

PLANNING

Planning for community long term needs takes on many dimensions because there are many aspects that need to be addressed in the aftermath of a mass crisis event. Community Trauma Recovery, Financial Support for Community, Annual Observances, Permanent Site Memorials, and Resiliency Centers each have their own unique planning strategies which need to be taken under consideration. It is important to recognize the many facets of long term community needs and create planning groups around those responsibilities. While the areas may overlap, the specialized expertise required in each area must be recruited.

Community Trauma Recovery Example:

In addressing community trauma recovery, a “provider group” should be developed. The intent is to get all community providers at one table to share resources, identify problems, find solutions, and assign roles and responsibilities. The group may initially meet daily immediately following the event and continue, with less frequency, for one year or as long as group members decide is needed.

After the Platte Canyon High School tragedy in Colorado, the group was composed of Victim Services staff, Mental Health staff, School District staff, Human Services staff, and Mountain Peace Shelter staff.

After the Aurora, Colorado theater shooting, a committee was formed titled the 720 Recovery Committee. The committee included representatives from non-profit service providers, community foundations, business, government, education and the faith community. More information can be found in the “Additional Resources” section or at www.720recovery.org

Often different community members are involved in the financial aspect of long term planning; however, coordination is key among all committees working on the recovery effort. The important message is to address all aspects of the aftermath of the crisis and set up committees/teams to reflect the expertise needed in each area.