Mass Violence Response: Borderline Bar, Thousand Oaks, California

California Victim Compensation Board
Anita Ahuja, Manager, Mass Violence Response
Recent Incidents

- Route 91 Harvest Festival, Las Vegas, NV – October 1, 2017
- Yountville Pathway Veteran’s Home – March 10, 2018
- Borderline Bar, Thousand Oaks, CA – November 7, 2018
- Chabad House, Poway, CA – April 27, 2019
- Gilroy Garlic Festival, Gilroy, CA – July 28, 2019
California Response Plans

• State of California Emergency Response Plan

• CalVCB Mass Violence Emergency Response Plan
Victim Compensation in the Statewide Emergency Plan

In 2017, the California Victim Compensation Board was added to the State of California’s Emergency Plan:

- **14.3.8. VICTIM COMPENSATION BOARD (VCB)**

- **Emergency Support Function #13: Law Enforcement:**
  Provides financial compensation to eligible victims of violent crime for out-of-pocket losses when they have no other source of reimbursement.
Statewide Emergency Plan:

- **Emergency Support Function #14: Recovery:** Provides financial compensation to eligible victims of violent crime to help with short- and long-term recovery. Benefits cover crime-related expenses for medical, mental health and dental treatment, funeral/burial expenses, income and support loss, relocation, crime scene clean-up, job retraining, and home and vehicle modifications.
CalVCB Statewide Role

• Reimbursing victims and survivors for financial losses suffered as a result of a mass violence incident

• Providing emergency compensation for short term needs of victims of crime (Family/Local Assistance Center)
CalVCB Role during Emergency Operations:

- CalVCB coordinates with primary local, county, regional and state responders/jurisdictions on when and how best to provide assistance
CalVCB Field Response Team

- Field Response Team
  - Ready to go
  - Streamlined application intake onsite
  - Trained in trauma informed care
  - Assist the DA’s VW office with other items, if needed (companion advocates, resource referrals)
  - Seventeen staff members
  - Quarterly Training
  - Debriefs
Borderline Bar Shooting
Thousand Oaks

- November 7, 2018
- College Night – CA Lutheran University, CSU-Channel Islands, Pepperdine University and Moorpark College
- A western style bar billed as Ventura County's "largest dance hall and live music venue," with a 2,500 square-foot dance floor, pool room, and areas for eating and drinking
- Open for more than 25 years
Thousand Oaks Response

- Incident occurred late in the evening
- Twelve people shot within three minutes
- Phone call with Ventura County the following morning
- Requested field response from CalVCB and guidance on establishing the FAC
- FAC had to be relocated due to wildfires
- Created a victim resources page on our website
- Arrived on Friday morning and completed compensation claims onsite
- Streamlined process/Intake Form very helpful
Thousand Oaks Response

- Victims included Las Vegas victims and fire evacuees
- Foundations were part of the team
- The State Compensation Insurance Fund which is the carrier for Borderline Bar reached out to coordinate benefits
Victim Forums

• Began with Las Vegas Incident in partnership with OVC

• Purpose:
  • Assess needs, check in with victims on their recovery and ensure they have appropriate resources
  • Psychoeducation- impact of trauma, coping strategies, mental health information
  • Traumatic Stress Specialist funded by OVC TTAC
  • Held two sets of forums – December and August
Service Provider Forums

• Meet local and regional providers
• Share resource information
• Build relationships and response network for future responses
• Identify gaps in services
Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program

California has two AEAP Grants:
Las Vegas
San Bernardino
Borderline Bar Deceased Victims
Memorial Tree at Borderline
OVC Mass Violence Toolkit

- OVC Mass Violence Toolkit contains several valuable resources for local jurisdictions to use while developing a response plan, during a crisis, and following a crisis.

