

ISSUE
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NEWS & NOTES



NMVVRC

Readiness · Response · Resilience

*A quarterly update from the
National Mass Violence Victimization
Resource Center*

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Dean Kilpatrick, PhD
National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center Director

The National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center recently submitted a progress report to the Office for Victims of Crime, which included an overview of our activities and the extent to which we are accomplishing our goals. I am extremely proud of how well we are accomplishing our mission as well as the products and services we have developed to assist victims/survivors of mass violence and those who serve them.

These are challenging times due to the continuing disruptions of the pandemic and what appears to be an increasing tempo of mass violence incidents, each of which creates an ever-increasing number of new victims/survivors and further aggravates the problems for prior mass violence victims/survivors. These new mass violence incidents highlight the need for improved mass violence planning, response, and recovery. The new mass violence incidents have produced increased demand for information and services from the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center.

We always viewed mass violence as a chronic problem that creates a continuing, long-term need for information, and resources. We designed the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center with this in mind and have worked with the Office for Victims of Crime, our stakeholders, and our partner agencies to build a center for the long run that is capable of providing much information and many resources.

Unfortunately, it appears that our predictions — that mass violence and domestic terrorism would be continuing problems in America — have proven to be correct. However, we are immensely gratified that, with the support and encouragement from the Office for Victims of Crime, the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center has developed considerable capacity to provide badly needed information, resources, and services to address this continuing problem.

Preparedness, Response & Recovery

Alyssa Rheingold, PhD

The Response Division for the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center has been busy these past few months identifying needed resources and strategizing plans to address these needs, working with our partners at the National Governors Association, United States Conference of Mayors, and the American Hospital Association on communication, and engagement strategies, as well as supporting several communities facing recent mass violence incidents.

The Center developed two comprehensive reports relevant to improving After Action Reports, typically completed after a mass violence incident:

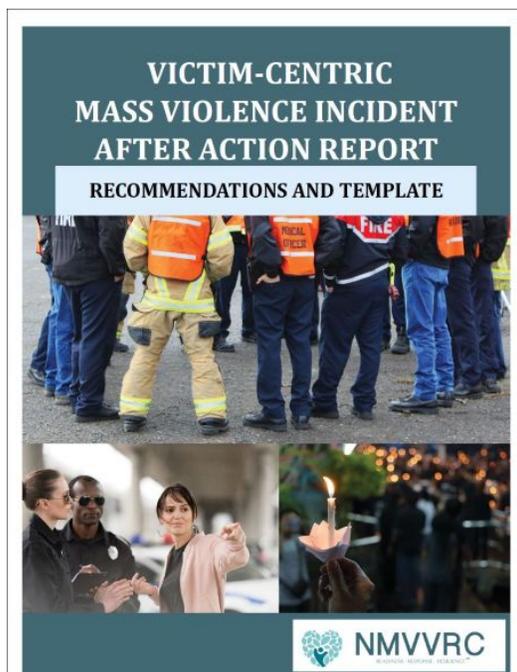
1. [*Mass Violence After Action Report Review: Focus on Victim Services and Behavioral Health Services*](#) features a comprehensive review of existing After Action Reports by National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center staff and consultants. This report identifies After Action Report elements, good examples of After Action Report content and recommendations to improve the research and writing of After Action Reports.
2. [*Victim-Centric Mass Violence Incident After Action Reports: Recommendations and Template*](#) emanated from a review of the scope and content of existing After Action Reports to better understand the potential areas of improvement to such reports, especially as it relates to victim/survivor services, and mental and behavioral health services. Mass violence incident After Action Reports that include summaries of mental/behavioral health and other victim services are highly valuable to victim assistance agencies and organizations, including the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center. However, through an extensive review of After Action Reports generated following mass violence incidents occurring in the past 15 years, we found that this information is rarely included. In this document, the Center:
 - o Provides a general overview of After Action Reports;

- o Summarizes findings from a review of publicly available After Action Reports as they relate to victim services and mental/behavioral health services;
- o Highlights specific examples of victim services information that could be included more regularly in future reports; and,
- o Provides a recommended After Action Report template for communities that includes comprehensive victim services and mental/behavioral health components.

