



TDC4CFR Conference Call: December 7, 2017

State Updates:

Florida:

Skip Forsyth, Director, Program Specialist for Homeless Education Program:

- Children from Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands continue to be enrolled in schools, though there have been a lot of challenges in getting records. School districts are taking the word of parents for now.
- Hoping to get contact information for Norma with the Puerto Rico Dept. of Education.
- Media reports of school enrollment seem low compared to numbers counted in Florida.

John Lanza, MD., Ph.D., Regional Director and Health Officer, Florida Department of Health:

- Latest VIPR report from the Florida Dept. of Health (Miami Dade, Orlando, Seminole County, Sanford) 220,000+ evacuees.
- Most individuals are coming through the Orlando and Tampa airports. Nursing staff are giving information and vaccinations. Individuals are being given information on other available resources.
- Florida health departments are sending staff to help for approximately the next 4-6 months.
- All of the hospitals in Puerto Rico are operational with some sort of power, but no information on the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Feels that the state is in recovery for Hurricane Irma, but in response/recovery phase for families relocating due to Maria.

Texas:

Chance Freeman, Director, Hurricane Harvey Crisis Counseling Program Disaster, Texas Health and Human Services Commission:

- Schools are in various phases of recovery. Approximately 4 million students were impacted.
- Texas Education Authority is leading an interagency taskforce. TEA has developed a survey to seek insight about mental and behavioral health needs, asking teachers and staff about barriers and training needs that will go out in a couple of weeks. This will help guide outreach efforts in schools.
- Concerns related to trauma reactions and suicide events in schools.
- Discussed the fact that they had a manmade disaster imbedded in the natural disaster, so unsure how these may manifest in the school environment. People feel a lot of frustration because there were so many storms this year- Feel as if Harvey is the forgotten hurricane.
- **Kathy Martinez-Prather** (Texas State University, Director of Texas School Safety Center) asked if the surveys will determined how the services will be deployed. (Chance said that this will not determine how the services will be deployed. They want to provide services to all schools if allowed access). Kathy said that they would be happy to work with them in convincing schools and districts to complete the survey. Chance and Kathy reported that there are community resources included with the survey.

- Chance reported that there are a lot of families displaced from Maria that are currently in Texas. If there are materials that others have that may be helpful for these families, it would be greatly appreciated.
- **Howard Osofsky, M.D., Ph.D.**, (LSUHSC, TDC4 Principal Co-investigator) asked if there is anything in particular that has been done in preparation for the holiday. Chance reported that they are working on awareness campaigns. The communication specialist is working on drafting sample PSA's to highlight needs for the holidays.

Julie Kaplow, Ph.D., Baylor College of Medicine, Director of Trauma & Grief Center:

- Continues to conduct trainings with teachers, pediatricians, parents and clinicians for kids after the storm.
- Working with Mental Health America to coordinate efforts to meet needs in schools. In addition to the impact of Harvey, a significant number of children are reporting additional trauma, particularly loss of family members, prior to the storm.
- Discussed how funding is typically available immediately after a disaster, but becomes more limited as recovery continues. They had to do some advocacy to allow for some time extensions for the funds.
- Currently working with a bereavement center in relation to the mass shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas.
- Howard Osofsky requested for Julie to send the op-ed piece, which she will send.

LSUHSC/TDC4:

Joy Osofsky, Ph.D., TDC4 Co-Principal Investigator:

- Told the group to feel free to e-mail if there are questions related to child welfare.
- We may possibly have a group coalition sometime in the spring to focus on breakout work groups.

**Next meeting date:
January 18, 2018 at 12:00pm Central/1:00pm Eastern**

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