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**ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

33 CAPITOL STREET  
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

JOSEPH A. FOSTER  
ATTORNEY GENERAL



ANN M. RICE  
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

April 1, 2016

Her Excellency, Margaret Wood Hassan  
And the Honorable Council  
State House  
Concord, NH 03301

Your Excellency and Members of the Council:

REQUESTED ACTION

That approval be, and it hereby is, given to the nomination by the Attorney General of Jennifer L. Schirmer, to serve on the New Hampshire Victims' Assistance Commission. Ms. Schirmer's term will be for three years from the date of the Governor and Council approval.

EXPLANATION

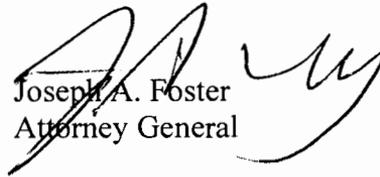
NH RSA 21-M:8-g authorizes the Attorney General to nominate, for approval by the Governor and Executive Council, members to serve on the New Hampshire Victims' Assistance Commission. It is the responsibility of the Commission to review claims for financial reimbursement of expenses submitted by innocent victims of violent crimes. This program has been in effect since 1990.

Jennifer Schirmer is an accomplished trauma specialist and national certified counselor and certified clinical trauma professional, currently employed with the Emergency Services Unit, Department of Health & Human Services as the State Disaster Behavioral Health Coordinator. Ms. Schirmer brings over 10 years of experience and knowledge in the community mental health system. Ms. Schirmer's knowledge and expertise in the mental health field and emergency services will benefit the operation of the Victims' Assistance Commission.

In accordance with NH Code of Administrative Rules, Jus 604.01, her term will be for three years from the date of your approval.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions concerning this request.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joseph A. Foster  
Attorney General

#1384822

**Jennifer L. Schirmer, M.S., N.C.C, C.C.T.P.**

**Education**

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Master of Science – Clinical Mental Health Counseling 2011  
Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Bachelor of Arts – Human Services / Business Management 2004  
Franklin Pierce University, Rindge, New Hampshire

**Professional Experience**

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State Disaster Behavioral Health Coordinator  
Department of Health & Human Services, Emergency Services Unit Concord, NH 2013 – Present

- ❖ Responsible for planning, policy development, management and evaluation of the Disaster Behavioral Health Program.
- ❖ Develops and supervises initiatives to recommend and implement a wide variety of policies and procedures that support program operations and agency goals.
- ❖ Coordinates and collaborates with the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Safety, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and other stakeholders with regard to the need for behavioral health intervention following disasters or critical incidents.
- ❖ Coordinates with the Community Mental Health system and other providers as to provision of care as needed.
- ❖ Evaluates the need for behavioral health related training among DBHRT members, other behavioral health providers, and other responders for the purpose of coordinating and conducting training as needed.
- ❖ Regularly reviews literature and resources for updated technical information, provides information to emergency preparedness agencies and other providers of mental health disaster response, and organizes information in a reference library available to all.
- ❖ Works with the Office of Public Information and other sources to implement public information projects and mailings, TV, and other media announcements.
- ❖ Provides technical assistance to statewide community mental health centers and other providers as to disaster planning and preparedness.
- ❖ Coordinates periodic drills and tests of the preparedness plans in coordination with other emergency preparedness agencies when appropriate, or independently as needed.
- ❖ In the response phase of disasters, coordinates (and participates in) all response activities from the State Emergency Operations Center (when activated) in conjunction with the Disaster Behavioral Health Liaison and DBHRT Team Leaders.