Did you know that the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center has created over 45 tip sheets and guides? Make sure to check out [Resiliency Center Victim/Survivor Assistance Navigator Position Description](#) tip sheet that details the five core responsibilities of navigators as well as [reading resource lists related to grief](#), posttraumatic stress disorder, and secondary/vicarious trauma for first responders and victim service professionals.

If you cannot find a resource that your community or organization would find helpful in the planning, response, and recovery phases of mass violence incidents, please let us know! Either we can connect you to resources in the field that we are aware of or develop the needed resource if it does not exist.

Be on the lookout for an invitation this winter as we create a Town Hall Forum for victim service professionals, organizations, government entities, and victims/survivors to come together virtually on a quarterly basis to learn about the latest news, resources, and hot topics in the mass violence field. We look forward to “seeing” you there!



JUNE 2021

**Resiliency Center Victim/Survivor Assistance Navigator
Position Description**

*Enhancing the Response to and Resiliency of Survivors & Communities
in the Aftermath of a Mass Violence Incident*

Merriam-Webster Thesaurus
navigate
na-va-,gät

To operate or control the course of
To make one's way through, across or over

The National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center is located on the Medical University of South Carolina's Charleston campus as part of MUSC's Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, and receives funding from the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime. Learn more about us on www.nmvrc.org

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Research & Evaluation

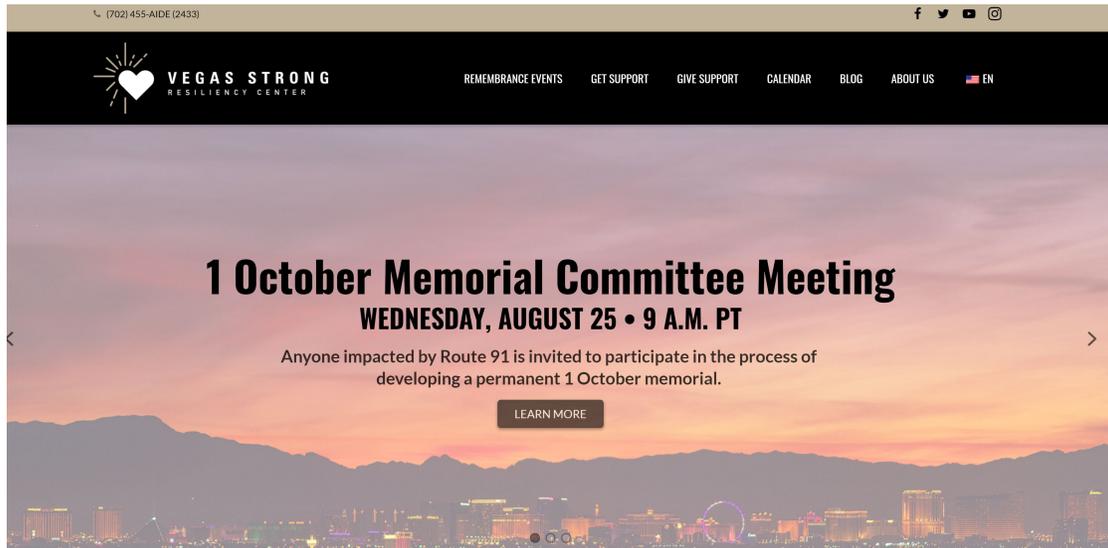
Angela Moreland, PhD

Hello from the Data Collection and Evaluation team!

We are very excited to update you about our needs assessment data and are happy about our steps moving forward! As you may remember, we conducted a needs assessment in Flint, MI,

where we studied the impact of the water crisis on people living there. Over 2,100 individuals completed the survey and told us about a range of topics — degree of impact, response factors, and mental health consequences. We've been speaking with stakeholders in Flint and are planning some information sessions to provide feedback about our findings.

In other news, we will be starting to collect needs assessment data with direct victims from the shooting at the Route 91 Harvest Festival in Las Vegas on October 1, 2017, with significant assistance from the [Vegas Strong Resiliency Center](#) to connect with victims. We are very excited about this collaboration and hope to learn about a range of topics from degree of impact, response factors and mental health consequences.



Resources & Technology

Daniel Smith, PhD

It's been a very busy quarter for the Resources and Technology division.

