



ABOUT NMVRC & NEWS NOTES

Great work is being done every single day at the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center. NMVRC News & Notes is our quarterly newsletter that will bring you up to speed on our accomplishments, progress and other happenings.

In every issue of the newsletter, you will receive an update from each of the Center's divisions. Division leaders will share a high-level overview of the work that's keeping them busy, as well as big wins and their plans for the next quarter.

Each issue of the newsletter will also feature events, conferences, key meetings, etc. that our faculty members will be attending.

Thanks for reading,
The NMVRC Team

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR



Dean Kilpatrick, PhD, Director, NMVRC

Greetings from the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center! This edition of "News and Notes" is the first one that is being distributed outside the NMVRC stakeholder community, and we are excited to begin sharing the news and activities from the Center with a more diverse audience. For those of you who are receiving this for the first time, a little background: The NMVRC was created in 2017 in partnership with the Office for Victims of Crime within the U.S. Department of Justice. We are a multi-disciplinary team of victim assistance professionals, mental

health experts, policy developers, and relevant local and national organizations. Our joint goal is to make the NMVRC **the** source for providing information and context about mass violence that will be useful to civic leaders, mental health professionals, journalists, policy makers, and victim assistance professionals, as well as the public. Our Center is organized into a variety of divisions, each of which is responsible for developing, organizing, and sharing information about mass violence Readiness, Response, and Resilience. In each quarterly newsletter, you can expect to get updates from me and from each division about what we are doing to advance our goals. Welcome - and we encourage to learn more about what we do at www.nmvrc.org, and to follow us on our various social media platforms: Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram (@nmvrc).

Preparedness, Response & Recovery

Alyssa Rheingold, PhD

Since the start of the NMVRC two years ago, the Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Division has consulted in various capacities with ten communities who have been impacted by MVIs or other large scale criminal incidents. Dr. Connie Best, the Director of the Response Division spearheaded much of this ongoing consultation and connection efforts. It is bitter sweet to let folks know that Dr. Best retired on January 31st. We are thankful for all of her work over the past two years as a leader within the NMVRC.

This past quarter our team has been busy presenting and networking with other victim service providers in the field at the International Society of Traumatic Stress Studies Annual Conference and the National Training Institute Conference. While in Denver for the NTI Conference, we were humbled to have visited the Aurora theater shooting victims memorial established by the 7-20 Memorial Foundation.



Dr. Alyssa Rheingold with Heather Dearman, family member of Aurora shooting victims and 7-20 Memorial Foundation Board Chair.

Also this quarter, Dr. Rheingold was featured on "The Trauma Impact" Podcast on Mental Health Network Radio with NMVRC Stakeholder Amy O'Neill. You can check that out [here](#).

In addition, we have some exciting projects and resources in development with several of our partnering agencies and consultants. For instance, we hope to organize and facilitate several ongoing forums for Resiliency Directors as well as other non-profit organizations to support one another and learn the latest knowledge in best practice for victims impacted by trauma.

Data Collection & Evaluation

Angela Moreland, PhD

Greetings from the Data Collection and Evaluation team! We are very excited to let everyone in on what we have been up to these past few months. First, we have continued to conduct our needs assessment in Flint, MI, where we are studying the impact of the water crisis on people living in Flint. To date, over 1,100 individuals have completed the online survey and told us about a range of topics from degree of impact, response factors, and mental health consequences. Our team traveled to Flint last month, where we had the opportunity to meet several community members and academic partners in the area. We are so grateful for the cooperation and collaboration with the Flint community!

In the next few months, we will begin the needs assessment in several additional communities, including Parkland, FL; Pittsburgh, PA; El Paso, TX; and Dayton, OH. The needs assessment will include surveys with community members and victims/survivors from the mass violence incidents. In addition, we have continued to present findings at local and national conferences.

Check out the Science about Mass Violence section [here](#) on the NMVRC website. This month features scholarly articles on the impact of mass violence incidents on children and adolescents.

Technology & Resources

Daniel Smith, PhD

Since the last update, the Tech/Resources division has been working on a variety of projects, most notably the Transcend mobile app for survivors of mass violence and their families. We are making steady progress on the programming, and the app should be available for testing soon. In the meantime, we are proud to announce that our "MVP: Mass Violence Podcast" has officially launched! Our first podcast featured our fearless leader, Dr. Dean Kilpatrick, talking about mass violence and what gave rise to the NMVRC. Since then, we have released interviews with Bruce Shapiro, Executive Director of the DART Center for Journalism and Trauma at Columbia University; Dr. Patricia Resick, developer of Cognitive Processing Therapy; Amy O'Neill, MS, LPC, a clinician and a survivor of the Boston Marathon bombing; and Dr. Ben Saunders, former Associate Director of the NMVRC. Each of these approximately 30-minute podcasts covers a distinct aspect of mass violence. Our goal is to release two podcasts per month - one focused on mental health problems and/or treatment, and the other covering a variety of topics that will help people understand the "Readiness, Response, and Recovery" process for communities and individuals affected by mass violence.

You can find the "MVP" on all your favorite podcast platforms, including Spotify, Google, Apple Podcast, and Stitcher. The latest episode features author/scholar/public health expert Dr. Sandro Galea of Boston University. Please give us a listen and subscribe - that way you won't miss our upcoming podcasts with victim advocate Anne Seymour and former Charleston, SC Mayor, Joe Riley! Also, if you have suggestions for podcast topics, or feedback about the podcast, please feel free to share it with us: info@nmvrc.org.



