



## TDC4CFR Conference Call: October 26, 2017

### State Updates:

Texas: **Megan Mooney, Ph.D**, Baylor College of Medicine, Training Coordinator of Trauma and Grief Center.

- Currently on day 3 of learning collaborative on addressing traumatic grief and loss
- Continues to conduct trainings with school-based sites, pediatric clinics, and other partners on responding to the needs of kids and how to make referrals to community resources.
- Currently training a mobile clinic staff on screening kids and making referrals.
- Recently opened doors for the Harvey Clinic.

**Marisol Acosta**, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (DBH State Operations)

- In collaboration with the Health and Human Services Administration, 12 multidisciplinary teams are visiting various parts of the state doing informal site visits to counties affected by Harvey to assess help that is needed. Many of the impacted areas are very rural and they are still trying to identify needs in those areas. Will be able to provide more information on the visit next call.
- As more information is gathered during the informal site visit, THHSC will likely reach out to the coalition to ask for information to provide assistance in those highly impacted areas.
- Working with mental health authorities and inpatient centers for availability to provide crisis counseling.
- Continues to work with Texas Education Agency in addressing short- and long-term behavioral health needs in schools.
- Many workers on the ground, particularly school counselors and teachers, will need debriefing.

**Julie Wayland**, Texas Education Agency

- Continues to collaborate with TXHHS on response and recovery work.
- TEA is collaborating with community organizations and LSUHSC in providing help for children and teachers.
- Working on providing education via social media packaging.

**Kathy Martinez-Prather**, Texas State University, Director of Texas School Safety Center

- Continuing to support all efforts by TEA
- Received compiled list of all districts impacted by Harvey (county, local mental health authorities, ESC region, number of schools and students within each district).
- Will be coordinating site visits to some of the districts to gather information about their response and recovery efforts so far as well as any lessons learned or gaps identified in their emergency planning process.

Florida: **Skip Forsyth**, Program Specialist for Homeless Education Program

- Team continues to do a lot of field work as children and families from the islands are making their way into Florida. While families are largely going to Orlando and Tampa, some are also moving into Jacksonville.
- Trying to identify and enroll children into school districts. Working with the agricultural department to make sure they are able to get kids qualified for school lunch.
- Next week, they are having a statewide meeting (November 3, 2017) on homeless coalition. A representative from Health and Human Services plans to do a needs assessment for recovery support function. This will help in engaging federal resources. If anyone has any experience with the recovery support function from HHS and can give some advice on advocating for needs, please contact Skip Forsyth at [skip.forsyth@fldoe.org](mailto:skip.forsyth@fldoe.org) or (850) 245-0089.

**Elana Reyes, Ph.D**, Florida State University College of Medicine, Immokalee Health Education Site, Regional Director of Southwest Florida

- Works with rural community and migrant farm workers and agencies working with children.
- Their center has a lot of bilingual resources; children and families will have a high need for acculturation services. The center is willing to provide whatever help may be needed for children coming into Florida.

**John Lanza, M.D.**, Florida Department of Health

- Sent out attachment on statewide public health update.

Puerto Rico: **Cynthia Garcia-Coll, Ph.D**, Carlos Albizu University, The Institutional Scientific Research Center

- No water nor electricity is consistently available throughout the island. Challenging to start recovery since all areas of Puerto Rico have been heavily impacted and infrastructure was problematic before Irma and Maria hit the island. There are areas in Puerto Rico that are completely inaccessible.
- At least 60,000 people have moved out of the island, most are going to Florida. Most of the people leaving are individuals with special needs and families with children. While work is being done to open some schools, it will be a challenge getting most open and functioning.
- Dr. Garcia-Coll is eager to hear from NCTSN on assistance with systematic response. Mental health needs are being considered secondary to other aspects of response at this point.
- Any materials that you could provide would be greatly appreciated. Please send information via e-mail ([cygarcia@albizu.edu](mailto:cygarcia@albizu.edu)). Phone service is limited, but you may text her at (401) 447-4590. E-mail is the best method at this point.

Additional discussion during the conference call:

- Marisol would like to facilitate help- Will connect with Cynthia to address issues from government level.
- Elana, Cynthia, and Marisol discussed needs that will need to be addressed related to acculturative stressors- language, navigating systems.
- Cynthia noted that there are no psychologists and counselors in the schools in Puerto Rico. The lack of these professionals in the schools could place an additional burden on teachers who are also dealing with their own personal impacts from the storms.
  - There are students at the university that are eager to help- could these students be trained to provide some services in schools? This could be an empowering experience.

Given the scope of the impacts and the lack of counselors in schools, keeping services within the Dept. of Education is not feasible.

- **Melissa Brymer, Ph.D., NCTSN** suggested that the network look at some of the “lessons learned” from the response to the earthquake in Haiti, though materials will need to be adjusted to better account for the experiences related to these storms.
  - Potentially using radio announcements as a way to transmit messages.
  - The network has materials and webinars from Hurricane Ike that are in Spanish- we may be able to see if some of the information could be useful. May need some people to serve as consultants who can look over the material to see if it is useful and culturally relevant.
  - SAMHSA has awarded a grant in Puerto Rico. She may be able to see how they are linking services and the hiring of people for crisis counselors.
- From this discussion, a subgroup was created so more specific issues can be addressed related to Puerto Rico and the acculturative adjustments that need to be considered as children and families come into the contiguous United States from islands impacted by Irma and Maria.

TDC4CFR current linkages and collaborative activities/updates:

LSUHSC/TDC4: **Howard Osofsky, M.D., Ph.D.**, TDC4 Project Co-Principal Investigator

- LSUHSC TDC4 team is currently working on putting together a video for children that have been displaced from their school.
- If needed, the LSUHSC TDC4 team is willing to provide help on stress management response for state workers based on experiences from work after the flooding in the Baton Rouge area.

**Rick Costa, Psy.D.**, TDC4 Project Coordinator

- The 10 Considerations for Mental Health Professionals Working in Schools handout has been translated into Spanish and is available for members to access on the TDC4 website (<https://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/tdc/>).
- We had a request for materials translated into creole. We will be looking into help with those materials.
- Depending on your location, some places are transitioning from immediate response to beginning recovery. Even within states, areas may be in different phases of response. The coalition will need to think of how we address the different needs for areas that are in different stages of response and recovery.
- We want to make sure that the coalition is providing needed information/resources.
- We were unable to have Michele Many discuss self-care in disaster response and recovery on this call. We will see if she can present next meeting.
- With the holidays approaching, we will move to have calls once a month.
- We will schedule to have a subcommittee call next week. If you are interested on being a part of the subcommittee, please e-mail Rick ([rcosta@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:rcosta@lsuhsc.edu)) or Kira ([cbark1@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:cbark1@lsuhsc.edu)). \*\*\* Call scheduled for 10/31/17 at 1:00PM Central time)

**Next meeting dates: November 9, 2017 at 12:00pm Central/1:00pm Eastern  
December 7, 2017 at 12:00pm Central/1:00pm Eastern  
January 18, 2018 at 12:00pm Central/1:00pm Eastern**