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October 2010 Disaster Behavior Health Newsletter

Maine Department of Health and Human Services

Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

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DISASTER BEHAVIOR HEALTH NEWSLETTER

Volume 2 No. 3: October 2010

Training Keeps Us Aware & Refreshes Skills

Having just spent several days at a training by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), the probability of a mass transit disaster seems more threatening than usual. Our society moves at increasing speed and often with diverted attention. Airline crashes are no longer the only concern – high speed trains, such as are planned for the eastern U.S. corridor will pose another source of mass transit disaster. At this time of year when we are inundated with tour busses that crisscross New England daily, it is a reminder of the possibility of a serious bus crash. Those who have participated in the Disaster Behavioral Health training have given some thought to bus accidents but probably not what would happen if a local community suffered a plane or train crash. Accidents of that magnitude involve many responding entities and, yes, definitely DBH volunteers would be called into action. Remember that all disasters begin at the local level! One important take-away from the NTSB training: it is not the plan that counts; it is the planning. We will never develop a plan tailored to the next disaster, but we will continue to expect the unexpected and do our best to develop systems of response that will be needed and will allow us to be more prepared.

Next DBH Trainings Planned—Lincoln & Waldo Counties

We are hoping to offer DBH trainings in Lincoln and Waldo counties in 2011. We also plan to reschedule in Hancock, and go back into Androscoggin County to continue to build the team across the state!

RETREAT—Full Day of Activities

Retreat Planning Has Begun – Be sure it is on your calendar! We have a lot to cover in the day long retreat planned for December 2nd at the Freeport Hilton Garden Inn. We would like to hear from you about topics you'd like to have addressed. We will have updates on the HAN system and on Maine Responds, another mobilization response system. We will have things for you to add to your Go Bag and you will hear about how the team has continued to become better prepared. We will plan the next drill – based on what you would like to have offered, and we will also find time for some R&R (reacquainting and renewal of relationships). We may even squeeze in a quick exercise. Don't miss it...we need to stay in touch and be ready!

MORE NEWS AND RESOURCES FOR DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- **Consortium Update**—Now composed of 36 states the Multi-State Disaster Behavioral Health Consortium continues to gain members and a stronger unified voice for the place of behavioral health in disaster response. Member states continue to add resources to the website: <http://www.sdbhc.us.com>. Federal partners increasingly seek consortium input on national documents and policies.
- New England States DBH Group - December 19th hosted by New Hampshire.
- FEMA training on Disaster Response and Special Populations, Wells, Nov. 3-4 (Pam will attend.)
- New DHHS Dashboard: www.maine.gov/dhhsdashboard includes interesting information in easy-to-access formats.
- New DTAC (Disaster Technical Assistance Center) website: <http://www.samhsa.gov/dtac>.
- A presentation by Everbridge on “Psychology of Disaster: Why Do We React The Way We Do,” see webinar materials at: <http://blog.everbridge.com/>

‘Tis the season:

Don't Forget Your
Flu Shot!Upcoming DBH Events!

- ♦ **Nov 11:** IS-100 & IS-700, W. Bath
- ♦ **Nov 22 :** IS-100 & IS-700, Bangor
- ♦ **Dec 1:** Psych. First Aid, Freeport
- ♦ **Dec 2:** DBH Retreat, Freeport

Getting Into Roleplay at Training
in W. Bath!DBH-ARC Memorandum of Understanding

After several years of effort, the American Red Cross and the Maine Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team have a signed MOU and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on how the teams will collaborate during a disaster!

Have a forum that would like to hear about DBH? Call us—we love to gain supporters and are happy to talk about the team!

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

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