Adult Outpatient Therapist 2010 – 2014  
Community Partners, Dover, New Hampshire

- ❖ Performed comprehensive biopsychosocial intake assessments and reports.
- ❖ Collaborated with individuals and couples to develop therapeutic goals and objectives for treatment planning and ongoing therapy.
- ❖ Maintained documentation in medical records and organizational software in accordance with the State of NH and agency Quality Improvement.
- ❖ Collaborated with interdisciplinary healthcare providers and facilitated communication with the Community Support Program and Psychiatric Services Team.
- ❖ Attended and participated actively in staff meetings, supervision, and clinical case review.
- ❖ Completed Practicum and Internship for Graduate Education (December 2010 – September 2011)

Family Assistance Specialist 2010 – 2011  
New Hampshire National Guard, Contractor, Concord, New Hampshire

- ❖ Establish collaborative relationships with state and local military, government, social service agencies, community services, businesses, and civic organizations to provide support to National Guard members and families.
- ❖ Assisted Family Readiness Groups in gathering, collating, maintaining and disseminating information to all unit families.
- ❖ Worked in conjunction with the State Family Program Director and Unit Commanders regarding Family Assistance issues and operations in preparation for the largest deployment in the state's history.

Crisis Counseling Program Coordinator 2004 – 2011  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- ❖ Worked in collaboration with State Disaster Mental Health Coordinators to establish and maintain crisis counseling programs following presidentially declared disasters.
- ❖ Reviewed grant proposals to provide approval recommendations.
- ❖ Composed correspondence regarding allocation and obligation of federal funding for the crisis counseling program and Disaster Unemployment Assistance.
- ❖ Received training for Special Needs Cases, Disaster Unemployment Assistance and Disaster Legal Services.

### **Other Experience**

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Individual Assistance Team Lead / Applicant Services Program Specialist / Congressional Liaison 2004 – 2011  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

- ❖ Facilitated correspondence between disaster survivors and the Joint Field Office in an effort to resolve application problems or inadequacies.
- ❖ Supplied information regarding federal disaster assistance programs, answered questions regarding the application process and directed disaster survivors through the registration process.
- ❖ Aligned disaster survivors with the network of available disaster assistance programs offered by community, state, national and governmental organizations.
- ❖ Managed, trained, and motivated Applicant Services Program Specialists at Disaster Recovery Centers.

Community Relations Field Specialist / Unit Lead  
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 2004 – 2011

- ❖ Established an immediate and identifiable on-scene presence at a disaster site to assess critical needs.
- ❖ Worked in coalition with local Emergency Management officials, commissioners, mayors, sheriffs, police and fire departments, volunteer agencies, local clergy and social service agencies.
- ❖ Disseminated materials and provided information regarding federal disaster relief programs to citizens and officials.
- ❖ Motivated, trained and delegated staff to complete mission specific tasks.
- ❖ Assembled data from team members, composed daily field reports and relayed information to the Disaster Field Office for action.

### **Professional Credentials**

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National Certified Counselor (NCC) – National Board of Certified Counselors 2012 – 2017  
Certification # 292338

Certified Clinical Trauma Professional (CCTP) – International Association of Trauma Professionals 2015 – 2016

### **Professional Presentations**

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Schirmer, J. & Lindberg, M. (2016). *Psychological First Aid*. A training presented at New England College.

Schirmer, J. (2015). *Disaster Psychology*. A training session for new members of the Community Emergency Response Team.

Schirmer, J. & Lindberg, M. (2015). *Psychological First Aid*. A training presented for Antioch University.

Schirmer, J. & Lindberg, M. (2015). *Critical Incident Stress Management: Group Crisis Intervention*. A training presented for Keene State College.

Schirmer, J. (2015). *Psychological First Aid for Caregivers*. A training presented for the NH Visiting Nurses Association (VNA).

Schirmer, J. & Lindberg, M. (2015). *Basic Training: Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team*. A training presented for citizens of New Hampshire interested in joining the NH DBHRT.

Schirmer, J. (2015). *Psychological First Aid*. A training presented for the Upper Valley Public Health Network and guests.

Schirmer, J. & Lindberg, M. (2015). *Surviving the Storm: Managing Anger and other Common Stress Reactions*. A workshop presented for the annual NH Emergency Preparedness Conference.

Schirmer, J. & Lindberg, M. (2015). *Psychological First Aid*. A training presented for Harbor Homes New Hampshire.

