

2024 Virtual Summit: Fundamentals of Mass Violence Preparation, Response, Recovery, & Resilience

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

CO-FACILITATORS:

Kevin O'Brien, M.A., Ed.D., NMVC Consultant
Anne Seymour, NMVC Associate Academic Program Director

9:00 am to 9:40 am Welcoming Remarks & Overview

Introductions: *Kevin O'Brien, M.A., Ed.D., National Mass Violence Center (NMVC) Consultant*

Speakers:

- *Dean Kilpatrick, Ph.D., Director, National Mass Violence Center*
- *Kristina Rose, Director, USDOJ Office for Victims of Crime*
- *Ed Gainey, Mayor of Pittsburgh*

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the scope of mass violence incidents (MVIs) in America, and their impact on victims, survivors, first responders, community and civic leaders, and the entire nation.
- Identify the importance of partnerships and collaborations for effective MVI preparation and response.
- Describe the evidence-based impact of mass violence on direct survivors and communities and conclude with NMVC community and victim/survivor surveys.

9:40 am to 10:25 am “The Power of the Personal Story” of Mass Violence Victims: Survivors Panel

Moderator: *Anne Seymour, NMVC Associate Academic Program Director*

Panelists:

- *John Arcediano, Survivor of Club Q shooting in 2022, and Program & Outreach Manager for Prism Communities Collective*
- *Amy C. O'Neill, MS, LPC, Survivor of the Boston Marathon Bombing in 2013, NMVC Survivors and Providers Steering Committee, and NMVC Consultant*
- *Garnell Whitfield, Jr., Former Fire Commissioner of Buffalo, Son of Ruth Whitfield (Victim of Tops Supermarket Shooting in Buffalo, NY in 2022), NMVC Survivors and Providers Steering Committee*

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the personal impact of MVIs on victims, survivors, and their families.
- Explain the “ripple effects” of mass violence in the immediate aftermath of MVIs and over the long-term recovery efforts on the path to resiliency.
- Identify the importance of providing trauma-informed, survivor-centered support and services that are widely accessible, including to underserved victims and survivors and traditionally marginalized communities.

10:25 am to 10:40 am BREAK



10:40 am to 11:30 am “Lessons Learned”: Best Practices in Mass Violence Preparation, Response, Recovery, & Resiliency: Panel

Moderator: *Alyssa Rheingold, Ph.D., Director, NMVC Response, Recovery, & Resilience Division*

Panelists:

- *Pamela Ferguson-Brey, Executive Director, Hawai’i Crime Victim Compensation Commission, and NMVC Consultant*
- *Staci Beers, DSW, LSW, Victim Services Coordinator/Crisis Response Canine Handler*
- *Maggie Feinstein, Executive Director, 10.27 Healing Partnership, Pittsburgh, PA, NMVC Survivors and Providers Steering Committee, and NMVC Consultant*

Learning Objectives:

- Describe effective, evidence-based strategies for survivor-centered mass violence preparedness, response, recovery, and resiliency.
- Identify the key agencies and organizations required to support such strategies, and how to proactively engage them in advance of an MVI.

11:30 am to 12:00 pm Foundations of Faith in Mass Violence Response & Resiliency

Introductions: *Maggie Feinstein, Director, 10.27 Healing Partnership, Pittsburgh, PA, NMVC Survivors and Providers Steering Committee, and NMVC Consultant*

Panelists:

- *Reverend Eric S.C. Manning, Mother Emanuel Church, Charleston, SC*
- *Rabbi Hazzan Jeffrey Myers, Tree of Life Synagogue, Pittsburgh, PA*

The critical role of multi-Faith institutions and leaders in helping mass violence victims, survivors, first responders and communities to recover and build resiliency will be addressed.

12:10 pm- 1:30 pm LUNCH BREAK

1:30 pm to 1:40 pm Welcome and Overview

- *Anne Seymour, Virtual Summit Co-Facilitator, NMVC Associate Academic Program Director*
- *Kevin O’Brien, Ed.D., Virtual Summit Co-Facilitator, NMVC Consultant*
- *Dean Kilpatrick, Ph.D., NMVC Director*
- *Renée Williams, J.D., Executive Director, National Center for Victims of Crime*

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

1. Describe the four fundamental foci of effective, collaborative response to mass violence incidents.



1:40 pm to 2:00 pm The Power of the Personal Story: A Survivor’s Perspective

- *Anne Seymour, Virtual Summit Co-Facilitator, NMVC Associate Academic Program Director*
- *Michelle Rosenthal, Sister of Cecil and David Rosenthal (Victims in Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting in 2018)*
- *Maggie Feinstein, Director, 10.27 Healing Partnership, Pittsburgh, PA, NMVC Survivors and Providers Steering Committee, and NMVC Consultant*

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Describe how the lived experiences of MVI survivors affect preparation, response, recovery, and resiliency strategies.
2. Identify the importance of survivor-centered and trauma-informed services and services that address the needs of MVI-impacted communities.

