



Office of
Victim Services

In partnership with



Disaster Mental Health Fundamentals

June 22, 2022 | 9 AM — 4:30 PM
SUNY New Paltz Campus

Disaster Mental Health Fundamentals

June 22, 2022, 2022

9am – 4:30pm EST

IN-PERSON ONLY

SUNY New Paltz Campus
1 Hawk Drive New Paltz, NY 12561

Note: This training is open to licensed New York State (NYS) Mental Health Providers and/or current graduate students of a clinical program from OVS-funded organizations. Continuing Education (CE) credit hours are subject to successful completion of all session requirements. See below for more information.

To register for this training, please [click here](#).

This training will prepare you for that “tap on the shoulder” — for the moment when disaster strikes, and you can help people at a time in their lives when they most need it. By understanding how disaster characteristics impact individuals, recognizing disaster stress and reactions, understanding risk and resilience, and learning early intervention best practices, this training will make you better equipped to provide the supportive recovery environment that is so crucial to the healing of those whose lives have been touched by disaster.

Participants will:

1. Describe how disaster mental health differs from more traditional mental health practices
2. Understand the range of typical reactions that are expectable in survivors following a disaster, including physical, emotional, cognitive, behavioral, and spiritual responses, as well as the collective effects on families, groups, and communities
3. Understand and be able to recognize the extreme reactions experienced by some disaster survivors and identify evidence-based best practices for longer-term treatment of PTSD and other reactions
4. Identify risk factors that make certain groups or individuals more vulnerable during and after disasters
5. Identify potential sources of resilience and post-traumatic growth among disaster survivors
6. Learn the principles of Psychological First Aid
7. Practice implementing Disaster Mental Health interventions through a group exercise
8. Understand early interventions and the role of screening and referral to identify and assist those demonstrating a need for mental health interventions
9. Understand the importance of self-care for disaster responders, and consider healthy coping mechanisms in preparation for participation



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Logistics

This event will take place on the SUNY New Paltz Campus located at 1 Hawk Drive New Paltz, NY 12561. Printable campus parking passes will be provided in advance of the training. The SUNY New Paltz Campus is located about 20 minutes by car from the Poughkeepsie train station.

Participants are responsible for transportation and lodging for this event.

A light breakfast and boxed lunch will be provided to participants. Dietary restrictions should be noted at the time of registration.

If you have questions about whether costs associated with attending this training (including transportation, lodging, and meals) can be covered by your OVS grant, please reach out to your OVS Contract Manager.

This is a limited-capacity training. Please only register if you are able to attend the full day session. Substitutions are not permitted as waitlisted attendees will be given priority in filling cancellation slots.

Please email training@ovs.ny.gov with any questions.

Continuing Education Eligibility and Requirements

This program is open to licensed NYS Mental Health Providers and/or current clinical program graduate students from OVS-funded organizations. The session is free of charge and select Continuing Education (CE) hours will be provided to those who meet eligible criteria.

Participants must attend the whole session; partial attendance will not be given.

Social Work Continuing Education Credits (6.5 hours) are currently under review through University at Albany School of Social Welfare and School of Education.

Approved for (6.5) NYS Licensed Mental Health Practitioner credits. State University of New York at New Paltz, Continuing Education Program is recognized by the New York State Education Department's State Board for Mental Health Practitioners as an approved provider of continuing education for licensed mental health counselors. #MHC0227.

[Click here to register](#)



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Course Instructors



Karla Vermeulen, Ph.D., is the Deputy Director of the Institute for Disaster Mental Health and an Associate Professor of Psychology at SUNY New Paltz, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in disaster mental health, grief counseling, and developmental psychology. In addition to teaching and research, she has coordinated the development and production of training curricula for the New York State Department of Health and Office of Mental Health, the American Red Cross, the United Nations, and other organizations. She is co-author of *Disaster Mental Health Interventions: Core Principles and Practices* (2017) and co-editor of *Disaster Mental Health Case Studies: Lessons Learned from Counseling in Chaos* (2019), both published by Routledge. Her next book, *Generation Disaster: Coming of Age Post-9/11*, was published in August 2021 in the Oxford University Press Emerging Adulthood series. Learn more about the book at generationdisaster.com. 1/2021



Richard King, LCSW, ACSW, recently retired from the NYS Office of Mental Health after 31 years of State service. At the Central NY Field Office, he served in several roles including Coordinator of Licensing Activities, Deputy Director and Acting Director. Rick has been a lead instructor of Disaster Mental Health practice for OMH and has provided training for mental health professionals throughout New York State since 2006. In addition to training activities, Rick has been an active disaster responder to such events as Katrina and the Lake George Ethan Allen tour boat accident in 2005, the American Civic Association mass shooting in 2009, flooding events in 2006, 2008, 2012 and 2017, and the Schoharie limousine accident of 2018 that resulted in 20 fatalities. Most recently, he has been part of several OMH teams developing responses to the COVID-19 epidemic.

This program is presented by the New York State Office of Victim Services in collaboration with the Institute for Disaster Mental Health at SUNY New Paltz (IDMH). CE hours are available through a partnership with University at Albany School of Social Welfare and School of Education.