



TDC4CFR Conference Call: November 9th, 2017

State Updates:

Texas:

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

- Sutherland Springs Update: Working with Crisis Counseling and Behavioral Health Services, Victim Services and Dept. of Public Safety to provide immediate response.
- Possible need for Trauma and Grief trainings for long term response.
- Also collaborating with LSUHSC and NCTSN (Dr. Melissa Brymer) for consultations and resources.
- Harvey Update: Waiting on a report from deployed team for exact numbers. Sites include: Schools, Child Care Facilities, Shelters, Disaster Recovery Centers, Local Hospitals, Federal Health Clinics.
- Housing still an issue, especially in rural communities. Likely see an increase in homelessness and unemployment. Report will help understand next steps.
- Stressing how multiple communities are impact by both these events, first responders are also members of these communities.
- Dr. Joy Osofsky: Concerned about mental health of first responders and families. We are now dealing with trauma from multiple incidents. LSUHSC consultation and training services are available.
- Dr. Richard Costa: Suggesting we build up our resource library with resources around Vicarious Trauma, Secondary Trauma, etc.

Chance Freeman, Director, Hurricane Harvey Crisis Counseling Program Disaster and Behavioral Health Services

- Sutherland Springs: Victims' services is leading support for victims of the deceased and those injured, Community Mental Health Services are assisting the general public.
- Worried about navigating holiday season and its impact on trauma/recovery. Looking for resources specifically related to increased stress around Holidays
- Harvey Update: Schools opened up sooner than expected, increased volume at school from mobile classrooms. Staffing issues are a concern. Displaced students enrolling in school in their new communities.
- Schools want to focus on academics and moving forward, struggling to work with crisis counselors. Louisiana expertise helping to draft a letter to school systems explaining best practices and curriculum related to crisis counseling need.
- Dr. Joy Osofsky: LSUHSC has materials related to holidays and trauma. Will work on adapting them for Sutherland Springs and translate them.
- Marisol Acosta and Dr. Howard Osofsky to coordinate exchange of resources from Dr. Steven Pliszka

Dee Harrison, Manager of Disaster Behavioral Health Services (Emergency Mgmt updates)

- In connect with own network, standing by to respond as needed.
- Mentioned Marlene Wong & Dr. David Schonfeld (National Center for School Crisis) as potential resources for grief and bereavement in schools (including in person consultation and training courses.)
- Reminder that unobtrusive help is best, checking in and being available without being overwhelming.

Florida:

Skip Forsyth, Program Specialist for Homeless Education Program

- Orlando school system is still receiving a high volume of people from Puerto Rico
- Schools struggling to get records from displaced Puerto Rican students
- Dr. Cynthia Garcia: Recommends sending requests directly to the Department of Education in San Juan since most schools are closed or overwhelmed
- Dr. Joy Osofsky: Recommend getting students involved in their new communities through structured projects (will help build a sense of belonging)
- State Conference in Orlando, Fl resulted in connection with Department of Health and Human Services who will be dispatching additional assistance and sending resources for long term recovery.

Missy Lee, Florida DCFS (State DBH Operations update)

- FEMA is providing immediate services with mass registration in all counties. 4000+ people already. Apply for extensions in heavily impacted communities
- Meeting arrivals directly at the airport, welcome centers and around the clock services (needs assessments, emotional support, EBT cards, etc.) Will have a full report of numbers by next call.

John Lanza, Director of Florida Department of Health Escambia County Health Department

- Dr. Lanza was unable to make today's call but TDC4 acknowledged his recent contributions to the Gulf Coast Regional Coalition including participation on 10/31/17 subcommittee call to address needs in Puerto Rico as well as sharing recent VIPIR Report updates with the group.

Puerto Rico:

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

- Infrastructure including water and electricity has not changed. Still losing power sporadically. Did not receive Radio PSA or other info, possibly due to this. Dr. Joy Osofsky will work to make sure those materials get transmitted. Possibly through a webpage.
- Continuing to see losses. People have lost homes and possessions (as well as friends from moving and changing schools) but are also losing loved ones due to the infrastructure problems. Parents and elderly are not able to get the same services as before, sick and disabled populations are especially vulnerable. The sense of loss is very pervasive.

- Water and electricity are still the priorities, mental health support is limited (open schools are trying to do some exercises in trauma and loss.)

Mississippi, Alabama & Louisiana:

- **Dr. Jan Kasofsky:** (Louisiana) Capital Area Human Services also has materials available on website (<http://www.cahsd.org/>)
- **Denise Reimer,** (Alabama) Mobile County Public Schools: Mobile, AL: Still receiving people from Texas, encountering problems obtaining records for new students, especially though with IEPs and disability accommodations. Also receiving students from Puerto Rico, but they have less disability needs. Reminded coalition that other states are also receiving evacuees and ongoing support is needed across the Gulf Coast i.e., Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi
 - Marisol Acosta suggested Julia Wayman (julie.wayman@tea.texas.gov)
- **Randy Foster,** Mississippi Dept. of Mental Health (DMH) was unable to be on today's call but forwarded update. Noted DMH working with Tammy Chamblee, a consultant with Dept. of Health, on plans to strengthen potential pool of volunteers for Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) deployment should the need ever arise. Future SNS trainings for DMH staff being planned for 2018.
 - Also highlighted new 1-year grant received related to disaster and recovery in Mississippi from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Purpose of grant is to increase percentage of calls from Mississippi answered in-state and hopes it will help increase the state's capacity to respond to residents in need of Lifeline services.

LSUHSC/TDC4:

Howard Osofsky, & Dr. Joy Osofsky, TDC4 Project Co-Principal Investigators

- Joy Osofsky: Working on raising awareness for young children and families by connecting with "Zero to Three." Recognizing the needs of this population is missed because these children are not yet in school, emphasizing work in child care centers.
- Remembering that holidays are a difficult time, but we can use it to promote resilience and help families.
- Jan Kasofsky: Emphasizing ACEs, both new and the impact of past experiences when working with trauma and disasters.
- Cynthia Garcia-Coll: It's a balance of gains and losses, there are opportunities to have positive gains. We need to mourn the losses so we can shift to the gains.
- Marisol Acosta: Important to remember that Puerto Rico has many different holidays and traditions that may not be present in their new communities.
- Cynthia Garcia Coll: Families will be separated and traditions will be missed.

Next meeting dates:

December 7, 2017 at 12:00pm Central/1:00pm Eastern

January 18, 2018 at 12:00pm Central/1:00pm Eastern

<http://www.medschool.lsuhs.edu/tdc/>