2:00 pm to 2:40 pm MVI Preparedness

- *Angela Moreland, Ph.D., NMVC Associate Director, and NMVC Director, Preparedness Division*
- *Elizabeth Cronin, Esq., NMVC Associate Academic Program Director*
- *Chief Gregory Mullen, Associate Vice President of Public Safety at Clemson University*
- *Carrie Gonzalez, Senior Emergency Management Specialist, Virginia Department of Emergency Management*
- *Vanessa Flores, Deputy Emergency Manager, University of California-Irvine*

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify strategies needed to understand the impacted community – including traditionally-marginalized communities – to be able to best identify and address their needs through comprehensive, collaborative planning.
2. List the key partners needed to effectively develop a survivor-centered MVI emergency response plan at the local, state, and Tribal levels.
3. Describe community needs assessments, gap analyses, and the identification of resources needed to serve MVI-impacted communities.

2:40 pm to 3:00 pm BREAK

3:00 pm to 3:25 pm MVI Response

- *Kevin O’Brien, Ed.D., NMVC Consultant*
- *Krista Flannigan, NMVC Consultant*
- *Roger Roberts, Director of Crisis Response Services, National Organization for Victim Advocacy*

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Describe important strategies needed to establish a Family & Friends Center in the immediate response phase; and a Family Assistance Center in the aftermath of an MVI.
2. Identify protocols to conduct victim/survivor needs assessments and to begin the collaborative case management process.
3. Acquire information about NOVA’s Crisis Response Team and how to access NOVA CRT support.



3:25 pm to 4:00 pm MVI Recovery & Resiliency

- *Alyssa Rheingold, Ph.D., Director, NMVC Response, Recovery & Resiliency Division*
- *Alberto “Beto” Ruiz, Interim Director, El Paso United Resiliency Center*
- *Maggie Feinstein, Executive Director, 10.27 Healing Partnership, Pittsburgh, PA, NMVC Survivors and Providers Steering Committee, and NMVC Consultant*

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

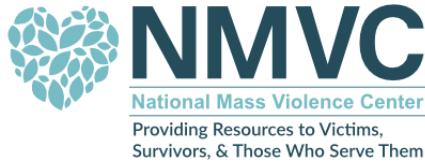
1. Describe evidence-based behavior/mental health responses to MVI victims, survivors, and impacted communities.
2. Identify “lessons learned” from Resiliency Center Directors about effective strategies for long-term recovery and resiliency.

4:00 pm to 4:30 pm Resources Available from the NMVC and NCVC

- *Aurelia Sands Belle, NMVC Research Instructor*
- *Renée Williams, J.D., Executive Director, National Center for Victims of Crime*
- *Dean Kilpatrick, Ph.D. NMVC Director*

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify the resources available from the NMVC and its 19 partners.
2. Describe the resources available from the NCVC, including the National Compassion Fund.
3. Describe the important role of *any* dedicated individual, organization or agency in supporting MVI preparedness, response, recovery and resiliency initiatives at the local, state, Tribal and/or national levels.



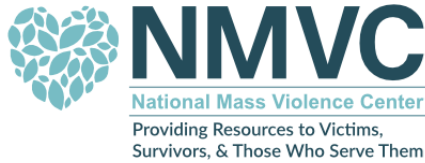
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

John Arcediano is the Program & Outreach Manager, Prism Community Collective and Club Q Survivor. When John (he/him) joined Community Health Partnership as the Program and Outreach Manager for Prism Community Collective, he brought with him over 15 years of operations and managerial experience with The Melting Pot Restaurants. As a survivor of the attack at Club Q in Colorado Springs in November 2022, he has witnessed firsthand the devastating impact of this tragedy on the community. This experience has driven him to shift his career towards survivor and LGBTQ+ advocacy and support. In response to the institutional breakdowns in addressing the needs of Club Q survivors, he has taken a leadership role in advocating for victims, families, and survivors, ensuring they receive the necessary resources and support. He has engaged in conversations with statewide leaders and collaborated with government institutions, non-profits, and first response teams to drive systemic change in how mass tragedy events are handled in Colorado Springs following Club Q. Speaking about his experiences statewide with the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance (COVA), he strives to effect meaningful change at the Victim Advocate level by fostering a deeper understanding of how to address the needs of survivors and victims of mass tragedies. John has been instrumental in the development, operations, and launch of Prism Community Collective, Colorado Springs' newest LGBTQ+ resource center. This center is dedicated to serving those directly impacted by the Club Q tragedy and the broader LGBTQ+ community in the Pikes Peak Region.

Staci Beers, DSW, LSW, is a Victim Services Coordinator for the FBI Victim Services Division. She is also a Crisis Response Canine Handler for the FBI. Dr. Beers' canine is Wally, one of the first two FBI Crisis Response Canines designated to work with victims and first responders at crisis incidents. Dr. Beers launched the FBI's death notification training - *We Regret to Inform You* - in 2015 through a partnership with Penn State University. In 2024, the course expanded into the FBI's Trauma Notification Training. Beers has now traveled to more than 30 FBI field offices to offer Trauma Notification Training in person. She has reached approximately 800 special agents, task force officers, victim specialists, linguists, and employee assistance personnel. One goal of the training is to ensure offices have specially designated teams to assist with death and other traumatic notifications after a crisis or mass casualty event.