Leave No Victim Behind IV
2019 National Conference

- Focus on collaboration between law enforcement and victim services when responding to Mass Violence Events
- Key responders for recent mass violence events, crisis response planning, resources
- October 21-23, Las Vegas – Following Second Anniversary of shooting - Long Term Recovery of Communities
Panel Introductions

• Rachael Watkins, Victim Services Director, Ventura County District Attorney’s Office
• Bud and Marcus Grimmie, Christina Grimmie Foundation
• Kriste Gibson, Dana Kirby and Kelley Neal from the California State Compensation Insurance Fund
State Fund’s Response

• Confirmed coverage
• Initiated the contact to Broker
• Identified Trauma Care providers
• Scheduled Group Meeting

State Fund North Star:

*driven to help others and do the right thing*
Collaboration with D.A. and CalVCB

• Initial contact made to locate a wife and children
• Immediately met to share information between us
• D.A. and CalVCB connected us with wife

Lessons Learned

1. How to help victims maximize benefits and solve problems
2. Eliminate benefit overpayment and frustration for victims
Trauma Informed Response

• Gathered the employees to conduct a group session
• Listened to understand
• Adapted
• Worked to find the right providers for their needs

How was this response different?
Responding to Workplace Violence

• Be proactive and remain adaptable
• Meet in person with all employees, whether present or not
• Be prepared with forms and information
• Work with Cal VCB and any other agency that provide assistance
TOGETHER WE HAVE A BIGGER IMPACT
Example - Burial Benefit

State Fund Burial - $10,000
Victims Compensation Board - $7,500

Combined Benefit

$17,500
Example - Income Loss

- State Fund - 2/3 of Average Weekly Wage
- Victims Compensation Board – Pays the additional 1/3

Combined Benefit
FULL WAGE REPLACEMENT
What is Worker’s Compensation?

• Insurance that provides wage replacement and medical benefits for employees who are injured during the course of their employment

• Assist in making workplaces safe

• First Payer after any worksite injury or catastrophe
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY’S OFFICE

Ventura County District Attorney's Office, Crime Victims Assistance Unit
(805)654-3622
Ventura, CA 93009
Thousand Oaks Strong
Rally Around Borderline
11.07.18
BORDERLINE VICTIMS

SEAN ADLER  CODY COFFMAN  RON HELUS  ALAINA HOUSLEY  DANIEL MANRIQUE  JUSTIN MEEK

KRISTINA MORISSETTE  TELEMACHUS ORFANDOS  NOEL SPARKS  MARK MEZA  JAKE DUNHAM  BLAKE DINGMAN
BORDERLINE FAMILY ASSISTANCE CENTER

- Ventura County District Attorney’s Office
- FBI Rapid Deployment Team
- Interface Children & Family Services/211
- Ventura County Behavioral Health
- Cal VCB
- Ventura County Human Services Agency – Workforce Development
- Veterans Services
- Social Security
- Ventura County Sheriff’s Department
- Arc of Ventura County
• Valuable for clients AND staff
• Pleasant for children
• Disarming for adults who are anxious/afraid
• A great source of stress-relief for employees
hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.
- desmond tutu
ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW & INTRO

Presented By:
Marcus Grimmie

A Legacy of Hope and Inspiration!
The Christina Grimmie Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization launched in 2017 by the Grimmie Family.

Our mission is twofold:
1) Provide support to individuals and families who have suffered a loss as a result of gun violence.
2) Provide support for families facing a breast cancer diagnosis.

In the aftermath of a shooting, our personal experience gives us a unique perspective:
- As Family of a Shooting Victim
- As a Service Provider
HOW WE WORK

- We work through a referral system.
- We offer immediate relief and limited supplemental relief directly to families following a gun violence incident.
- We developed a dynamic partnership with the Ventura County DA’s office in 2018.
- To-date, the Christina Grimmie Foundation has awarded over $100,000 in grants.
- We can fund grant requests in many cases within 24 to 72 hours with proper documentation.
• Worked directly with the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) and the Venture DA’s Office (VCDA).
  • Provided immediate support to 10 of 12 families who suffered a loss at Borderline.
  • We were boots on the ground and participated in forums for victims and service providers
  • Served on a VCCF special committee to administer funds to Borderline victims and survivors.

• Our work with the VCCF and VCDA can be replicated and serve as an efficient support model should we encounter another incident in the state.

• Collaboration and communication between all organizations made a difference.
We Still Have Much Work To Do:

- To date, it is estimated that 39 people are killed each day in the U.S. due to gun violence.
- 254 mass-shootings reported to date in 2019, including the recent incidents in Gilroy, El Paso and Dayton.

CHRISTINA GRIMMIE FOUNDATION
Areas of Family Support

- Housing: 34%
- Food & Household: 22%
- Family Care: 13%
- Transportation/Travel: 10%
- Utilities: 9%
- Medical Expenses: 7%
- Misc Support: 5%