



## **Preparing for a Mass Violence Incident: How to Create a Coordinated, Survivor-Centered Community Response Plan**

**Presented by:** Elizabeth Cronin; Dr. Angela Moreland-Johnson

**Presentation Abstract:** Preparing for a Mass Violence Incident: How to Create a Coordinated, Survivor-Centered Community Response Plan

### **Learning Objectives:**

No one wants to think that a mass violence incident can occur in their community, but in reality, MVIs can occur anywhere and at any time. Unfortunately, all communities are at risk. MVIs can result in long-term trauma for survivors, families and entire communities. The planning and response must be multi-disciplinary and survivor-centered focusing on safety and long-term recovery and healing. Participants will explore best practices in multi-agency collaboration, trauma-informed care frameworks and communication frameworks that prioritize the safety and well-being of survivors, families, first responders and the community. Drawing on lessons learned from real-world incidents, attendees will leave with actionable tools to assess gaps in current response infrastructure and begin developing or strengthening a unified community plan.

**Speaker Bio:** Elizabeth Cronin, Esq., is an attorney and Associate Academic Program Director at the National Mass Violence Center at the Medical University of South Carolina. Immediately prior to her current role, she was appointed by the New York Governor as the Director of the New York State Office of Victim Services (OVS) where she served for over 10 years. She previously was the Director of Legal Affairs at the US Court of Appeals, 2d Circuit and a special victims' prosecutor in New York.

In her role as Director of OVS, Ms. Cronin worked closely with other state and local agencies in both preparing for handling mass violence and in responding to mass violence incidents including the 2022 Buffalo Tops Shooting and the Tribeca (NYC) terrorism case. She has extensive experience in training and has presented at national and local conferences.

Angela Moreland, Ph.D., is a Clinical Psychologist and Professor at the National Crime Victims Research and Treatment Center at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). Dr. Moreland has significant expertise in mental/behavioral health consequences following exposure to a range of traumatic events among children, adolescents, and adults. She specializes in assessment of mental/behavioral health concerns and delivery of evidence-based, trauma-focused treatments.

Dr. Moreland currently serves as the Associate Director of the National Mass Violence Center (NMVC) and the Director of the Improving Community Preparedness Division of the NMVC. Dr. Moreland assisted in response to the Mother Emanuel AME church shooting in Charleston, South Carolina on June 17, 2015, including short- and long-term recovery of individuals and the community. In addition, in her role at the NMVC, Dr. Moreland has assisted in response to over 10 mass violence incidents that have occurred throughout the United States over the past decade.