



FROM 9/11 TO COVID-19: Lessons from Two Decades of Disaster Response

September 29-30, 2021

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Since its founding soon after the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Institute for Disaster Mental Health at SUNY New Paltz has held an annual conference to provide New York's front-line responders, emergency managers, clinical practitioners, and disaster relief volunteers with critical access to information on best practices in the field of disaster mental health. The need for this cross-disciplinary approach to training and planning, which fosters a coordinated response across the fields of disaster management and mental health, has never been clearer than during the Covid-19 pandemic. Given the global stress and anxiety surrounding the outbreak and other ongoing disasters, it's essential now to revisit the lessons that have been learned during the past 20 years, and to further disseminate insights from 9/11, countless natural disasters, and escalating mass shootings, as well as the broader issues around racial inequities and social justice.

Using cutting-edge event presentation technology from BeaconLive, this two-day virtual conference will bring together expert presenters from across the country to review how much we've learned about incorporating mental health needs into emergency response, and to look ahead to where we can – and must – go from here. Among numerous other topics, sessions will include panels on the evolution of the practice of disaster mental health over the past 20 years, the needs of frontline workers throughout the pandemic, the challenges of responding to acute disasters during the pandemic, and the need for leadership and change management under rapidly evolving circumstances. Nationally renowned mental health clinicians will tackle topics including complex grief, supporting children and families through crises, treating trauma in ethnic populations, and addressing vicarious trauma among responders. A final session will consider the future of race and mental health in the United States as we look toward the next wave of disaster mental health needs in an increasingly complex world.

Continuing education credits will be available for mental health practitioners, and the conference organizers and presenters are committed to ensuring that attendees leave the event with tangible skills and resources they can use to improve their performance in this ever more complex response environment.



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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

	Wednesday, September 29, 2021	Thursday, September 30, 2021
10:00AM–10:15AM	Welcome Message	Welcome Message
10:15AM–11:00AM	Resilience in the Whole of Community Craig Fugate	The Never-Ending Stream: Disaster Response in NYC from 9/11 to COVID-19 Kelly McKinney, PE, CBCP, BS, MPA
11:00AM–11:15AM	Break	Break
11:15AM–12:00PM	Individual and Collective Recovery from Human-Caused Disasters: Lessons from Political Violence Around the Globe Brandon Hamber, PhD	Climate, Social Justice, and the Next Disaster Marla Perez, PhD; Cecilio Ortiz, PhD
12:00PM–12:45PM	Lunch	Lunch
12:45PM–1:30PM	Underrepresented Voices of 9/11	A New Light on Trauma, Race, Leadership and Belonging Lara Weitzman, MA
1:30PM–1:45PM	Break	Break
1:45PM–2:30PM	20 Years of Disaster Mental Health James Halpern, PhD; Mary Tramontin, PsyD; and Diane Ryan, LCSW	Effective Leadership and Change Management Jayson Kratoville, MPA
2:30PM–2:45PM	Break	Break
2:45PM–3:30PM	The Coming Pandemic—Complicated Grief Kenneth J. Doka, PhD	Culture, Compassion & Calamity: Utilizing the Richness of Culture to Bring Out the Best of Humanity in the Face of Tragedy Aziza Belcher Platt, PhD
3:30PM–3:45PM	Closing Message; Moment of Silence	Closing Message; Call to Action
3:45PM–4:00PM	Break	Break
4:00PM–5:15PM	Culture, Crisis & Clinicians: Integrating Social Justice and Disaster Services Aziza Belcher Platt, PhD	Coping with Public Tragedy: How Clinicians Can Help Kenneth J. Doka, PhD

Key:	General	Clinical
Non-Clinical	CE Session	Welcome and Closing Message