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August 2011 Disaster Behavior Health Newsletter

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

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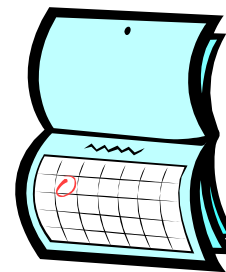
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DISASTER BEHAVIOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 No. 5: August 2011

2011 Annual Exercise and Retreat – SAVE THE DATE!!! You won't want to miss this year's exercise. We have a full agenda for the day including experts speaking on supporting specific populations: elders, children, substance abusers and migrant workers. We will open the day with a presentation from Lisa Sockabasin, Maine CDC's Office of Minority Health, who will share "Faces of Maine," a series of photographs taken over time throughout Maine. We will also hear from Arabella Perez, THRIVE Initiative; Guy Cousins, Office of Substance Abuse; Patrick Adams, Office of Elder Services; and Olga Alicea, Maine Migrant Health Program. The focus will be how to best support these special populations in a disaster. Our experts will also develop scenarios for the exercise portion of the day, and participate in a panel discussion. CEUs will be available and lunch will be provided— it's the best opportunity for the Disaster Behavioral Health Team to get reacquainted, keep up with developments and refresh skills— Be there!



OCTOBER 21st— Maine Principal's Association in Augusta

Mental Health Triage in Disaster Response: The Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics recently published a commentary advocating for greater focus on the triaging needs of those with pre-existing mental conditions during a disaster. The authors indicate one study found that 22 percent of Hurricane Katrina survivors who had pre-existing mental disorders faced limited or terminated treatment after the disaster. The commentary explores ethical challenges of response standards and offers recommendations for more comprehensive preparedness planning, including "volunteers from the community...to distribute basic materials and temporary services to at-risk individuals." For the complete article, see: <http://bioethicsbulletin.org/archive/challenges-for-mental-health-services-raised-by-disaster-preparedness/>

Upcoming DBH Trainings!

- ◆ 9/22-23—DBH Training, Auburn—Hilton Garden Inn
- ◆ 10/ 6-7 —DBH Training, Boothbay Harbor—Spruce Pt. Inn
- ◆ 11/3-4—DBH Training, Belfast—Univ. of Maine, Hutchinson Center

Maine Health Alert Network Drill— You didn't miss it—despite good effort, we did not complete the HAN drill as planned in May. We will d-e-f-i-n-a-t-e-l-y conduct a drill in September! This will allow us to verify that we are able to reach all of our volunteers. HAN is the primary method of disseminating information and alerting the team to possible deployment. We want a good response rate for the drill, so please make sure your information to receive alerts is up-dated in HAN. If you need help accessing the system, contact Nate Reithmann, HAN Coordinator, phone: 287-6551.

We are sending a copy of the 2011 DBH training brochure—please pass it along to prospective volunteers!

MORE NEWS AND RESOURCES FOR DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- Sept 12—"Cultural Considerations of Serving Veterans"
A day long educational conference sponsored by DHHS Maine's Office of Elder Services and Maine's Agencies on Aging/ Aging and Disability Resource Centers, to register: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oes/resource/adrc/conference-09-12-2011/index.shtml>

▪ Psychological First Aid (PFA) on-line:

Step 1: Create an account (free): <http://learn.nctsn.org/login/signup.php>

Step 2: Check your email and confirm your account (click on link)

Step 3: Return to <http://learn.nctsn.org>, and enroll in Psychological First Aid Online.

Now that you've mastered PFA, stay tuned for SPR: *Skills for Psychological Recovery*—we'll be offering it in the spring!

Our team is growing! Welcome to the 12 new member volunteers who registered after the training in Bar Harbor in June!

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at Pamela.Holland@maine.gov