Aurelia Sands Belle is Research Instructor in Charleston, South Carolina for the National Mass Violence Center (NMVC) of the National Crime Victim Research and Treatment Center at the Medical University of South Carolina. The mission of the NMVC is to strengthen the nation's capacity to serve victims and survivors of incidences of mass violence through research, planning, training, technology, and collaboration. Prior to her current position, Aurelia served as the Executive Director of the Durham Crisis Response Center in Durham, North Carolina, a community based domestic violence and sexual assault nonprofit center. Aurelia's professional victim advocacy career includes direct services as a sexual assault advocate and leadership as an Executive Director of a rape crisis center and a comprehensive program for all crime victims. She initiated and organized the response to victims and witnesses during the 1996 Centennial Olympic bombing. During her career, Aurelia has served on national and local crisis response teams for incidents such as the World Trade Center explosion, student bus crash, tornadoes, hostage taking and prison rioting and bank robberies. Aurelia is the recipient of many awards, honors and recognitions including the U.S. Presidential Award for Outstanding Service and Commitment to Crime Victims (OVC). She earned a BA in Urban Studies from Oglethorpe University and a master's degree in Community Counseling from Georgia State University.

Maggie Feinstein, Executive Director of the 10.27 Healing Partnership, is a master's level professional counselor who has distinguished herself in the field of integrated mental health. She received her undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in International Relations and received her master's degree from the University of San Francisco in Counseling Psychology. She worked in San Francisco and Anchorage before returning to Pittsburgh. Maggie has presented at professional conferences on topics of juvenile justice reform, collaborative health care, and now the impacts of violent extremism. She currently resides in Squirrel Hill with her husband and two children.



Pamela Ferguson-Brey has served as the Executive Director for Hawai'i's Crime Victim Compensation Commission since 1999. After receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in Entomology, Ms. Ferguson-Brey went on to earn her law degree from the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i. She served as the Executive Director of the Commission on the Status of Women, as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the City and County of Honolulu prosecuting family abuse cases and as the Prosecutor's legislative liaison, and as a Deputy Attorney General in Child Abuse and Neglect cases. Ms. Ferguson-Brey received the 1994 Hawai'i Women Lawyer of the Year award, in part, for her efforts to establish the Hawai'i's Missing Child Center. She initiated the first month long Women's Health Month and received an Outstanding Achievement Award for that project from the National Association of Commissions for Women. In April 2013, Ms. Ferguson-Brey was honored with the Crime Victims Financial Restoration Award by United States Attorney General Eric Holder for her efforts to improve restitution collection for crime victims in Hawai'i, and in April 2019 she received the Loretta "Deliana" Fuddy Lifetime Achievement Award from the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (IVAT).

Krista Flannigan, J.D., is an attorney, educator, and advocate experienced in emergency response and disaster management, media relations, community collaboration, and program development. As a consultant with the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), she has responded to numerous incidents of mass violence and terrorism around the country to assist in the immediate aftermath, as well as support communities in establishing long-term services for those impacted by the incidents. In addition, Ms. Flannigan helped to create a national resource E-toolkit for a coordinated victim service response to incidents of mass violence and terrorism. She also works with communities and universities to develop victim response plans to incidents of mass violence and terrorism, and trains nationally on coordinated community response for victims of mass violence, high profile trials, and on the impact of mass tragedy on victims and communities. Ms. Flannigan co-authored two guidebooks and developed a training video about community response to victims of high-profile mass tragedy trials. She also co-authored a book depicting lessons learned from journeying alongside those recovering from disaster. Ms. Flannigan is on the faculty of Florida State University College of Criminology and Criminal Justice and is Co-Director of the Crime Victim Research and Policy Institute. She has developed and is teaching courses for a victim services special studies program.

Vanessa Flores is the Deputy Director of Emergency Management at the University of California, Irvine with over 16 years of experience in the field. Commencing her career as an Emergency Manager in the United States Air Force, she served as both an emergency responder and planner, addressing diverse incidents such as aircraft incidents, barricaded suspects, severe weather events, hazardous materials spills, power outages, and infectious disease outbreaks. Following 12 years in the military, Vanessa transitioned to the role of Emergency Management Officer at the Naval Weapon Station in Seal Beach, CA. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she spearheaded the development and management of a comprehensive response program, serving as the primary point of contact for all pandemic-related matters. This included, but was not limited to, the development and management of a contact tracing program, reporting and tracking, policy development and enforcement, and vaccination management for the installation. Subsequently, in the higher education sector, she orchestrated a comprehensive rewrite of the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and all corresponding documents. This included the creation of annexes covering Mass Evacuation, Acts of Violence, Earthquake, Information and Notification Center (INC)/Family Assistance Center (FAC) plans and Extreme Heat, reflecting her commitment to advancing emergency management practices and preparedness. More recently, she developed INC/FAC plan templates and supporting documentation for all IHEs to utilize in the development of their campus INC and FAC operations. In addition, Vanessa has developed IHE specific training on INC/FAC operations to help educate about victim-based response to a mass casualty incident within the uniqueness of higher education. More recently, she has developed Incident Command (INC) and Family Assistance Center (FAC) plan templates, along with supporting documentation, for all Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to use in establishing their campus INC and FAC operations. Additionally, she has created specialized training programs on INC/FAC operations tailored specifically for IHEs, focusing on educating stakeholders about victim-based responses to mass casualty incidents within the unique context of higher education. Vanessa's dual experience as both a planner and an



