ABSTRACT
This phenomenological study of Disaster Mental Health counselors will include interviews with 25 participants. The themes to be explored include: secondary trauma as a primary, proximal experience; compassion fatigue as a "solo" phenomenon; and burnout experienced as response to administrative processes.

PROCEDURES
Twenty five participants (five field supervisors and 20 counselors with a range of one to multiple Disaster Response teams) will be interviewed from organizations including the Red Cross, NOVA, and the Florida Crisis Response Team. The interviews will take approximately 90 minutes, and use a semi-structured interview guide.

DATA ANALYSIS
Data will be transcribed by an independent transcriptionist. N-Vivo will be used to analyze data using a variation of Moustaka's (1994) phenomenological method.

LIMITATIONS
Of course, qualitative research like this is limited in generalizability because of small, purposeful sampling, and idiographic perspectives. However, the identification of common themes across a diversity of experience will provide insight for planning future studies on training and support of disaster mental health professionals.

CONCLUSIONS
It is hoped that the results will contribute so that:
1. Mental Health Professionals will learn how Disaster Response experiences can differentially affect their emotional well-being.
2. Professionals will also how to mentally and emotionally prepare for these efforts in order to better serve people in need.
3. Educators and researchers will be able to use the model in classrooms, and in directions for future research.

SOCIAL CHANGE IMPLICATIONS
Disaster Mental Health Work is an important, contemporary topic. As more mental health professionals volunteer for such events, the counseling profession is called upon to understand and help mitigate the emotional consequences of these humanitarian efforts. This effort can potentially contribute to the training of disaster mental health counselors, as well as the prevention of the consequences of working in this acute traumatic environment.

FINDINGS
Data will be gathered late Spring and early summer.