

Mary A. Fetchet, LCSW
Voices Center for Resilience
80 Main Street | New Canaan, CT 06840
mafetchet@voicescenter.org | (203) 966-3911
www.voicescenter.org

Professional Experience

Voices of September 11th New Canaan, CT

Founding Director September 2001 to Present

- Created a non-profit in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 to provide information and access to resources and mental health care for all those impacted.
- Developed and implemented a wide array of community-based programs to address the immediate and long-term emotional needs of 9/11 families, responders and survivors
- Advocated for the respectful notification and handling of unidentified remains and personal effects, the establishment of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum (9/11 Memorial Museum) and the creation of the 9/11 Commission and implementation of sweeping intelligence reforms
- Communicated with local, state and federal organizations and government officials to promote effective preparedness and enhanced national security
- Using social work practices, developed the 9/11 Living Memorial Project to assist families through the emotional but therapeutic process of commemorating their loved ones by documenting their lives through photographs and personal keepsakes
- Through the 9/11 Living Memorial Project created an extensive digital collection of over 87,000 photographs documenting the 2,977 lives lost which is a core component of the *In Memoriam* exhibit at the 9/11 Memorial Museum in NYC
- Established high school and college internship program
- Created VOICES Center of Excellence for Community Resilience, leading research projects to examine the long-term needs of families and communities impacted by traumatic events and to document best practices for responding to acts of terrorism and mass violence.
- Advocated for victims' families, responders and survivors working with local, state and federal agencies:
 - As a member of the Coalition of 9/11 Families, worked with the Office of New York City Chief Medical Examiner and Property Clerk to create a system for a respectful notification process for identified human remains and personal effects, as well as the handling of unidentified human remains.
 - As a member of Lower Manhattan Development Committee (LMDC) Family Advisory Committee, advocated for the creation of an appropriate

memorial (National September 11 Memorial & Museum) to honor the lives lost on 9/11.

- As a member of the 9/11 Family Steering Committee, advocated for the establishment of the 9/11 Commission. Once the 9/11 Commission Report was released, advocated for the implementation of their recommendations for sweeping intelligence reforms, as well as ongoing efforts to promote national security and response to the threat of terrorism.
- As a national and international victims' advocate and mental health professional, Ms. Fetchet has participated in hundreds of print and television interviews in the U.S. and abroad on a range of issues related to 9/11, including the long- needs of victims' families, responders and survivors, mental health and trauma, and public policy reforms to promote national security and preparedness

List of Scientific Publications:

Cozza, S. J., Fisher, J. E., Fetchet, M. A., Chen, S., Zhou, J., Fullerton, C. S., & Ursano, R. J. (2019). Patterns of comorbidity among bereaved family members 14 years after the September 11th, 2001 terrorist attacks. *Journal of Traumatic Stress*, 32(4), 526-535. doi: 10.1002/jts.22407

Fetchet, M. A., Fisher, J. E., & Cozza, S. J. (2019, June 22). A community's voice: 9/11 victim family outcomes 14 years later. Retrieved from <https://www.istss.org/>

Cozza, S. J., Fisher, J. E., Hefner, K. R., Fetchet, M. A., Chen, S., Zuleta, R. F., Fullerton, C. S., & Ursano, R. J. (2019). Notification of human remains identification, grief, and posttraumatic stress in family members bereaved on September 11, 2001. Manuscript submitted for publication.

Ms. Fetchet has led the creation/co-authored four important publications:

- ***Preparing For After: How to Help Victims of Mass Violence***, a resource kit identifying best practices in preparing for and responding to traumatic events, based on extensive research conducted in communities impacted by acts of mass violence – the Oklahoma City bombing, the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and the shootings at Virginia Tech, Northern Illinois University and Tucson, Arizona.
- ***Investigating the Long-term Impact of Bereavement due to Terrorism: Factors that Contribute to Trauma, Grief, Growth and Resilience***, a research study examining the long-term needs of family members of those who died on 9/11/2001 and in the 1985 bombing of Air India Flight 182.
- ***VOICES of Experience: Helping Communities Heal After Traumatic Events***, a two-day training based in part on *VOICES Preparing for After* and subsequent research findings related to recent acts of mass violence and natural disasters. The training assists community stakeholders in planning for, responding to and recovering from traumatic events, taking into consideration the immediate, short-term and long-term requirements for recovery.
- ***Knowledge to Practice Tip sheets*** to provide guidance after acts of mass violence for victims' families, survivors, responders, mental health professionals, including mental health considerations and tips for talking with the media.

