

**ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

33 CAPITOL STREET
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301-6397

GORDON J. MACDONALD
ATTORNEY GENERAL



JANE E. YOUNG
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

February 13, 2019

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Your Excellency and Members of the Council:

REQUESTED ACTION

That approval be and hereby is given to the Attorney General to reappoint Jennifer Schirmer to serve on the New Hampshire Victims' Assistance Commission. Ms. Schirmer's term will be for three years, from April 20, 2019 to April 20, 2022, upon approval of the Governor and Executive Council.

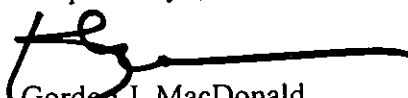
EXPLANATION

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. This Commission reviews claims for financial reimbursement of expenses submitted by innocent victims of violent crimes. This program has been in effect since 1990.

Ms. Schirmer has a Master of Science degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and is an accomplished trauma specialist and a New Hampshire licensed and nationally certified counselor. She 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 will benefit the operation of the Victims' Assistance Commission.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this request. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,


Gordon J. MacDonald
Attorney General

#2299614

Jennifer L. Schirmer, LCMHC, NCC, CCTP
Turning Point Counseling & Consultation, LLC

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Dover, NH 03820

Education

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

Owner / Founder 2018 – Present
Turning Point Counseling & Consultation, LLC

- ❖ Performs comprehensive biopsychosocial intake assessments and reports.
- ❖ Collaborates with individuals, couples, and families to develop therapeutic goals and objectives for treatment planning and ongoing therapy.
- ❖ Maintains documentation and electronic health records in accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- ❖ Collaborates with interdisciplinary healthcare providers.
- ❖ Attends and participates actively in supervision, consultation, and continuing education in accordance with the New Hampshire Board of Mental Health Practice.
- ❖ Develops and presents training and professional development materials specific to specialized interventions with the framework of trauma-informed care, crisis intervention, disaster behavioral health, and individual and community resilience.
- ❖ Consults with organizations, agencies, school districts, community mental health centers, and other Federal, State, or community stakeholders for behavioral health planning, response, recovery, mitigation, and training.

Disaster Behavioral Health Contractor (Vendor # 291955) 2018 – Present
NH Department of Health & Human Services

- ❖ Collaborates with Emergency Services Unit (ESU) staff responsible for overseeing the New Hampshire Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team (DBHRT) and provides technical assistance including, but not limited to:
 - Recruiting and training new volunteers and partners to increase capacity of the NH Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team, as well as other crisis response teams throughout NH
 - Activating a team of trained volunteers who provide support to individuals, communities, and responders following critical incidents and emergencies.
 - Responding to calls from communities and organizations impacted by critical incidents or emergencies for:
 - Assessing and facilitating connection to local response resources
 - Consulting with the requesting organization or community and Department staff to assist in the development of an incident-specific behavioral health response plan

- Assisting in volunteer coordination and management
- Organizing and managing statewide on-scene response and support efforts
- ❖ Conducts training and professional development for State agencies, organizations, communities, or others on subjects including, but not limited to:
 - Enhancing resilience for first responders, healthcare professionals, and other emergency responders who may be dealing with traumatic stress
 - DBHRT Basic Training for recruitment and training of new volunteers and partners
 - Critical Incident Stress Management and Peer Support
 - Psychological First Aid
 - Professional Development for NH DHHS Organizational Development Training Services (ODTS)
 - Other critical incident response and crisis management training as requested
- ❖ Compiles and provides quarterly reports to the Department for all activities performed.

State Disaster Behavioral Health Coordinator

2013 – 2018

Department of Health & Human Services, Emergency Services Unit Concord, NH

- ❖ Responsible for planning, policy development, management and evaluation of the Disaster Behavioral Health Program.
- ❖ Developed and supervised initiatives to recommend and implement a wide variety of policies and procedures that support program operations and agency goals.
- ❖ Coordinated and collaborated 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.
- ❖ Coordinated with the Community Mental Health system and other providers as to provision of care as needed.
- ❖ Evaluated 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 reviewed literature and resources for updated technical information, provided information to emergency preparedness agencies and other providers of mental health disaster response, and organized information in a reference library available to all.
- ❖ Worked with the Office of Public Information and other sources to implement public information projects and mailings, provide TV and media announcements, and develop a variety of resource materials.
- ❖ Provided technical assistance to statewide community mental health centers and other providers as to disaster planning and preparedness.
- ❖ Coordinated 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, coordinated (and participated 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, Region III 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.
- ❖ Monitored and implemented Disaster Unemployment Assistance and Disaster Legal Services.
- ❖ Participated in incident specific taskforce operations including Special Needs Cases.

