

Beyond Mass Shootings and Mental Illness: Understanding Gun Violence as a Public Health Crisis

PRESENTED BY

**COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
RESEARCH & ADMINISTRATION**



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WHEN & WHERE

DATE & TIME
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023
12 PM

SPEAKER WILL PRESENT IN MAURER CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AUDITORIUM ROOM 3013

PRESENTATION ZOOM INFORMATION:

<https://unmc.zoom.us/j/92829886168?pwd=eEh4VXNQdHdWZ2xaa2t5em95OWlmZz09>

M. Carmela Epright is a Professor of Philosophy at Furman University, a Clinical Professor of Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Columbia, SC and a Clinical Professor of Biomedical Sciences at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in Greenville, SC. She has served as the inaugural McDowell Fellow in Philosophy and Social Policy at American University, as a visiting scholar to the Medical University of South Carolina, The University of South Carolina's Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities, and to the Institute for Applied Ethics at Dartmouth College. Dr. Epright received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in philosophy and an M.A. in Applied Ethics from Loyola University, Chicago. She has received multiple teaching awards, including the Alester G. Furman, Jr. and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Teaching, and the Maiden Award for Excellence in Teaching to Promote Diversity and Inclusion. In addition to her work as a professor, Dr. Epright serves as a clinical ethicist and ethics consultant to numerous medical entities, including the South Carolina Medical Association, the Medical University of South Carolina, and both branches of the University of South Carolina School of Medicine (Greenville and Columbia). She has received close to one million dollars in individual grants to support her academic projects from such organizations as the John and Ethel Piper Foundation and the John Templeton Foundation. Dr. Epright has published articles in bioethics, psychiatry, moral theory, and philosophy of law. Her current research focuses upon the evaluation and treatment of the criminally mentally ill, mental illness and mass shootings, human rights issues as they relate to persons with mental illnesses, and ethical issues related to behavioral genetics, epigenetics, and social justice.

Objectives:

1. Discuss the general public's perception of mass shootings as the central concern of gun violence, and the tendency to focus on gun violence as a mental health issue.
2. Outline the problems associated with reducing gun violence to concerns about mass shootings and demonstrate that gun violence cannot be adequately mitigated by focusing on mental health.
3. Explain why it is necessary to seek a multifocal approach to gun violence using a public health model.