final Rule, Increased VOCA Funding, and the State Administering Agency Applications
February 15, 2017

The session is being recorded.
The audio for today’s session will play through your computer speakers.
Featured Hosts

Krista R. Flannigan, J.D.  Herman Millholland
Poll

Who are you?
How do you qualify the difference between an act of mass violence and terrorism?
Mass Violence

MASS VIOLENCE means an intentional violent criminal act that results in physical, emotional, or psychological harm to a sufficiently large number of people.
Terrorism

- Domestic Terrorism means activities that—
  - Involve acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state, and
  - Appear to be intended
    - to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;
    - to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or
    - to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping; and occur primarily within the territorial jurisdiction of the United States.
Terrorism

- International Terrorism involves violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that are a violation of the criminal laws of the United States or of any state, or that would be a criminal violation if committed within the jurisdiction of the United States or of any state; and
  - Appear to be intended
    - to intimidate or coerce a civilian population;
    - to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or
    - to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination or kidnaping; and occur primarily outside the territorial jurisdiction of the United States, or transcend national boundaries in terms of the means by which they are accomplished, the persons they appear intended to intimidate or coerce, or the locale in which their perpetrators operate or seek asylum.
What is the physiological impact on victims who are part of mass violence incidents?
Physiology of Trauma

- Adrenaline rush/heart rate increase
- Elicits potential for extraordinary strength
- Survival response: potent, immediate
- General increase in muscle tension throughout the body
- Body thermostat = shivering, sweating, or normal
- Blood glucose and insulin imbalance
- Hunger and thirst response to deficiency
- Creates high potential for cardiovascular spasms
- Slowing of metabolism
- Struggle to return to stability, normal condition
Common Trauma Reactions and Responses

Physical

Emotional

Cognitive

Behavioral

Spiritual
What protocols are there around mass violence incidents?
About the Toolkit

- Purpose of the Toolkit
- Who Should Use the Toolkit?
- How To Use the Toolkit
- Acknowledgments

Purpose of the Toolkit

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)—in coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Office for Victim Assistance and the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Justice for Victims of Overseas Terrorism—developed this toolkit to help communities prepare for and respond to victims of mass violence and terrorism in the most timely, effective, and compassionate manner possible.

Lessons learned from past incidents indicate that through advanced planning (which includes the establishment of victim assistance protocols), and by developing and maintaining multidisciplinary partnerships, communities are better prepared to engage a holistic approach to victim assistance to ensure that each victim’s needs are met. However, this toolkit also contains materials that will aid communities’ responses to victims even if they have not planned for an incident.
### Victim Assistance Protocols

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protocol*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact List Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Meeting Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Practice Drills and Exercises Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident Command System Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Assistance Center Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim Identification Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notification Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and Preparedness Grants and Emergency Funding Assistance Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Management Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation Management Protocol (Funds, Goods, and Services)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice System: Victim Support Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Resiliency Protocol</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What are the top three lessons we as state administrators can pass along to the advocacy field?
Role of State Administrators

- Participate in the planning process
- Promote the importance of a Victim Assistance Plan
- Ensure financial support for communities
- Educate subgrantees and partner agencies
- Serve as a partner in relationship development
- Share plan with non-planning involved agencies/local government agencies (i.e., cities, counties, villages)
- Share the toolkit widely
What is the best way to go about getting a "seat at the table" before an incident takes place?
Benefits of Partnerships & Planning

- Ensures that a comprehensive mass violence and terrorism emergency response plan is in place.
- Essential to community readiness when everyone is at the table.
- Includes victim assistance strategy, capacity for an effective response, and sufficient resources.
Poll

Do you know who handles emergency response in your state?
What role do community-based advocates have to assist?

How can community-based advocates reach out and best prepare for when something does occur?
Where might advocates offer their services to be contacted during traumatic events?
Is there such thing as "too many cooks in the kitchen" when an incident response occurs?
When do you think intervention is most effective?

Is there an optimal time for state compensation programs to offer services?
Phases of Response to Mass Tragedy

- **PLANNING**
- Immediate ("Acute")
  - During incident
  - Immediate aftermath
  - Completion of rescue
  - Notification/Reunification Center
- Intermediate ("Transitional")
  - Up to first anniversary
  - Completion of prosecution phase
  - Family Assistance Center/Community Resilience Center/Safe Haven
- Long-Term ("Recovery")
  - Up to 18 months+
  - Appeals, parole hearings, penalty imposition
  - Memorial dedications and anniversaries
  - Community Resilience Center
- **PLANNING**
What are some of the things mental health professionals should avoid doing in the immediate hours/days after the incident?
Funding and Resources
Is there any emergency grant funding should an incident occur?
Do the states get a list of what individuals are awarded federal compensation?
Technical Assistance Opportunity

- Initial Consultation
- Meeting Facilitation
- Protocol Development
- Followup Consultation
- There is no cost for the assistance.

Email TTAC@ovcttac.org to request an application or to get more information.
Next Month

**Topic:** Organizational-Level Response and Planning for Staff Compassion Fatigue/Vicarious Trauma

**Featured Hosts:** Janet Fine and Lisa Tieszen

**Date:** August 23, 2017, at 2:00 p.m. e.t.
Thank You!

To learn about upcoming Expert Q&A sessions, please visit the OVC TTAC Expert Q&A page at www.ovcttac.gov/ExpertQA.

If your question was not addressed in this session, you can email your question to our hosts:

Krista Flannigan: kflannigan.ovcconsult@gmail.com
Herman Millholland: herman@millhollandassociates.com