

ITEM B.106
FOR ACTION

<i>FOR PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY</i>			
	A. Finance		E. Corporate Property, Legal, Finance
X	B. Justice		F. PC(USA), A Corporation
	C. Leadership		G. Audit
	D. Worshiping Communities		H. Executive Committee
			J. Board Nominating & Governance Subcommittee
			P. Plenary

Subject: Comment to the 221st GA (2014) - Overture 66 “Providing Trauma Crisis Counseling Consultation to Train in Best Practices in Caring for Survivors of Homicide Victims”

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approve the following comment on Overture 66 Providing Trauma Crisis Counseling Consultation to Train in Best Practices in Caring for Survivors of Homicide Victims

Comment:

The Presbyterian Mission Agency, through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is already engaged in providing support to communities impacted by gun violence through its National Response Team and staff. The National Response Team and staff are skilled professionals, clergy and clinicians with expertise in responding to and supporting churches and communities who are impacted by acts of public violence.

In addition to providing initial support immediately after an event, PDA also offers emotional and spiritual care, compassion fatigue and resilience training for religious and community leaders that strengthens their capacity to equip the community to recover from the trauma of the violence.

PDA has also produced one full length award-winning documentary on gun violence, "Trigger" <http://triggerdoc.com/> and "Tapestry," <https://vimeo.com/91726932> a shorter (28 minutes) award-winning documentary on the processes of recovery and healing in communities after public violence, viewed through the lens of PDA National Response Team members who have done such responses. Both of these documentaries also have study materials designed to equip congregations and communities to engage in dialogue about gun violence.

PDA welcomes the opportunity to enhance the resilience, skills, and awareness of its mid council partners and their congregations as the PCUSA seeks to bring a healing presence and a prophetic word into the scourge of public violence afflicting our country. This could be accomplished as an invitational event through mid councils to Stony Point or regionally, if preferred.