Bridges Community Support System, Inc. Milford, CT

Clinical Social Worker May 1994 to September 2001

- Provided mental health services for the adult population and families as part of an interdisciplinary team with psychologists and psychiatrists
- Delivered services including evaluation, case management, counseling, support services and monitoring of medication for individuals
- Initiated the annual anxiety and depression screenings, facilitated anxiety support groups and CBT training

Awards

- New York Disaster Interfaith Services Advocacy Partnership Award, 2017
- Moffly Media Light A Fire Award, 2014
- Hall of Fame at Columbia University School of Social Work in New York City, 2013
- New Canaan Community Foundation Spirit of New Canaan Award, 2013
- Social Work Managers Award, 2010
- Hometown Heroes on DIRECTTV Hometown Heroes Production, 2008
- NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams Making a Difference feature, 2006
- "Connecticut's Most Uncommon Women" Award, 2006
- Red Cross Award and Rotary Foundation Paul Harris Fellowship, 2005
- ABC News Person of the Year, 2004
- "Connecticut Hero" award by Senator Joseph Lieberman, 2004
- National Justice Award, 2003

Advisory Committees

- 9/11 Family Steering Committee for the 9/11 Commission
- 9/11 Memorial Museum Family Advisory Committee
- Center For National Policy, Truman Project
- Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, World Trade Center Evacuation Study
- Federal Community Health Resilience Coalition, HHS
- FBI Citizen's Academy Alumni
- INVICTM - International Network Supporting Victims of Terrorism and Mass Violence (EU)
- Kenova Investigation, Victim Focus Group (UK)
- Leadership in Counter Terrorism Alumni Association (LinCT)
- Lifeline Disaster Distress Helpline Subcommittee
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network
- Psychological First Aid Operations Guide, 1st edition
- The National Mass Violence & Victimization Resource Center Advisory

Selected Speeches

- Empowering Our Community With Hope and Healing Following the Mother Emanuel Massacre, Charleston, South Carolina 2019
- Leadership and Counterterrorism (LinCT) 2019 Conference. Toronto, Canada
- Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment Spring 2019 PSSC Summit, Waterloo, Canada
- Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police National Working Group, Ottawa, Canada
- International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies 34th Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
- Leadership in Counterterrorism (LinCT) 2017, 2018 – Incorporating Victims Needs Into Your Counterterrorism Strategy, New York, NY
- Strength and Healing Conference Military Family Service Program, Edmonton, Canada
- 3rd Canadian Division Wellness Training, Edmonton, Canada
- Yale University Genocide Study: Memorializing With Meaning, New Haven, CT
- 25 Years Later: The 1993 World Trade Center Bombing: Then and Now- 9/11 Memorial Museum, New York, NY
- Leadership in Counterterrorism (LinCT) 2017 Global Terrorism Prevention, Sydney, Australia
- Victoria Police and LinCT Alumni International Counter Terrorism Forum, Melbourne, Australia
- International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies 33rd Annual Meeting, Trauma and Complexity: From Self to Cells, Chicago, Illinois
- International Symposium on Victims of Terrorism, Dublin, Ireland
- Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, Ottawa-Gatineau
- Conference Internationale Pour L'Aide Aux Victimes, Paris, France
- UN Conference on the Human Rights of Victims of Terrorism, New York, NY
- 30th Annual Training Symposium: Celebrating 30 Years of Leadership, Support and Compassion, Vancouver, BC
- CACP Victims of Crime International Forum: Empowering victims through partnership, 2014
- Office for Victims of Crime Conference, Washington, DC
- International Association of Emergency Managers, Tampa, FL
- National Association of Social Workers, Hartford, CT
- U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC
- Major County Sheriffs Association, Mackinac Island, MI
- Leadership in Counterterrorism Alumni Association Conference, Los Angeles, CA, 2013 and 2014
- NCMS, The Society of Industrial Security Professionals 2012
- Morgan Library, New York, NY
- Halifax International Security Forum, Halifax, NS

- Global Counterterrorism Conference, Madrid, Spain
- Society of Industrial Security Professionals, Orlando, FL
- Melanie Ilene Rieger Memorial Conference, New Britain, CT

Congressional Testimonies

- Testimony to the Commissioners for the 9/11 Independent Commission, New York, NY, March 3, 2003
- Testimony in front of the U.S. Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, August 17, 2004
- U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats & International Relations Hearing, June 6, 2006
- Testimony before Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs United States Senate, January 9, 2007
- U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Telecommunications & the Internet of the Committee on Energy & Commerce, March 28, 2007

Education

Columbia University New York, NY

Masters of Social Work May 1994

Florida Atlantic University Boca Raton, FL

Bachelor of Arts, Education May 1974

Licensure and Certifications

Licensed Social Worker Connecticut State

License number 4410 November 1998

Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative March 8, 2015

Uniformed Services University of The Health Sciences Exp. March 7, 2018