

Workplace Violence in Meridian, Mississippi

Two AR-CRT Teams Respond

In July, employees of Lockheed Martin watched co-workers experience the horrors of workplace violence. The tragedy saw six dead and eight wounded. The shooter killed himself.

Scott Sasser, Team Leader, SEACRT and Methodist Family Health CRT members, Cyndi Coleman, Team Manager and Shelton Walker joined NOVA Deputy Director John Stein in responding to a request by NOVA.

While there, the team met with city officials, attended a community meeting and a memorial service held for the victims who lost their lives, conducted a training session for



*"I appreciated the opportunity to service our neighbor state."
Van Dyer
Criminal Justice Institute CRT*

community caregivers (including mental health professionals and members of the clergy) and facilitated a group crisis intervention open to community members.

The second response team included members from Virginia, Florida and Arkansas. Gray LeMaster, Pulaski County CRT, was team manager. Other Arkansans on the team were Deborah Flowers and Van Dyer, Criminal Justice Institute CRT.

The second team continued to work with the community and focus on group crisis interventions, where needed.

Both teams worked closely with Wesley House Community Center and the Mayor's office. While in Mississippi, each team met many wonderful people, two of whom were Nell Grissom, and Ginger Grissom Stevens, a mother-daughter team who ran a Methodist-affiliated Community Center called Wesley House.

Wesley House is a well-known institution in Meridian, providing an array of services to the community including victim advocacy services, parenting classes, counseling services, and provision of basic necessities such as food and clothing.

Ms. Stevens will be in Little Rock in September for the NOVA Advanced Training class. Ms. Grissom and Ms.



*"The experience was both intense and rewarding."
Shelton Walker
Methodist Family Health CRT*

Stevens are active NOVA members. When crisis struck their city, NOVA was a resource that they could offer to the Mayor.

As both teams returned home, lasting friendships were made with the community of Meridian.



Scott Sasser, SEACRT and
Cyndi Coleman, Methodist Family Health CRT