



Arizona EMDR Trauma Response and Recovery Network

Ready to Respond to Community Crisis - Humanitarian Assistance Program Affiliate

All of the hard work AETR2N volunteers put into creation of the network paid off last week. Our state of Arizona was devastated by the wildfires in the Yarnell and Prescott area. This wildfire took the lives of 19 of the Granite Mountain Hotshot crew. About 129 families lost their homes. Always a concern, with an event of this magnitude, is how to help.

Bev Chasse and Julie Miller were able to put together a training about Early EMDR Interventions (EEI) in under two weeks of the tragedy. A total of 30 therapists, many of them from the affected areas spent a day in training, learning and reviewing several Early EMDR Intervention (EEI's) including Emergency Response Procedure (ERP), Emergency Room and Wards Protocol (EMDR-ER), Recent Traumatic Event Protocol (REP), Recent Traumatic Episode Protocol (R-TEP), Protocol for Recent Critical Incidents (EMDR-PRECI), and Integrative Group Treatment Protocol (IGTP – Group). These protocols are being utilized successfully all over the globe assisting people in recovery after fires, floods, earthquakes, terrorist attacks and other natural and manmade disasters. Sierra Tucson treatment programs provided CE's for the participants for this training and The Elements Behavioral Health treatment program provided a lunch for all the volunteers.

Carol Kibbee, a local therapist in Prescott, rallied other EMDR therapists in the area and found the magnificent venue for us to do our training. Emery-Riddle Aeronautical University's Chapel was so calming, relaxing, and picturesque. Participants could see the whole Prescott valley. We couldn't have asked for a better venue. Part way through the training, for those who were not there with us, there was a very poignant moment when one of the participants put up her hand and asked the trainers if they knew that there was a funeral procession going on behind them for one of the fire fighters. The training stopped immediately and we sat in silence to honor the firefighter until the funeral procession had passed. There had been funerals almost every day since the fire happened. The people of Prescott have been through a lot. After the training we went with local therapists to see the memorial for the firefighters and to pay our respects. It is such a staggering monument of the love the community had for these young men.

Within two days of the tragedy a call went out to Arizona EMDR Trauma Response and Recovery Network (AETR2N) volunteers and over 40 licensed EMDR professionals, trained in recent incident trauma treatment responded. They are committed to provide 12 hours each of pro bono direct service for individuals significantly affected by this disaster, including providing support and consultation to the therapists in the Prescott, Yarnell and Wickenburg areas, that have been traumatized themselves.

The next step is getting the word out to those people who could benefit substantially from EMDR. We are currently working with the local media and statewide media to help people affected by this tragedy get the trained help they need.

A big thank you also goes out to Bob Anderson who has worked tirelessly to make our website user friendly and stocked full of valuable information for the community as well as for therapists on disaster response and recovery.. A week before the tragedy in Yarnell we had added a very moving video about wildfires and the loss of life in the 1994 South Canyon Fire in which 14

Wildland firefighters lost their lives on Storm King Mountain. One of the surviving firefighters wrote about her experiences with EMDR and how helpful it was for her to be able to move on. All of this is on our website at www.AETR@N.net.

We are indebted to all the hard working members of AETR2N. We will continue to support the community and our therapists in this tragedy. We are grateful we were able to step up and help so quickly.