Other Experience

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

- ❖ 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 fixed and mobile Disaster Recovery Centers.

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

- ❖ 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

New Hampshire Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LCMHC) License # 1242	2017 – 2019
National Certified Counselor (NCC) – National Board of Certified Counselors Certification # 292338	2012 – 2022
Certified Clinical Trauma Professional (CCTP) – International Association of Trauma Professionals	2014 – 2019
Certified in Critical Incident Stress Management (CCISM) – International Critical Incident Stress Foundation; University of Maryland, Baltimore County	2017 – 2022

Professional Affiliations

Member, International Association of Trauma Professionals
 Member, International Critical Incident Stress Foundation
 Member, American Counseling Association
 Commissioner, Victim's Compensation Commission (NH Attorney General appointee 2016)
 Co-Chair, Critical Incident Protocol Committee for Law Enforcement (NH Attorney General's Office)
 Member, New Hampshire Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team (NH DBHRT)
 Member, Chi Sigma Iota – Counseling & Academic Professional Honor Society International;
 Omega Zeta Chapter
 Member, Alpha Sigma Lambda – National Honor Society for Continuing Education & Lifelong
 Learning; Eta Rho Chapter
 Inactive Member, Suicide Prevention Council
 Former Member, Suicide Prevention Council Leadership Subcommittee
 Former Co-Chair, Cross Training and Professional Education Subcommittee
 Former Member, Public Policy Subcommittee
 Inactive Member, Commission on Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury
 Co-Chair, Stigma Reduction Subcommittee (inactive)
 Member, Military Education and Awareness Subcommittee (inactive)
 Former Member, Suicide Fatality Review Committee
 Inactive Member, NH Community Health Prevention / Resilience, Risk Reduction, & Suicide Prevention

Professional Presentations (2018 – Present; past presentation information may be requested)

Schirmer, J. (October 2, 2018). *Basic Training: Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team*. A training sponsored by the North Country Health Consortium and provided to Public Health Network staff, regional partners, and interested citizens of NH.

- Schirmer, J. (September 25, 2018). *Managing Distressing Calls and other Difficult Interactions*. A training provided to NH Department of Health & Human Services staff.
- Schirmer, J. (August 2, 2018). *Disaster Behavioral Health*. Professional development presented to SAU 34 Hillsboro School District administrators, staff, and crisis response team members.
- Schirmer, J. (July 11, 2018). *Psychological First Aid*. A training presented to Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) staff.
- Schirmer, J. (June 29, 2018). *Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team and Crisis Response in Schools*. A training presented at the 27th Annual D.A.R.E. Officers Training Conference, Conway NH.
- Schirmer, J. (June 12, 2018). *Psychological First Aid: Peer Support and Suicide Prevention*. A training presented to NH Department of Corrections North Country Correctional Facility.
- Schirmer, J. (June 7, 2018). *Disaster Behavioral Health Response: Building a Crisis Response Team*. A training presented to Wentworth Douglass Hospital staff.
- Schirmer, J. (May 23, 2018). *Psychological First Aid: Peer Support and Suicide Prevention*. A training presented to NH Department of Corrections State Prison.
- Schirmer, J. (May 22, 2017). *Managing Distressing Calls and other Difficult Interactions*. A training presented to NH Department of Health & Human Services, Seacoast (Portsmouth) District Office.
- Schirmer, J. (May 14, 2018). *Responder Resilience*. A professional development course presented to Nashua Fire & Rescue Department, Nashua NH.
- Schirmer, J. (May 9, 2018). *Managing Distressing Calls and other Difficult Situations*. A training presented to Department of Health & Human Services, Concord NH.
- Schirmer, J. (April 23, 2018). *Disaster Psychology*. A training presented to Seacoast Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Epping NH.
- Schirmer, J. (April 20, 2018). *Basic Training: Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team*. A training presented to Seacoast Mental Health Center staff, Portsmouth NH.
- Schirmer, J. (April 19, 2018). *Psychological First Aid*. A training presented at the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) meeting of the Manchester Public Health Network.
- Schirmer, J. (April 18, 2018). *Psychological First Aid: Peer Support and Suicide Prevention*. A training presented to NH Department of Corrections State Prison.
- Schirmer, J. (April 17, 2018). *Psychological First Aid: Peer Support and Suicide Prevention*. A training presented to NH Department of Corrections North Country Correctional Facility.
- Schirmer, J. (April 11, 2018). *Disaster Psychology*. A training presented to Carroll County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
- Schirmer, J. (April 2, 2018). *Managing Distressing Calls and other Difficult Situations*. A training presented to Department of Health & Human Services Division of Public Health Services, Concord NH.