NMVC
National Mass Violence Center
Providing Resources to Victims,
Survivors, & Those Who Serve Them



emergency responder across different industries enriches her role as an emergency manager. Responding to crises firsthand has equipped her with the ability to make decisive decisions under pressure. Simultaneously, her experience as a planner has honed my foresight, enabling the development of comprehensive emergency plans tailored to diverse contexts. This combination of hands-on expertise and strategic planning allows me to bridge theory and practice seamlessly, ensuring that emergency management strategies are not only theoretically sound but also practically viable. This well-rounded background uniquely positions her to navigate the complexities of emergency management, fostering a holistic and adaptable approach to handling a diverse array of incidents. Vanessa's passion for emergency management stems from a deep commitment to community safety and resilience. The dynamic nature of the field, coupled with the opportunity to develop comprehensive strategies that protect lives and property during crises, fuels my dedication. Contributing to preparedness and recovery efforts is not just a professional pursuit but a personal mission to make a positive impact in times of adversity which is why she started her own business, Flores EM, LCC. Vanessa's business allows her the opportunity to use her experience and knowledge to assist multiple different types of agencies.

Mayor Ed Gainey grew up in East Liberty and saw firsthand the economic hardships many families face in our city. Raised by a single mother, he counted on the support of his extended family and community to build a pathway to high school and college. Inspired to do the same for others, Ed Gainey discovered in college that an effective government can be a powerful tool to fight injustice and uplift communities. As a State Representative in Harrisburg, he was on the front line fighting for working families, and as Mayor of Pittsburgh he'll work every day to make Pittsburgh a city where all can belong and contribute. Ed and his wife Michelle have three children and live in the Lincoln-Lemington neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

Carrie Gonzalez, CEM is an emergency management professional with experience that has spanned the non-profit, private, local, and state government sectors facilitating emergency preparedness efforts and supporting disaster response and recovery operations. In her current role with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, she is responsible for managing regional preparedness initiatives including planning, training, and exercises, coordinating these activities with local, state, regional, and federal partners. Ms. Gonzalez is a co-founder and co-chair of the Northern Virginia Family Assistance Work Group, the mission of which is to build a network of multi-discipline expertise and resources to enhance capabilities to support victim and survivor assistance operations through preparedness initiatives and institutionalizing concepts, processes, and resources across the region. Ms. Gonzalez has managed and/or supported numerous local, regional, and state projects intended to assist in preparing for, responding to and recovering from mass casualty/mass fatality incidents including the development of templates, plans, and trainings, and exercises for family assistance operations. She responded to the Virginia Beach Municipal Center Shooting in May 2019 and assisted with the management of the Family Assistance Center. Ms. Gonzalez is a Certified NOVA Crisis Responder and Group Crisis Intervention Facilitator and a member of the Virginia Crisis Assistance and Response Team. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSW) from George Mason University and is a Virginia Professional Emergency Manager (VaPEM) and a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) through the International Association of Emergency Managers.

Dean Kilpatrick, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist who is a Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina where he has been a faculty member since 1970. Primary research interests include measuring prevalence and mental health consequences of exposure to sexual violence, violent crime, mass violence, disasters, and other potentially traumatic events. He and his research team have conducted numerous studies on these topics funded by grants from the NIH, VA, CDC, National Institute of Justice, and Office for Victims of Crime. He has over 475 publications that have been widely cited as indicated by his h Index of 116. He was Editor-In-Chief of the Journal of Traumatic Stress, founding member of SC's first rape crisis center in 1974, founder and Director of the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center since its establishment in 1977, and Director of the National Mass Violence Center since 2017. He served on several National



Academy of Sciences Committees and on work groups that revised the diagnostic criteria for PTSD in DSM-IV and DSM-5. He received the US Presidential Award for Outstanding Contributions to Victims of Crime, the US Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus Allied Professional Award, Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, End Violence Against Women International, and the International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies, and the Order of the Palmetto, SC's highest civilian honor.