We are happy to announce that all of the animations for the Transcend NMVC app have been completed and uploaded, so be sure to keep your app updated to see the visualizations of tips and techniques that have been built in.

Transcend NMVC is available on both [Apple](#) and [Android](#) products.

We are also very hard at work creating the elements that will comprise the **Virtual Resiliency Center** – an online resource for individuals and communities who have experienced a mass violence incident to help provide information about victim and survivor resources, tips for personal health and wellness, and managing grief and trauma symptoms. We're very excited about this resource and can't wait to share it with you.

Finally, we've been recording interviews for the [MVP – Mass Violence Podcast](#). Our [latest podcast](#) features a great conversation about resiliency centers with Maggie Feinstein of the [10.27 Healing Partnership](#) in Pittsburgh, PA. Also, recently, we hosted our own Dr. Rochelle Hanson, Director of Training and Technical Assistance, for a discussion about [how mass violence impacts children and teens](#), and when parents should be concerned. Coming soon, you'll hear from Lisa Geller, the State Affairs Manager at the [Coalition to Stop Gun Violence](#), who recently published

some very interesting work on the connection between mass violence and domestic violence. Look for these episodes – and more! – soon!



Training & Technical Assistance Rochelle Hanson, PhD

The Training & Technical Assistance division continues its efforts to provide training, education, information, and resources to address the needs of mass violence victims, survivors, and responders.

We are very excited to announce that we have completed development of the **Mass Violence Core Compendium**, which will *soon* be available on our website. This Compendium is a compilation of existing and adapted resources for victim service professionals, mental and behavioral health professionals, first responders, emergency management professionals, and community leaders that address Readiness, Response, and Resilience relevant to mass violence incidents.

The Compendium includes 26 modules that feature written and audiovisual resources, as well as intensive training strategies to increase knowledge and build professional and practical skills, and can be tailored to be delivered in-person, through virtual platforms, or by a hybrid training delivery process. Our intent is not to duplicate existing training resources or entities, such as the Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center [toolkit](#) or the seven existing Office for Victims of Crime Training and Technical Assistance Center [webinars](#) relevant to mass violence incidents. Rather, the aims of this compendium are to:

- Share our compilation of existing resources;
- Offer an array of training opportunities that complement existing content, with a specialty focus on behavioral and mental health,
- Provide linkages to other appropriate training resources as warranted.

The Training and Technical Assistance division also conducted two training initiatives with the Broward County Public Schools district. Broward County Public Schools is the sixth largest school district in the nation and the second largest in Florida, with nearly 261,000 students registered. Marjory Stoneman Douglas was the site of a shooting in February 2018 that killed 17 people and injured 17 people. Students across the school district continue to struggle with the aftermath of

this mass violence incident. From January to July, we offered two training sessions to ensure there is a sufficient, trained workforce available to provide evidence-based trauma-focused services — specifically Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT).

Lastly, we continue to solicit feedback from the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center team and stakeholders regarding education materials needed in the field. We work closely with the other National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center divisions to update and develop resources and welcome ideas for new materials.



COMING SOON

MVI COMPENDIUM

The National Mass Violence and Victimization Resource Center has compiled a Compendium of existing and adapted resources for victim service professionals, mental and behavioral health professionals, first responders, emergency management professionals, and community leaders that address Readiness, Response, and Resilience relevant to mass violence incidents.

Stakeholders Forum

Aurelia Sands Belle, M.Ed.

Members of the Stakeholders Forum have been quite busy assisting the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center by reviewing products and providing insight into other issues related to victims' needs and services.

We welcomed Mr. Dion Green as our newest forum member. Dion is a survivor of the August 4, 2019, mass shooting in Dayton, OH, killing nine people and physically injuring 17 others. Dion cradled his father as he lay dying from his injuries. Dion has already begun to advocate for victims' rights by establishing a nonprofit — [the FUDGE foundation](#) — in honor of his father. We welcome Dion to the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center Stakeholders Forum!

In April, the Stakeholders Forum helped the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center honor the [40th Anniversary of National Crime Victims' Rights Week](#). With this year's theme, "Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities" Program Director, Anne Seymour, developed a messaging platform for each forum member so they could provide a brief video based on their experience with a mass violence incident (MVI).