- Schirmer, J. & Lindberg, M. (2015). *Basic Training: Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team*. A training presented for Southern New Hampshire University.
- Schirmer, J. & Lindberg, M. (2015). *Psychological First Aid*. A training presented for first responders and members of volunteer organizations active in disasters.
- Schirmer, J., Lindberg, M., Weld, S., & Fenner-Lukaitis, E. (2015). *Working in a Family Assistance Center*. A training presented for the North Country Public Health Network and Medical Reserve Corps.
- Schirmer, J. (2015). *Trauma, Grief, and Loss for Caregivers*. A training presented for Community Crossroads NH.
- Schirmer, J. (2015). *Psychological First Aid for Responders*. A training presented for multiple shifts (4 total) of the Dover, NH Fire Department.
- Schirmer, J. & Lindberg, M. (2015). *Critical Incident Stress Management: Group Crisis Intervention*. A training presented for the Elliot Hospital Crisis Response Team.
- Schirmer, J. & Lindberg, M. (2015). *Critical Incident Stress Management: Group Crisis Intervention*. A training presented for Keene State College.
- Schirmer, J. & Lindberg, M. (2015). *Basic Training: Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team*. A training presented for the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services.
- Schirmer, J. (2014). *Through the Looking Glass: A Cultural Lens for Psychological First Aid for Children*. A workshop presented for the annual NH Integrated Emergency Volunteer Training Conference.
- Schirmer, J. (2014). *Psychological First Aid*. A workshop presented for the annual NH Integrated Emergency Volunteer Training Conference.
- Schirmer, J., Lindberg, M., Weld, S., & Fenner-Lukaitis, E. (2014). *Working in a Mass Casualty Family Assistance Center*. A training presented for the Seacoast Medical Reserve Corps.
- Schirmer, J., Lindberg, M., Weld, S., & Fenner-Lukaitis, E. (2014). *Working in a Mass Casualty Family Assistance Center*. A training presented for the Greater Monadnock Public Health Network.
- Schirmer, J. (2014). *Skills for Psychological Recovery: A Primer Presentation*. A workshop presented for the annual NH Emergency Preparedness Conference.
- Schirmer, J. (2014). *Skills for Psychological Recovery: A Primer Presentation*. A workshop presented for the NH Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team Annual Conference and Training.
- Schirmer, J. (2014). *Disaster Psychology*. Training seminar for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certification.
- Schirmer, J. (2012). *Disaster Psychology*. Training seminar for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certification.

Schirmer, J. (2011). *Disaster Psychology*. Training seminar for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certification.

Schirmer, J. (2010). *Disaster Psychology*. Training seminar for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certification.

Brazier, B., Heller, S., Kinsey, B., Marx, L., Schirmer, J., Upchurch, J., et al. (2008, January). *Reunion and Readjustment: Anger in military dependent adolescents*. Poster session presented at Residency 1 for Walden University, Minneapolis, MN.

McLaughlin, K., & Schirmer, J. (2007). *Crisis Counseling Program: Preparing the Immediate Services Program (ISP) and Regular Services Program (RSP) Grant Applications*. A workshop presented for the Maine State Disaster Behavioral Health Coordinator and community mental health center personnel.

### **Honors and Awards**

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Recipient of the William Randolph Hearst Endowment Scholarship 2003 & 2004

### **Professional Affiliations**

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Member, International Association of Trauma Professionals

Member, International Critical Incident Stress Foundation

Member, Commission on PTSD & TBI

Co-Chair, Stigma Reduction Subcommittee

Member, Military Education and Awareness Subcommittee

Member, Suicide Prevention Council

Member, Suicide Prevention Council Leadership Subcommittee

Co-Chair, Cross Training and Professional Education Subcommittee

Member, Public Policy Subcommittee

Member, Suicide Fatality Review Committee

Member, NH Community Health Prevention / Resilience, Risk Reduction, & Suicide Prevention