The Reverend Eric S.C. Manning is the husband of Andretta M. Manning and is the proud father of Ashley and Eric II. He is the son of Louis Manning Jr. and Queen E. Manning Gordon. Rev. Manning, a native of Norristown, PA, holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Excelsior College and a Master of Divinity Degree from Erskine Theological Seminary. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry from Erskine Theological Seminary. Additionally, Rev. Manning served honorably in the US Army in Military Intelligence and had a successful career in information technology, culminating at Hewlett Packard Enterprises (HPE), before transitioning to full-time pastoral ministry. In 2004, Rev. Manning was elevated to the esteemed position of Pastor and assumed his first pastoral charge at Welch Chapel A.M.E. Church in Timmonsville, SC. He went on to serve at Trinity AME in Pamplico, SC (Aug 2007 – Sept 2011), St. Paul AME in Effingham, SC (Sept 2011 – November 2014), and Historic Bethel AME in Georgetown, SC (November 2014 – June 2016). Throughout his tenure at these churches, he demonstrated unwavering dedication to the congregation, actively contributed to the expansion of the Kingdom of God and provided exemplary leadership to the community. In June 2016, Rev. Manning was assigned to Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC, as the Senior Pastor. In his capacity, Rev. Manning has led the congregation on a journey of healing, recovery, and restoration. Early in his administration, he spent time understanding where the family members, church members, and survivors were in their journey by showing a “ministry of presence” during the Federal and State trials. He has worked with the National Crime Victim Research & Treatment Center of MUSC to ensure comprehensive services were available to the survivors, families, and the community. This included establishing the Mother Emanuel Empowerment Center (MEEC), which focused on developing resilience and becoming stronger by integrating faith, hope, healing, and health by providing spiritual and therapeutic services to the impacted communities. He is the Co-Chair of the Mother Emanuel Memorial Foundation, which manages the fundraising, construction, endowment, and development of social justice programs and outreach for the Emanuel Nine Memorial. The Emanuel Nine Memorial is a national memorial planned to honor the five survivors and the nine church members and clergy murdered in 2015 during Bible Study at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC. He is the Chairman of the Historical Mother Emanuel AMEC Foundation, which oversees the church archives and is responsible for the church renovation program. He continues to provide key leadership in the community by serving on several boards and lending his voice to speak out against hatred, racism, bigotry, gun violence, educational inadequacies, and injustices that impact so many in our community, state, country, and the world. It is his desire to stay humble and please the Lord because he understands that it is not about him but about the Kingdom of God and loving our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Angela Moreland, Ph.D., is Associate Professor at the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center (NCVC) at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Purdue University in 2009 and completed her pre-doctoral clinical internship and post-doctoral research fellowship at the NCVC. Among her research interests, Dr. Moreland has examined the link between victimization and high-risk behaviors, such as substance use and delinquency, among children and adolescents. Currently, her primary projects focus on prevention of maltreatment, as well as other negative consequences, among substance-using parents; as well as several other projects focused on dissemination and implementation of evidence-based trauma-focused treatments. In addition to serving as Associate Director of the NMVC, Dr. Moreland currently serves as the Evaluator of a Category II center through the National Child Traumatic Stress Network; the EMPOWER Expansion Project, which targets prevention of HIV among high-risk adolescents; and Charleston HEART, which is a homicide early intervention and advocacy response team. Dr. Moreland has also served as Evaluator of several large-scale longitudinal projects funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Office on Violence Against Women, SAHMSA, FEMA, the Duke Endowment, and the National Institutes of Health. Finally, Dr. Moreland serves as the Director of the Center



for Firefighter Behavioral Health, which provides resources and support to address behavioral health needs of firefighters.

Gregory G. Mullen has served as the Associate Vice President of Public Safety and Chief of Police at Clemson University since August 15, 2018. Leading Clemson’s Public Safety Division, he oversees the Police, Fire and EMS, Emergency Management and Physical Security divisions. Prior to this he served as the Chief of Police of the Charleston Police Department from October 2006 until August 1, 2017. Mullen led critical incident responses demonstrating expertise in assessing situations, mobilizing necessary resources, and coordinating teams during Clemson’s emergency operations COVID-19 response, the simultaneous trials of Dylann Roof and Michael Slager (2016), Hurricane Matthew (2016), Emanuel AME Church shooting (2015), and the Sofa Super Store Fire (2007). Chief Mullen is an experienced leader with a proven record of community involvement, cultivating relationships and leveraging teamwork to create opportunities and address challenges. Chief Mullen leads by example with a commitment to lifelong learning, employee growth and accountability. Chief Mullen received a bachelor’s degree in criminology with Honors from Saint Leo College and a master’s degree in public administration from Old Dominion University. He is a graduate of the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at Harvard’s Kennedy School, FBI National Academy, and the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia.

