



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

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BHDDH to host webinar on mass violence in the United States

(Sept. 10, 2025) — The Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH) will host a webinar on Wednesday, Sept. 17, to explore the issue of mass violence in the United States.

Scheduled from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and open to the public, the webinar will feature Joseph Parks, M.D., who is the Principal Medical Advisor for the National Council for Mental Wellbeing and was among the editors of a recent council report on mass violence. Dr. Parks is also a Distinguished Research Professor of Science at the Missouri Institute of Mental Health with the University of Missouri, St. Louis, and he practices outpatient psychiatry at the Family Health Center, which serves uninsured and underinsured patients in Columbia, Missouri.

For the webinar, Dr. Parks is expected to present findings from the recent council report, including what defines mass violence, which strategies help prevent mass violence incidents, and which strategies can help people who are struggling.

“This is an important and timely topic, one that is difficult to talk about yet impossible to ignore given the incidents we all see and read about in the news,” said **Richard Leclerc, Director of BHDDH**, who arranged for Dr. Parks to speak at the webinar and will emcee the event. “Dr. Parks is one of the nation’s foremost experts on mass violence and having him share his knowledge and insights will help all of us to better understand these incidents and how to prevent them.”

In addition to BHDDH, the webinar is being held with the support of the Office of Governor Dan McKee, the Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the Rhode Island State Police, the Rhode Island National Guard, the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, the Rhode Island Office of Veterans Services, and the Rhode Island Police Chiefs Association.

Those who would like to join the webinar on Sept. 17 can register here: [Webinar with Dr. Joe Parks discussing Mass Violence.](#)

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