Member, American Counseling Association

Member, Chi Sigma Iota – Counseling & Academic Professional Honor Society International;  
Omega Zeta Chapter

Member, New Hampshire Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team (NH DBHRT)

Member, Alpha Sigma Lambda – National Honor Society for Continuing Education & Lifelong Learning; Eta Rho Chapter

### **Continuing Education and Certifications**

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Premier Ed. Solutions, Inc. – Clinical Implications & Applications of Adult Attachment Interview 2015

NH Homeland Security Emergency Management – Homeland Security Exercise & Eval. Program

FEMA – Crisis Counseling Program Grants Training (week long certification) 2015

Premier Ed. Solutions, Inc. – Trauma and Mindfulness: Effective Interventions for Healing 2015

FEMA - Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness (MGT-439) 2015

Premier Ed. Solutions, Inc. – Overcoming Trauma related Shame and Self-Loathing 2015

National Alliance on Mental Illness – Connect Suicide Prevention (trained trainer) 2015

National Alliance on Mental Illness – Connect Suicide Postvention (trained trainer)	2015
NBCC – Understanding Suicide and Prevention in Service Members	2015
Premier Ed. Solutions, Inc. – Evidence-Based Trauma Treatments and Interventions	2015

**Continuing Education and Certifications (Continued)**

Premier Ed. Solutions, Inc. – The 10 Core Competencies of Trauma, PTSD, Grief, and Loss	2015
NH Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team – Annual Preparedness Conference	2014
Annual State Suicide Prevention Conference	2014
NH DHHS – Supervisor Certificate Program (Six Month Certificate Program)	2014
Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services – Families and Addiction	2014
NHNG ASIST – Suicide Intervention Training	2014
Chi Sigma Iota – DSM 5: Assessments, Documentation, and Logistical Considerations	2014
Chi Sigma Iota – Uses of Adlerian Life Style Assessment in Therapeutic Practice	2014
Chi Sigma Iota – Counseling from an Adlerian Perspective: Tx of Non-suicidal Self-injury	2014
ICISF – Best Training Practices for the CISM Instructor	2014
ICISF – Group Crisis Intervention	2014
ICISF – Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support	2014
NH DHHS in Partnership – Counseling on Access to Lethal Means, Trainer	2013
NH Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team – Annual Preparedness Conference	2013
Premier Education Solutions, Inc. – Using Prolonged Exposure Therapy for PTSD	2013
Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services – Initial Training on Addiction and Recovery	2013
MHC of Greater Manchester – Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Skills Training	2013
American Counseling Association – CBT and PTSD: Where Counseling & Neuroscience Meet	2013
NH Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team – Annual Preparedness Conference	2012
American Counseling Association – Developing an Integrative Theory of Counseling	2012
Premier Education Solutions, Inc. – DBT Skills Training	2012
CMI Education Institute, Inc. – The Swiss Cheese Theory of Life	2012
UNH Department of Social Work – Risk Management for Mental Health Professionals	2012
National Alliance on Mental Health – Suicide Awareness and Prevention	2010
NH Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team – Annual Preparedness Conference	2011
NH DBHRT – Partnering to Support Military Kids & Families	2009
NH DBHRT – Understanding PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury: Helping Service Men and Women Come All the Way Home	2009
NH DBHRT – Reunion / Reintegration Workshop	2009
NH DBHRT – Mandated Reporting	2009
Military Child Education Coalition – Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserves	2009
Emergency Management Institute – Individual Assistance Program Management	2008
NH DBHRT – Community Resiliency	2008
NH DBHRT – Understanding Military Culture	2007
NH DBHRT – Psychological First Aid	2007
American Red Cross – Foundations of Disaster Mental Health	2006
National Alliance on Mental Health – Frameworks Program for Suicide Postvention	2006
NH DBHRT – Basic Training for Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team	2006
International Critical Incident Stress Foundation – Critical Incident Stress Management: Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support	2004
FEMA: Outreach Worker Training / Immediate and Regular Services Programs	2004