Rabbi Hazzan Jeffrey Myers has served as the Rabbi and Cantor for the Tree of Life in Pittsburgh since the summer of 2017. He moved to the City of Bridges after spending decades in ministry in New Jersey and Long Island. He received a BA from Rutgers, an MA in Jewish Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary and studied privately with Cantor Zvi Aroni before graduating from the Cantorial School of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America. After the horrific morning of October 27, 2018, when a heavily armed gunman began a murderous rampage in the Tree of Life, Rabbi Myers—who survived the attack—became the face of the tragedy. Since then, he has set about sending the key message that love is stronger than hate. Rabbi Myers contends that a lack of understanding of our neighbors leads to fear and sometimes loathing, which can lead to acts of violence. Rabbi Myers believes that if we are ever to remove the "H word" from our society, it must start with pledging not to use that word in speech, just as he has done in honor of the 11 lives lost at the Tree of Life. Rabbi Myers is a 2019 recipient of the Simon Wiesenthal Center Medal of Valor, given out to those who exemplify the good deeds of outstanding individuals who honor mankind and whose courage and bravery shine a light in the darkest of places. Because of his service and actions during and after the Tree of Life massacre, Rabbi Myers received the medal which is inscribed: “He who saves a single life, it is as if he has saved an entire world.” Rabbi Myers also received Rabbinic Ordination from Mesivta Adath Wolkowisk. He organized the June 1998 gathering of nearly 1,000 children from the New York/New Jersey area to celebrate Israel’s 50th Anniversary in Central Park under the auspices of the 50th Anniversary Gathering of the Cantors Assembly. Rabbi Myers has served as a trustee on its Executive Council of the Cantors Assembly and chair of its Membership Committee and is currently the Senior Vice-President. He also served as a trustee on the Executive Board of the Jewish Educators Assembly and co-chair of the Membership Committee. He was a board member on the National Education Commission of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and the National Deliberation Team for Project Etgar, the new curriculum for the middle school that is a joint project of the United Synagogue and the Melton Institute. He also served on the Advisory Board of the Institute for Congregational School Principals Advisory Board. Rabbi Myers was the recipient of a Schechter Award for his interfaith Evening of Harmony that commemorates the Holocaust and awards for synagogue and family programming. He was a visiting lecturer at The Jewish Theological Seminary of America and has served as chair of the Downbeach Ministerium and the Interfaith Clergy Council. In 2018, he received an honorary doctorate in Jewish Music from The Jewish Theological Seminary, and an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Washington & Jefferson College. He has also been privileged to receive the Heroes designation from CNN, a Rescuer of Humanity medal from the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Rescuer of Humanity from Values in Action, the John E. McGrady Award for Community Service from the Heinz Foundation, and the Ronald H. Brown Leadership Award from the Urban League. He has testified before both Houses of Congress, participated in many gatherings in the White House, and has spoken throughout the United States on the proliferation of H speech.



Kevin O'Brien, M.A., Ed.D., is the former director of Disaster Behavioral Health Services for the District of Columbia Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). Previous positions included Director of Education and Victim Services for the National Center for Victims of Crime; analyst in the Division of Services and Intervention Research at the National Institute of Mental Health, National Institutes of Health; and director of Recover, a program providing immediate and on-going support to families affected by homicide and other forms of sudden or traumatic death in the District of Columbia. Dr. O'Brien holds a doctorate in counseling and a Master of Arts degree in pastoral counseling and family therapy. He brings more than 35 years of experience in the practice and supervision of community mental and behavioral health counseling with a specialization in loss, trauma, and victimization, and he has provided hundreds of multi-disciplinary trainings for victim service providers, health and behavioral health care professionals, and volunteers. Dr. O'Brien has co-facilitated the NMVC's Resiliency Center Directors' and Administrators' Forums since their inception.

Amy C. O'Neill, MS, LPC, is a survivor of the 2013 Boston Marathon Bombing and a licensed professional counselor with over 30 years of experience in mental health. She is an independent consultant for the OVC VOCA Center, the National Mass Violence Resource Center, and OVC TTAC. Amy has provided support and consultation to multiple communities impacted by mass violence, developed learning communities, and provided training and technical assistance for numerous victim service organizations. She contributed testimony for the development of the Model Legislative Provisions for the Rights of Victims of Terrorism for the United Nations and is a member of the European Union Center for Expertise for Victims of Terrorism. Amy serves on the Crisis Emotional Care Team for Vibrant Emotional Health, worked on the Disaster Distress Helpline peer support task force, the Disaster Mental Health Team for the American Red Cross, and the Survivors of Tragedy Outreach Program. In addition to her consulting work, she maintains a private counseling practice and is an Adjunct Instructor for the graduate Counseling Psychology Program at Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, PA. Amy is a doctoral candidate in Health Sciences with a concentration in Mental Health and is graduating in August 2024.

Alyssa Rheingold, Ph.D., is a licensed clinical psychologist and Professor at the National Crime Victim's Research and Treatment Center (NCVC) within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Medical University of South Carolina. She is the Associate Director of Administration and Director of Clinical Operations at the NCVC and Co-Director of the Sleep and Anxiety Treatment and Research Program. Dr. Rheingold completed her undergraduate coursework in 1996 at the University of Pennsylvania, graduating Cum Laude and with Honors in Psychology. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from MCP Hahnemann University (currently known as Drexel University). Dr. Rheingold completed a Pre-Doctoral Internship in Clinical Psychology at the Charleston Consortium Psychology Internship Program and a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the NCVC, Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Rheingold has been funded for both service and research projects by CDC, NIMH, OVV, VAWA, VOCA, SAMHSA, and OVC. Much of her work has centered around the area of crime victimization with a special emphasis on traumatic loss by homicide. She has directed the Specialized Services for Survivors of Homicide for the past 20 years in collaboration with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office. She brings a wealth of knowledge in research and clinical work related to loss and complicated bereavement. Dr. Rheingold has been the PI on several federally funded service-oriented grants to provide outreach services, both home-based and via telehealth, to recently bereaved survivors of homicide. These service projects demonstrate her experience both in working "in the field" attempting to implement and evaluate home-based programs but also demonstrates her clinical expertise with loss and bereavement. She was the recipient of an OVC grant to develop intensive case management services for family members of homicide who reside in rural areas and an OVC grant on developing community-based approaches to provide care for those impacted by intra-familial homicide. Related to immediate response to mass violence events, Dr. Rheingold was a Co-Investigator on a NIMH grant evaluating the feasibility and efficacy of victim advocates providing Psychological First Aid for victims of crime. On June 17, 2015, Dylan Roof attended a bible study at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC where he gunned down nine parishioners leaving five additional survivors. Over 600 people were directly impacted by this event including family members, church parishioners, and first responders in addition to the Charleston community at large.



