



TDC4CFR Conference Call: September 14, 2017

Updates from Texas and Florida coalition members regarding response to hurricanes Harvey and Irma

Texas Updates:

Marisol Acosta, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Child and Adolescent Services Unit in the Behavioral Health Services Section, Project Director
Chance Freeman, Texas State University, Texas School Safety Center, Associate Director of School Safety Education (Also conferring with Candace Stoltz from Texas Education Association)
Novella Evans, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Office of Mental Health Coordination, Policy Specialist

- More than 30 counties were impacted by hurricane Harvey.
- Recently completed ISP Grant- Currently working to coordinate with other organizations to determine and attend to needs that are emerging.
- Community mental health workers have also been heavily impacted by the storm. There continues to be problems with transportation and being able to physically access communities. Many areas are still in recovery mode.
- While schools are starting in some areas, others are not ready to open yet. Schools will need to assess the needs for teachers, staff, and students. There will be a need for behavioral health services to students because of their experiences with the storm.
- There is a large concern that both teachers and behavioral health workers will experience compassion fatigue.
- Concerned that additional services being given will be shut down too soon.
- People are still in response mode- Long-term recovery needs have not been identified.

Florida Update:

Missy Lee, Florida Dept. of Children and Families Services, NW Region, Program Director, Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Dr. Karen Barber, Santa Rosa County School District, Director of Federal Programs

- They are still early in response mode, focusing largely on assessing needs. Teams are reaching out to managing behavioral health entities to help provide assistance to the 24-hour disaster recovery centers. They are putting together teams to help with disaster relief.
- Schools west of Tallahassee are in session. Statewide, they are formulating plans to help schools that were the most highly impacted.
- Schools in the panhandle have been taking in students displaced by Harvey and are now working to help those students displaced by Irma.
- There have been conference calls between the National Center for Homeless Education and the Dept. of Education for the state of Florida.

Questions/Concerns and Responses by team members

Marisol Acosta expressed a need for trainers for Resilience, Psychological First Aid, and other training

- Denise Riemer (Mobile County Public Schools, Homeless Education Social Worker) suggested reaching out to Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS-TA) through the US Dept. of Education. They will do resilience and PFA training by request: <http://rems.ed.gov/>
- Dr. Julie Kaplow (Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital, Department of Pediatrics, Director of the Trauma and Grief Center) reported that they are starting some training initiatives through the formation of the Harvey Resiliency and Recovery Program. They are starting to reach out to schools to provide trainings. Please contact her for additional information about local opportunities.
- Terri Ricks (Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, Deputy Secretary/Executive Counsel) reported that FEMA has a specialist (Laura Lee) that was instrumental in helping to pull federal resources on the behalf of children's needs. She will forward that contact information to Tony.

Novella Evans is looking for resources particularly for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- Melissa Brymer suggested the IDD toolkit <https://learn.nctsn.org/enrol/index.php?id=370> but also suggested some contacts that she has in New York that could provide more specific/detailed information beyond the scope of the toolkit. She will forward that information to Tony.
- Dr. Megan Mooney (Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital, Department of Pediatrics, Assistant Professor) also has some resources that may be helpful that she can pass along.

Additional areas of discussion for future calls; Additional notes

- Dr. Joy Osofsky (LSU Health Sciences Center-New Orleans, Department of Psychiatry, Professor) has composed a list of tips to help schools in recovery from disaster. She will have the handout ready to be dispersed shortly.
 - Dr. Mimi Graham from Florida State University Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy has also reached out to Joy and the coalition about assistance and resources specifically targeting young children. If you have information or if you work with young children in the state of Florida, please let us know and we can facilitate contact.
- Dr. Melissa Brymer (UCLA-Duke National Center for Child Traumatic Stress, Director of terrorism and disaster programs) suggested that the coalition consider ways to outreach and provide services that work with children outside of the school environment (e.g., Boys and Girls Club, other local neighborhood organizations). She also suggested that staff support/information could be provided virtually.
- Marisol Acosta requested for the team to forward any information that she may be able to pass along to upper leadership on understanding mid- and long-term recovery needs. Tony has some information that he will forward, but please pass along other information if you have it.
- Dr. Jenny Langhinrichsen-Rohling (University of South Alabama Gulf Coast Behavioral Health and Resiliency Center, Professor and Executive Director) wanted Florida and Texas to be aware that they are willing to help. She has a team as well as graduate students that are available. Please contact her if needed.
- Denise Riemer also wanted teams working with schools in Florida and Texas that the school system in Alabama would also like to help. If anyone has contacts so that they could potentially coordinate sending needed items, please pass that information along.
- Dr. Tony Speier will be coordinating the hosting of conference calls through TDC4 through October (9/28, 10/12, and 10/26 at noon CDT). There is a high degree of coordination with the coalition and NCTSN an the emphasis is on response to the shools (teachers, students, first responders), daycares/early child care to give parents the assistance they need in taking care of recovery issues for the families. Other needs are on 1st responders' families. Melissa talked about

using natural indigenous resources. Throughout the call, a number of members pointed out the need of self-care in recovery efforts and outcomes. Need help with school debriefing.