

Office for Victims of Crime

VOCA Administrator Regional Meeting | SUMMARY

MEETING DATE	November 14, 2013
MEETING LOCATION	Denver, CO
MEETING CALLED BY	Joye Frost
TYPE OF MEETING	Regional Administrator's Meeting
FACILITATOR	Joye Frost
PARTICIPANTS	<p>Suzanne Breedlove (OK), Robert Gallup (CO), Amy Greer (CO), Wendy Butler (CO), Nancy Feldman (CO), Allison Boyd (CO), Anthony Tilger (CO), Mary Vail Ware (VA), Linda Cimino (CT), Kate Henderson (AZ), Michael Sheline (OH), Anna Meola (MA), Daniel Cooper (MA), and Janice Vigil-Kelly (CO). Dan Eddy (NACVCB), Steve Derene (NAVAA), and Steve Siegel (Second Judicial District, CO).</p> <p>Dan Eddy (National Association of Crime Victim Compensation Boards, NACVCB) and Steve Derene (National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators, NAVAA)</p>
ATTENDEES	<p>From the OVC State Assistance and Compensation Division: Marilyn Roberts, Toni Thomas, DeLano Foster, BJ Horn (Visiting Fellow) and Grace Call (Visiting Fellow)</p> <p>From other OVC Divisions: Bob Cantrell, Eugenia Pedley, and Chris Holloway</p>

HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY

- There is a need for resources and protocols to help states/territories prepare for incidents of mass violence.
- VOCA state compensation and assistance administrators will be more essential and successful than OVC at developing relationships with key responders and players in each state to prepare for events of mass violence.
- OVC is developing a mass violence toolkit to help states prepare. Eugenia Pedley is the OVC POC.
- OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) can assist states in both preparing for and responding to events of mass violence.

ATTACHMENT

- Agenda

STATE REPORTS

1. COLORADO

PRESENTER

- Assign an advocate to a family for continuity of care.
- Use technology to share information so victims don't have to share stories over and over again.
- Anniversaries, the role of the faith community, and volunteer administration are critical.
- Be prepared for the onslaught of outside self-proclaimed experts.

2. MASSACHUSETTS

PRESENTER

- The mayor worked with the private sector to set up the One Fund.
- The financial institutions worked with Ken Feinberg.
- The biggest donations were private, and the One Fund was not one fund. There were local funds set up as well. The amputees had funds set up. There is a need for private community funds.
- The media was a challenge. They published the victims' names.
- Understanding the FEMA declaration was a challenge.
- Massachusetts paid more on lost wages during the Boston bombing.

3. OHIO

PRESENTER

- Worked closely with charitable organizations and the Attorney General's office.
- They worked quickly to have applications ready.

4. ARIZONA

PRESENTER

- In Pima County, the Tucson Fund was established, as were other funds, but they were not coordinated.
- Victims were promised that 100 percent of the money would go to victims.
- A centralized fund was developed to avoid fraud.

5. VIRGINIA

PRESENTER

- States should have an emergency plan.
- Having a fund doesn't allow victims an opportunity to go through the normal compensation process.
- Victims shouldn't be driven to a separate process.

- The state has a script for the public for emergencies like hurricanes. We should develop a similar message for the press re. compensation that describes the process clearly.
- Virginia has about 130 experts on its team and does not accept self-proclaimed experts.

6. OKLAHOMA

PRESENTER

- Oklahoma developed an unmet needs committee that looked at individual needs.
- Oklahoma wanted practical needs met, and they wanted victims to attend the trial.
- Set up the Murrah Building Fund, as they couldn't pay for secondary victims.
- Oklahoma did not receive a lot of money.
- There was some fraud so all programs handled the unmet needs.
- Victims had to get a FEMA number—then all other agencies could provide help (food and clothing).
- FEMA declared it a disaster because of the destruction of buildings.
- Loss of wages was the highest cost for the compensation program during the bombing.
- The current focus on money creates a problem for other victims. Oklahoma tried to keep the flow of work so all victims are served. They tried not to treat them differently.

7. CONNECTICUT

PRESENTER

- One half of the Sandy Hook community appears to be fine and the other half is ramped up. There is a battle going on with the State's Attorney who is trying to hold the 911 tapes confidential.
- A new school will be built for the 2015-2016 school year.
- Connecticut revised its legislation in response to the shooting.
- 218 children have applied for compensation.
- The United Way created funding for victims' needs. More than \$600,000 has been awarded to victims.
- The entire community was a victim. There is a need for tutoring, as no learning went on and parents believe their children are behind. The parents indicate this is an unmet need.
- Rumors of copycat shootings on December 13.

8. OVC PRODUCTS ON MASS VIOLENCE

DISCUSSION

- The input from this discussion informed further revisions of the OVC toolkit and checklist.

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**OVC VOCA Administrator Regional Meeting – November 14, 2013
Denver, CO**

Agenda

- 7:45–8:00 Registration
- 8:00–8:05 Welcome and Overview
Joye Frost, Director, OVC
- 8:05–8:15 Introductions
- 8:15–9:45 State reports – brief description of recent mass violence incidents (Colorado, Arizona, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Ohio and Virginia) covering, to extent applicable:
- Nature of incident
 - Community impact and response
 - Role of state compensation/assistance agency role
 - Particular problems/issues
 - What I wish I knew
- 9:45–10:00 Break
- 10:00–11:45 Discussion of general issues
- What distinguishes mass violence incidents from “regular” violent crimes?
 - What are typical community impacts?
 - First responders
 - Criminal Justice System
 - Diversity of impact on victims
 - Community agencies/leadership
 - General public
 - What are unique challenges?
 - Scope of crisis
 - Media
 - Resource demands
 - Victim needs and frustrations
 - Role of cultural diversity
 - Outpouring of resources, fundraising, donations, etc.
 - Memorials

- o Medium, longer term and ongoing needs

11:45–1:00	Lunch – On Your Own
1:00–2:00	What can/should a state VOCA assistance and and/or compensation agency do to prepare?
2:00 – 2:45	Group discussion on resources to assist state VOCA assistance and compensation agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What can/should OVC do (in addition to emergency funds) to assist states?<ul style="list-style-type: none">• OVC Mass Violence Lessons Learned Toolkit• Is there a role for OVC TTAC?• What can NACVCB and NAVAA do to help states prepare and respond?
2:30–2:45	Break
2:45–3:30	Continue group discussion on resources to assist state agencies
3:30–4:00	Summary of discussions and next steps