In the June forum, the Stakeholders examined the issue of mass violence incidents motivated by hate that involved religion, sexual orientation, race and/or ethnicity. The idea was to hear from three stakeholders directly impacted by hate-driven crimes, Navi Gill from Oak Creek, WI, Rev. Eric Manning from Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC, and Joél Junior Morales from The Center Orlando in Orlando, FL. Guests Maggie Feinstein, Director of the 10.27 Resiliency Center, and Clarissa W. Whaley, the Victim Witness Coordinator/Victim Services Manager with the U.S. Attorney's Office - U.S. Department of Justice in South Carolina participated. Additionally, Georgia Sen. Michelle Au participated and shared about Greater Atlanta's challenges in the aftermath of the shooting spree against the Asian Americans and Pacific Islander community on March 16. The insight of this panel was priceless, and here are a few key takeaways:

- Vicarious and secondary trauma was experienced by others indirectly involved in the crime, but they identified (racially, ethnically, religiously, etc.) as part of the injured group.
- Build connections with commonly targeted communities.
- Use trusted translators and know the essential and cultural traditions of the community.
- It is essential to understand the difference between a hate crime and a hate incident.
- Violence motivated by hate destroys communities.
- Understand the importance of religious and secular practices and what they mean to families and communities.
- The Asian Americans and Pacific Islander community has felt "invisible" and unacknowledged with a long history of overt victimization.
- Women of the Asian Americans and Pacific Islander community have been overly-sexualized in the media, prompting many incidents of abuse.

The National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center continues to be grateful for the contribution of the Stakeholders Forum, Resiliency Directors, and others who work tirelessly addressing the needs of victims of crime.

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NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK 2021

National Crime Victims' Rights Week
April 18–24, 2021

SUPPORT VICTIMS. BUILD TRUST. ENGAGE COMMUNITIES.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week April 18–24, 2021

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SIKH TEMPLE OF WISCONSIN

AUGUST 05, 2012

BY: NAVDEEP GILL

Legislative Updates

Anne Seymour, Associate Academic Program Director

The Victims of Crime Act Fix Is Now Federal Law

In 1984, the Victims of Crime Act established the Crime Victims Fund, which provides grant funding for state crime victim compensation and assistance programs. The crime victim compensation program covers direct costs for crime victims, **including medical bills, counseling bills, and funeral costs**. Federal discretionary use of Victims of Crime Act dollars also funds programs such as the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center.

The Crime Victims Fund is made up entirely of non-tax dollars, including criminal fines, penalties, and special assessments.

Deposits into the Crime Victims Fund fluctuate annually based on fines and fees collected as part of Department of Justice criminal prosecutions, and have been especially low in recent years. Due to the rapidly diminishing balance in the Fund over the past two years, victim services have been slashed in states across the country.

Many state compensation programs are not able to meet the needs of victims at current levels, and increasing the federal reimbursement while also increasing the flow of money into the Crime Victims Fund ensures that states can continue to serve victims.

In order to preserve the Crime Victims Fund and ensure that this critical funding for crime victims across the country is available for years to come, a bipartisan, bicameral group of members introduced the *VOCA Fix Act (S.611/H.R.1652)*, cosponsored in the Senate by Senators Dick Durbin, Lindsey Graham, Tammy Baldwin, Chuck Grassley, Dianne Feinstein, John Cornyn, Amy Klobuchar and Lisa Murkowski.

The VOCA Fix Act was signed into law by President Biden on July 22. His remarks at the bill-signing are available [online](#).

The new VOCA Fix Act:

- Deposits monetary penalties from deferred prosecution agreements and non-prosecution agreements directly into the Crime Victims Fund instead of the Treasury, aligning current Department of Justice practice with the intent of the Victims of Crime Act.
- Increases the amount states are reimbursed for their crime victim compensation programs from 60% to 75%.

- Clarifies that victim cooperation with law enforcement is encouraged, where appropriate, but not required.
- Allows states to request additional time to spend their crime victim assistance funding at the discretion of the Attorney General. States currently have the year of the award and an additional three years to spend the funding, and some need additional time for planning and budgeting purposes.
- Gives states more flexibility with respect to matching requirements for subgrantees. It also requires waiving the requirement during a pandemic.



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