Training & Technical Assistance

Rochelle Hanson, PhD

The Training & TA Division continues its efforts to provide information and resources to address the needs of MVI victims, survivors and responders. In collaboration with the Response and Recovery Division, and Dr. Melissa Brymer, one of our academic partners at UCLA, we are finalizing adaptations to the Psychological FirstAid (PFA) toolkit to include content specific for victims of mass violence. We are near completion of a detailed manual to guide communities that may be interested in conducting a Community Based Learning Collaborative to increase the number of available professionals trained in delivery of effective treatments for MVI victims. The Community Based Learning Collaborative is a comprehensive model designed to train an array of professionals that would be involved in service provision for victims of mass violence. This includes mental health professionals, victims services providers, and community leaders. In January, we presented a paper, "Building capacity for trauma-focused evidence-based practices in the wake of a mass violence incident," as part of a symposium, entitled, "The Impact of Mass Violence on Youth and Families: What Can We Do?" The symposium included an overview on the immediate and long-term consequences of MVI's on youth and their families, as well as what is known regarding effective trauma-focused interventions, presented by Dr. Moreland, the NMVRC Associate Director. Dr. Hanson's paper focused on a

Community-Based Learning Collaborative (CBLC) that was conducted in partnership with the Broward County Public Schools to train professionals to deliver Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), in response to the 2018 school shooting in Parkland, Florida. The session concluded with a panel-led discussion to address issues related to future research, policy and practice to improve resources for MVI victims.

Over the next quarter, the Training and TA Division will lead development of a comprehensive curriculum for victim service providers, criminal justice services professionals, and mental health professionals that will include printed, online and in-person training. We will continue to work closely with OVC, our partners, expert consultants, and interested communities to provide training and resources to meet the needs of those impacted by MVIs. Finally, stay tuned for a podcast by Dr. Hanson that will focus on ways to help prepare and respond to children and families in the wake of an MVI, including a discussion on the most effective available interventions.

Stakeholders Forum

Sabra Slaughter, PhD & Aurelia Sands Belle, M.Ed

Members of the Stakeholders Forum have provided content for upcoming podcasts and videos that will be shared on the center's social media platforms and website in the coming weeks. The Stakeholders were gracious enough to share their experience as either a victim/survivor or service provider in hopes of helping others.

The Stakeholders are participating in a teleconference meeting with all Forum members on March 26th. The agenda includes updates on the status of current Forum members, efforts to identify new members, an overview and summary of the November 2019 Forum in Charleston, NMVRC accomplishments and future plans and a presentation describing telehealth division resources and how it might be helpful in the aftermath of an incident of mass violence. Dr. Ron Acerino will lead this discussion and explain how it can help in areas where there are limited mental health resources whether by virtue of location or the lack of trained professionals.

Other Large-Scale Criminal Incidents

Michael Schmidt, PhD & John Vena, PhD

The NMVRC Team for Other Large-Scale Criminal Incidents (OL-SCI) recently held a series of Design Sprints in order to assess the needs of victims resulting from catastrophic crimes involving air, water, fire and products. The "Sprints" were held in Chico and Paradise, CA impacted by the disastrous Camp fire and in Flint Michigan where changes in the water system and mismanagement resulted in a water crisis with lead contamination and exposure to a bacterial pathogen, Legionella pneumophila.

The Sprint process can be broken into five focused activities. The first, Understanding, identifies who will be the intended user of the products/services being proposed. Our time in Chico, Paradise, and Flint offered us tremendous insight into who the users are, their needs, the context in which the products and services should be provided, and how best to reach the largest possible audience with the resources available. As you might imagine, listening to the victims and their advocates helped us formulate plans that would assist them and others in the future. The second Sprint activity, Divergence, involved a series of discussions among the victims and their advocates, which helped the NMVRC team conceive potential solutions. We returned from each of the Sprints with valuable ideas that we hope will aid victimized communities tackle such life altering consequences.



Sculpture "Phoenix Rising" constructed using keys from lost homes, buildings and vehicles in Paradise, CA as a result of the Camp fire.

Laws and policy changes are needed to respond to these large-scale criminal incidents. Very few victim compensation programs are thinking about and exploring ways they might respond. Needed for these incidents are resiliency centers to address short-term and long-term needs of victims. Conversations must be expanded on these issues to develop evidence-based and victim-centered approaches to such incidents when they are caused by criminal activity. In the coming months, look to our [web-page](#) for updates on what we are doing to help victims and communities in their recovery.

What's new at NMVRC.org?

Over the coming weeks, we will be revamping the media section on the website to include new and updated tip sheets curated by NMVRC faculty and consultants. Along with other sections on the website, this page will serve as a central hub for various center resources. Once the page is live, we will announce and share it through our social media accounts, so be sure to follow us on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram!

We also have added the section "[Science About Mass Violence](#)" to serve as a home to scholarly articles curated by our data collection and evaluation team. This resource is updated on a monthly basis to include new topics centered around mass violence. Previous editions can be accessed through the archive.

This publication produced by the team at the National Mass Violence Victimization Resource Center is funded through a grant (cooperative agreement number 2017-MU-GX-K114) to the Medical University of South Carolina from the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Neither the U.S. Department of Justice nor any of its components operate, control, are responsible for, or necessarily endorse, this publication (including, without limitation, its content, technical infrastructure, and policies, and any services or tools provided).