NMVC
National Mass Violence Center
Providing Resources to Victims,
Survivors, & Those Who Serve Them



Dr. Rheingold was instrumental in the immediate response and continues to direct evidence based mental health services and resiliency and recovery efforts in Charleston. She was the Co-Director of OVC's AEAP grant awarded to MUSC to oversee eight partnering agencies in providing an array of victim services. She therefore is intimately knowledgeable in the OVC AEAP submission and implementation process and demonstrates the skill set to administer a large-scale multi-partner OVC cooperative agreement. Further, Dr. Rheingold has served as a consultant to OVC TTAC in the development and updates to a curriculum on Working with Survivors of Homicide as well as served as a consultant and trainer for an OVC funded project where she developed and provided the curriculum on traumatic grief in child homicide survivors. Dr. Rheingold served as an evaluator on Office of Violence Against Women demonstration initiative (2013-HI-AX-K009) to examine evidence based domestic violence homicide assessment practices. Lastly, she recently worked closely with OVC TTAC in the development and facilitation of a 4-week webinar entitled "Program Evaluation." Dr. Rheingold has published over 70 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters as well as provided over 120 presentations at regional and national conferences, many in the area of trauma and loss. She has provided a number of clinician and victim-related trainings including Loss by Homicide, Traumatic Grief, GRIEF Approach, Impact of Witnessing Domestic Violence, Stress Management, Mindfulness, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and Prolonged Exposure for PTSD.

Roger Roberts is a graduate of the Wright State University where he received his Bachelor of Arts in Social Work. Roger was the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the London City-Madison County Health District for 6 years and in 2008 became the Director of Emergency Management for Madison County. In 2018, Roger became the Director of Crisis Response Services for the National Organization for Victim Assistance. He is an active member of the Ohio Crisis Response Team where he has responded, as well as coordinated, team deployments to various traumatic events. Roger served as the team lead for NOVA's team deployed to the family assistance center in Las Vegas following a mass shooting on October 1st, 2017, Santa Fe High School shooting in May 2018 and Robb Elementary Schooling in June 2022. NOVA certified and TOT trained, he, has presented workshops at the National Organization for Victim Assistance National Conferences since 2006. Roger has also presented the NOVA basic crisis response team training® nationally and internationally. Most recently Antigua, Canada, Ecuador, Singapore, and Russia.

Kristina Rose is the Director of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) at the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), where she oversees programs and services that support crime victims and survivors. Ms. Rose was appointed to this position by President Joe Biden and sworn in on July 12, 2021. At OVC, she oversees nearly \$9 billion in grant funding to provide vital compensation and assistance to persons impacted by crime. OVC also invests in new and innovative approaches to improving the criminal justice and community response to crime victimization and raises awareness of crime victim rights. Prior to her OVC appointment, Ms. Rose was selected to serve on the Department of Defense Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military, where she led the Victim Care and Support line of effort. Ms. Rose spent nearly 20 years at DOJ serving in numerous roles including as Deputy Director at OVC, as Acting Director and Deputy Director for the National Institute of Justice, and as the Chief of Staff for the Office on Violence Against Women. In 2016, Ms. Rose had the distinct privilege of working at the White House on detail as a Senior Policy Advisor on violence against women in the Office of Vice President Joe Biden. As Senior Policy Advisor, she provided expert advice and guidance on domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In 2013, Ms. Rose spent 8 months as a victim advocate in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C., working hands-on with victims of all violent crimes. At DOJ, Ms. Rose spearheaded many large-scale Federal projects including the first national survey to measure the crime of stalking in the United States; an action research project on untested sexual assault kits that produced national models for jurisdictions around the country; and a virtual training on sexual assault forensic exams with Dartmouth Medical School. Ms. Rose also led the development of the first National Sexual Assault Telenursing Center, which provides virtual guidance to medical personnel conducting sexual assault forensic exams in rural and isolated areas. In between her periods of Federal service, Ms. Rose served in the non-profit sector as the Director of Strategic Partnerships for Healing Justice and as the Executive Director for End Violence Against Women International. She holds an M.S. in criminal justice from Northeastern University and a B.A. in sociology from George Mason University.