Schirmer, J. (March 28 – 29, 2018). *Psychological First Aid: Peer Support and Suicide Prevention*. A training presented to NH Department of Corrections Women's Facility.

Schirmer, J. (March 26, 2018). *Responder Resilience*. A professional development course presented to Nashua Fire & Rescue Department, Nashua NH.

Schirmer, J. (March 22, 2018). *Managing Distressing Calls and other Difficult Situations*. A training presented to Department of Health & Human Services, Concord NH.

Schirmer, J. (March 14, 2018). *Basic Training: Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team*. A training presented at New England College, Henniker NH.

Schirmer, J. (March 12, 2018). *Responder Resilience*. A professional development course presented to Nashua Fire & Rescue Department, Nashua NH.

Schirmer, J. (March 6, 2018). *Psychological First Aid: Peer Support and Suicide Prevention*. A training presented to NH Department of Corrections North Country Correctional Facility.

Schirmer, J. (March 1, 2018). *Basic Training: Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team*. A training presented to Community Partners Behavioral Health & Developmental Services of Strafford County staff.

Schirmer, J. (February 27, 2018). *Psychological First Aid*. A training presented at the 34th Annual Conference of School Nurses, St. Anselm College.

Schirmer, J. (February 26, 2018). *Responder Resilience*. A professional development course presented to Nashua Fire & Rescue Department, Nashua NH.

Schirmer, J. (February 21, 2018). *Critical Incident Stress Management and Resilience*. A training presented at New Hampshire Technological Institute (NHTI), Concord NH.

Schirmer, J. (February 20, 2018). *Psychological First Aid*. A training presented to the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of the Mid-State Public Health Network.

Schirmer, J. (February 20, 2018). *Crisis, Trauma, and Disaster Behavioral Health*. A training provided to Antioch University, Keene NH.

Schirmer, J. (January 19, 2018). *Basic Training: Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team*. A training presented to Center for Life Management Community Mental Health Center staff.

Schirmer, J. (January 16, 2018). *Psychological First Aid*. A training presented to Lakes Region Public Health Network, Gilford NH.

Schirmer, J. (January 13, 2018). *Basic Training: Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team*. A training presented to South Central Public Health Network, Derry NH.

Schirmer, J. (January 11, 2018). *Basic Training: Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team*. A training presented to Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester personnel.

Schirmer, J. (January 9, 2018). *Disaster Behavioral Health in Schools*. A training presented at Colby Sawyer College, New London NH.

Continuing Education and Certifications

NHC CBT – Ethics: Mental Health and SUD Treatment with Youth	2018
Premier Ed. Solutions, Inc. – The Body Keeps Score: Trauma and Healing with Bessel van der Kolk	2018
Premier Ed. Solutions, Inc. – How PTSD Affects Mind, Brain, and Biology	2018
ICISF – Suicide Awareness	2018
ICISF – School Based Responses: From Theory to Practice	2018
Premier Ed. Solutions, Inc. – Trauma Course	2018
Premier Ed. Solutions, Inc. – Certified Compassion Fatigue Professional	2018
Premier Ed. Solutions, Inc. – DSM 5 Differential Diagnosis	2018
Premier Ed. Solutions, Inc. – 2 Day Trauma Competency Conference	2017
Premier Ed. Solutions, Inc. – Trauma Therapy: A Cutting Edge Approach	2017
Premier Ed. Solutions, Inc. – Unlocking Suicidal Secrets: Suicide Prevention	2017
NH DHHS – Certified Public Manager Program (SCP II; <i>Nine Month Certificate Program</i>)	2016
Premier Ed. Solutions, Inc. – 10 Best Ever Anxiety Treatments	2016
CRASE Training – Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events	2016
ICISF – Advanced Group Crisis Interventions	2016
ICISF – Line of Duty Death	2016
Premier Ed. Solutions, Inc. – Clinical Implications & Applications of Adult Attachment Interview	2015
NH Homeland Security Emergency Management – Homeland Security Exercise & Eval. Program	2015
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
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 (<i>Six Month Certificate Program</i>)	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