

Responding to Community Violence or “Aftershock” Responding to the Aftereffects of Community Violence: AN OVERVIEW

Program Description

Violence in our society has unfortunately become common in our daily lives. Large scale mass casualty incidents present significant challenges in both the immediate response to and in the aftermath of these occurrences as communities recover. Human service professionals play multiple roles throughout these processes. It is essential that the human service professional recognize and is prepared to respond to complex issues encountered in practice as well as internally as he or she works within these charged traumatic environments.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this program, participants will be able to:

- List multiple roles that human service professionals may play in responding to incidents of mass violence in a community.
- Discuss possible signs and symptoms of traumatic stress that may present in individuals.
- Explain secondary trauma and compassion fatigue.
- List strategies that can be utilized for self-care when working within emotionally charged traumatic environments.
- Outline the importance of an organizational continuity of operations plan (COOP) and the challenges presented to them by mass casualty violent incidents.

Target Audience

Any interested health or human services professional.

Contact Hours

3.0 hours

Program Agenda

Morning or afternoon session 90-minute segments separated by 15-minute break

Faculty

Matthew Sullivan, JD, MSW, served the Town of Chapel Hill in a number of roles over a 32-year career. His last appointment was as Fire Chief, where he was responsible for Town and Departmental leadership and oversight. As a member of the Town’s executive staff he participated in the development and implementation of the Town’s strategic vision. Other positions that Matt held during his career include Emergency Management Coordinator, Interim Director of Planning and Sustainability, Staff Legal Advisor, Interim Police Attorney, Police Crisis Counselor, Narcotics Investigator, Departmental Hostage Negotiator., Community Police Officer, Crime Prevention Officer and DARE Officer.

Matt received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1989 and a Master of Social Work Degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1997. He received a Degree in Law from North Carolina Central University in 2006 and is a member of the North Carolina State and Judicial District 15-B Bars.

From 1995 to 1999, Matt was appointed Coordinator of Substance Abuse Programs at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In this capacity, he had the responsibility of administering the day to day operations of the campus alcohol and other drug treatment and prevention efforts. Much emphasis was also placed on environmental interventions directed to altering campus social norms surrounding dangerous student drinking and life skill development in student athletes.

Matt is an adjunct faculty member to the University of North Carolina School of Social Work. He is a certified North Carolina Criminal Justice Instructor and is certified in Critical Incident Stress Management. He previously served as Chair of the Judicial District 15-B Criminal Justice Community Partnership Adult Services Advisory Committee and on the UNC-CH General Alumni Association Board of Directors. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the NC Governor's Institute (on Substance Abuse) and for the South Orange Rescue Squad. Matt is a recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the 2019 Chapel Hill Chamber Town and Gown Award, The Chapel Hill Police Department's Herman Stone Award for Community Service and a Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UNC-School of Social Work. In 1994 he was named Chapel Hill Police Officer of the Year.