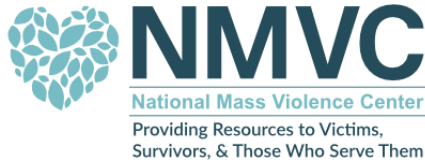


Michelle Rosenthal is the principal in Michele Rosenthal Consulting Group, a firm representing corporations, professional athletes, and nonprofits. Bringing an extensive network of relationships, she provides a holistic approach and customized solutions for her clients. Prior to launching her firm, Michele spent ten years as the Community Relations Manager for the Pittsburgh Steelers. She built the infrastructure for the Steelers Community Relations Department, enabling her to develop and strengthen relationships between the Steelers and community organizations. In this role, Michele supported the organization's government relations efforts and worked with local and national media to increase awareness and amplify both the team and players messages. In her positions as chief of staff and political consultant, Michele worked closely with all levels of government in addition to public and private organizations on issues ranging from economic development to transportation and health. Her leadership and experience in strategy development and managing complex projects has enabled her to diagnose challenges reframing them into opportunities. Michele holds a BS from Bentley College in Economics and Finance. She has volunteered on multiple political campaigns and served on the boards of ACHIEVA, Salvation Army- Project Bundle Up, Catholic Youth Association- Art Rooney Dinner, as well as YouthPlaces. She is currently serving on the 10.27 Healing Partnership Advisory Committee. Michele is married to Bob Kennedy and resides in Pittsburgh, PA.

Alberto “Beto” Ruiz is Senior Director of Community Resiliency at the United Way of El Paso County. Born in Chihuahua and raised in Mexico City and Juarez, Mexico, Alberto Ruiz has lived in El Paso, Texas, since 1999. He holds a master’s degree in guidance and counseling and a bachelor’s degree in psychology and French. Alberto also has certifications in advocacy and specialized training in victim services from the Matias Romero Institute in Mexico City. Professionally, Alberto has a decade of experience in Applied Behavior Analysis. He served as a Consular Protection Officer at the Consulate General of Mexico in El Paso for nine years and two years as Director of Community Affairs at the same diplomatic post, focusing on migrant advocacy and victim services. In addition, he has five years of experience in organizational development utilizing the Balanced Scorecard approach. Since 2019, Alberto has been an active contributor to the El Paso United Family Resiliency Center program, where he has played a key role in identifying the goals and community impact of the Center.

Anne Seymour has 36 years of experience as a national advocate for crime victims and survivors. She is currently the Center’s Associate Academic Program Director. She began her career in 1984 as the Director of Public Affairs for the National Office of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and, from 1985 to 1993, as co-founder and Director of Communications and Resource Development of the National Victim Center (now National Center for Victims of Crime). Seymour has consulted with the U.S. Departments of Justice, Defense, State and Health & Human Services, the Peace Corps, and all 50 state governments to develop policies and protocols that improve the sensitive treatment of crime victims and survivors and promote justice reforms that improve individual and public safety. She has been involved in several mass crisis responses, following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and the Navy Yard mass shooting in September 2013, among others. She served as a Lead Consultant to help plan and implement OVC’s 2009 “Assisting Victims of Terrorism and Mass Violence” National Symposium. Seymour also helped develop a training curriculum in 2016 for the District of Columbia Advanced Victim Services Academy, “Responding to Victims of Terrorism and Mass Violence Crimes;” and helped Dr. Kilpatrick document the mental health impact of Typhoon Xangsane on rural villages in Vietnam in 2006. Seymour has received numerous honors for her efforts, including two awards from U.S. Congress and the Department of Navy for her role in responding to the mass violence at the Navy Yard in September 2013; the 2007 U.S. Congressional Victims’ Rights Caucus Ed Stout Memorial Award for Outstanding Victim Advocacy; and the 1992 “Outstanding Services to Crime Victims” award from President Bush. She lives in Washington, DC where she enjoys gardening, long walks and cheering for her beloved Green Bay Packers.

Garnell W. Whitfield, Jr. is the retired Commissioner of Fire for the City of Buffalo and former Assistant Commissioner of Homeland Security for the State of New York. He is one of four children of the late Mrs. Ruth E. Whitfield and Garnell W. Whitfield Sr., who had been married for 68 years until her murder on May 14, 2022, in the racially motivated Jefferson Ave. Massacre in Buffalo, NY. Since the murder of his mother and the other nine beloved



members of his community, he has become an activist, working to expose white supremacy, lobbying for sensible gun legislation, victims' rights and advocating for diversity, equity and inclusion for all. He is a member of the Survivors and Advisors Steering Committee for the NMVC as well as several other advocacy groups.

Renée Williams, J.D., is the Executive Director of the National Center for Victims of Crime. She also serves as the Director of the National Crime Victim Bar Association, an affiliate program of the National Center. Prior to taking the helm of the NCVBA, Renée was the executive director of a legal services organization in Pittsburgh, which focused on the legal rights of victims of domestic violence and other indigent clients. Renée is seasoned in nonprofit leadership, also serving as a board member for Athena International and Voices in Action. Renée is passionate and stays connected to the community as well. She mentors through Big Brothers Big Sisters, volunteers at Children's National Hospital, and advocates for children as a court-appointed special advocate. For these efforts, she has been recognized as an Athena Young Professional Finalist, named one of Pittsburgh's 40 under 40, and received a Jefferson Award. Renée completed her undergraduate studies in theatre arts at Point Park University and subsequently received her Juris Doctor from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Law.