

Thank you for participating in the Gun Violence Reduction Roundtable. Below are the responses to the questions posed during the event.

To reach the Pennsylvania Office of Victim Advocate, please call 800-563-6399 Monday through Friday. You may also email Ashley Walkowiak directly at anwalkowiak@pa.gov.

Question 1: Please share links to successful models of your programs so that others can learn from your expertise.

Alexia Clarke, Chester Community Coalition:

- Youth Alive! out of Oakland, California- <https://www.youthalive.org/caught-in-the-crossfire/>
- Healing Hurt People, out of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania- <https://drexel.edu/medicine/community-engagement/patient-care/healing-hurt-people/>
- Cure4Camden out of Camden, NJ- <https://www.centerffs.org/our-services/victim-trauma-services/cure4camden>

Question 2: What type of resources exist for teens that were/are shooting victims?

Alexia Clarke, Chester Community Coalition: The teen program is Teen Mental Health First Aid, <https://www.mhfa.org/teens>. We also provide individual therapy from trauma-certified therapists and group therapy based on the TF CBT and S.E.L.F./Sanctuary models

Question 3: Are schools connected to community organizations to continue support for the young people beyond the school walls?

Alexia Clarke, Chester Community Coalition: The teen program is Teen Mental Health First Aid, <https://www.mhfa.org/teens>. Training 10th-12 graders in high schools to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among their friends and peers.

Question 4: How are you making victims/families aware of your programs?

Gabriela Rivera, Resolve Philly: We are making survivors and families aware of our text line through community outreach events.

Other organizations at the roundtable mentioned that they are currently doing community outreach, newsletters, and hospital-based programming. Many organizations are operating via referrals.

Question 5: Are groups around the state working together at all? Is there a statewide coalition of some kind?

Office of Victim Advocate: There is not a statewide coalition bringing together all gun violence service organizations. However, [Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice](#) is a national organization that presented during the roundtable. They have [chapters in Harrisburg and York, PA](#).

Question 6: Following the broken windows sensibility, has gun violence been tackled at the scale of cleaning up blighted lots and street/sidewalk litter?

Dr Jack Rozel, Resolve Crisis Services of UPMC: The evidence of neighborhood restoration especially, expanding greenspace as a way to reduce gun violence, is robust including great research out of Penn. Also reduces property crime, respiratory illnesses, heat illnesses reduces green house gas emissions, etc. Great discussion just this week in NY Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/08/opinion/gun-violence-biden-philadelphia.html>.

Question 7: Knowing that there is no easy legislative fix - what can legislators do that could possibly be effective or most helpful for the community efforts you all are making?

Dr Jack Rozel, Resolve Crisis Services of UPMC: fund education and safety training, fund Cure Violence and related community models (may be hard to get a majority support to reduce gun access, may be easier to get majority support for community services), require training on firearm injury prevention and safer storage counseling for health professionals and firearms dealers, many others -- email me, happy to discuss more

Alexia Clarke, Chester Community Coalition: create balance between enforcement funding and funding that addresses the root causes of violence and provide support proven to reduce risk of re-injury, retaliation, death and criminal justice involvement like Cure Violence, hospital-linked violence prevention, wraparound services, mentoring, neighborhood development and recreation activities; provide access to reimbursement for those services through the state and federal level.

Office of Victim Advocate: Trauma recovery centers provide comprehensive services to crime survivors by removing barriers that may otherwise prevent survivors and their families from accessing community programs and healing. Funding for trauma recovery centers across Pennsylvania is needed; legislative support of this initiative would be greatly appreciated. Learn more by visiting [Alliance for Safety & Justice](#).

Question 8: Pennsylvania allows to carry guns in places that serve alcohol. Why?

Office of Victim Advocate: The long answer to this question is nuanced with history and cultural acceptance and practice, but it's a worthy topic to explore. We suggest [contacting your local legislator](#) to see if they are interested in having this conversation and beginning a bill that would change this practice.

Question 9: If police treat victims like they were suspects, where is an alternative place victims should go to get their story heard & receive services in Philadelphia (for teens & for adults)?

Office of Victim Advocate: [A listing of crime victim services is available here](#) by selecting the county you would like to search.

Contact Information

Speakers who offered consent to share their contact information

Name	Website	Email	Phone
Lily Medosch	https://equallyinformed.com/	lily@resolvephilly.org	
Gene Sonn	https://brokeinphilly.org/	gene@resolvephilly.org	215 370- 2195
Gabriela Rivera	https://equallyinformed.com/	gabriela@resolvephilly.org	
Alexia Clarke	https://www.chestercommunitycoalition.org	alexia@chestercommunitycoalition.org	610- 368- 0714
Dr. Jack Rozel	resolve Crisis Services	rozeljs@upmc.edu	412- 864- 5013
Bryan Majors	www.Bryanmajors.com		

Resources Mentioned During the Event

Lily Medosch, Resolve Philly: [Up The Block](#) is a growing resource guide of resources and services for those impacted by gun violence in Philadelphia. The website is available in English and Spanish.

Alexia Clarke, Chester Community Coalition: Hospital-based violence prevention [white paper](#)

Book: https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2088.html

<https://www.bethe1to.com/> -- great easy to access resources on peer-to-peer suicide prevention

Governors Special Council on Gun Violence including our report

<https://www.pccd.pa.gov/criminaljustice/GunViolence/Pages/default.aspx>