



TDC4CFR Conference Call: September 28, 2017

No issues during Q&A on notes from last call

Dr. Joy Osofsky (LSUHSC/TDC4): “Top 10 Considerations for Mental Health Professionals Working in Schools After a Disaster

- Developed out of LSUHSC’s experiences working in schools and collaborating with NCTSN for over a decade post Katrina.
- Schools are important as they can help children and families get back to a sense of a new normal; they drive the recovery of a community by supporting children and families.
- Embedding and integrating mental health professionals can be tricky, as good intentions can get misconstrued; these “tips” hope to be helpful to being successful when working in schools.

Question: How can we disseminate this? How can we be helpful

Answer: The TDC4 website is up and running (<http://www.medschool.lsuhschool.edu/tdc/>), we are compiling resources there. If you need something specific, do not hesitate to contact Rick or Tony.

John Lanza, MD (Florida Dept. of Health): Public Health Perspective

- Escambia County (Pensacola) not affected by Irma compared to other 57 peninsula counties
- They were deployed to open up a special needs shelter in Clay County, just below Jacksonville, where there was very little wind damage but large amount of flooding and 86% lost power
- Tendency for special needs shelters to become primarily for elderly (99% over age of 65), where most arrived because homes flooded, they lost power and needed oxygen or other medical devices powered
- Became a general population shelter
 - o Younger children came clinging to parents, many were found by family members and were able to go to relatives’ homes
 - o Older kids visibility looked traumatized (many were rescued swimming away from homes) and needed clothes/food. Didn’t stay long. They will need counseling at some point, even if with a parent.
- Dept of Health contributing members to behavioral health, recognize it’s greatly needed
- Nursing and EMT are doing inoculations in Keys and Everglade City
- DBH is providing services to staff; Dept of Child and Family has jurisdiction to work with local behavioral health centers.

Dr. Julie Kaplow (Baylor College of Medicine, Trauma & Grief Center)

- They are a Cat II site of NCTSN, not funded to provide services, having a steep learning curve
- Launched the Harvey Resilience and Recovery program
 - o Addressing in house needs, as well as those from the community.
 - o Providing services to help get people in such as Uber vouchers, parking, etc.
- Training SW/BH workers in assessment and intervention at outpatient sites
- Outreach training teachers, school-based clinicians, pediatricians, etc.
- Baylor put together an FAQ to address questions from concerned caregivers
- Dr. Megan Mooney has done trainings on self care needs
- Providing professional and educational activities for in house doctors/pediatricians/social workers on how they can screen

- Training mobile clinic staff SWs on how to screen kids and appropriately refer especially among undocumented people
- Jewish community in Bellaire, Meyerland
 - o Second or third flood, ongoing issue
 - o Schools, synagogues (including the largest in Texas), and leaders' homes are all flooded, nowhere to seek comfort
 - o Unable to attend PFA due to high holidays, but Megan Mooney is attending and will report back
- Mental Health America/UNICEF training community clinics on helpful interventions happening next month; will target hardest hit schools in Houston area
- Appreciates information sharing from the coalition and looks forward to more consultations

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

- Expanding work force for crisis counseling, supporting providers in doing FEMA applications
- Providing technical assistance over calls to community mental health centers, as well as facilitating connections to school districts
- Various organizations having some issues with discovering disaster recovery loopholes
- Huge need for consultation to TX Education Agency (TEA) leadership
- Leveraging substance abuse prevention personnel to help with disaster work
- Melissa Brymer is currently in TX providing PFA training; trying to enhance capacity for trainers
- 50 counties have been declared , 1.5 million children and students impacted, estimated 110,000-200,000 children and youth displaced
 - o Importance of disaster crisis counseling and PFA in schools
- Already had shortages before disaster about serving the population at large with MBH
- Appreciates information from the group

Chance Freeman (Texas State University, Texas School Safety Center)

could not hear the majority due to someone placing the group on hold

- Training school personnel, teachers, school-based law enforcement
- Damage is being classified into 3 categories
 - o Minor w/ less than \$100k damage—678 campuses
 - o Between \$100-500k—234 campuses
 - o Major w/ more than \$500k—52 campuses (considered “catastrophic” damage)
- Non traditional services in schools that would be helped by training as well as those providing mental health care

Greg Strader

- Meeting with Volunteer FL
 - o 1.8 million registrants for FEMA assistance so far and now awaiting aid
 - o \$613 million has been approved and distributed to date to eligible applicants

Melissa Brymer (NCTSN)

- FL will not only be dealing with the direct impact from Irma, but will also be dealing with large relocation from PR, DR
- NY, FL, Chicago looking into waivers for enrollment, immunizations, etc. to get kids into schools
- Connection in PR, VI is extremely poor, but there are requests coming in for resources in Spanish, as well as Creole for some parents
- Looking at low-tech ways to outreach such as texting, messages, and smart phones as potential ways to implement screeners and interventions; access to rural areas.

Howard Osofsky (LSUHSC, TDC4)

- Additional considerations: important to address the mental health needs of first responders, hospital staff, and bus drivers/other workers in schools

Rick Costa (LSUHSC, TDC4)

- Lessons learned: need to let kids have a voice, especially in schools that are being integrated together

If anyone has any questions on quality or content, feel free to contact Rick Costa (RCosta@lsuhsc.edu) or Tony Speier (aspei1@lsuhsc.edu).

Next Meeting: October 12th at 12:00pm Central/1:00pm Eastern