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# April 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. 1: April 2010

Sagadahoc & Hancock Trainings Planned—Fall '10

Preliminary meetings have begun for the two counties hosting Disaster Behavioral Health trainings this year. Sweetser in Sagadahoc and the Emergency Management Agency in Hancock are planning for a good turnout of trainees. We've also been invited back by the Aroostook Emergency Management Agency. Aroostook was a pilot county for disaster behavioral health training in 2005, before the curriculum was adopted. We are excited to have these opportunities to add to team membership. Adding a day of PFA (Aroostook) will help build community interest and skills—we will be ready when needed!

Consortium Gets Approval by Nat'l Defense Science Board

The Multi-State Disaster Behavioral Health Consortium was recognized by the National Assn. of State Mental Health Directors as an affiliate, gaining unanimous approval of all members. The consortium website already contains many resources: <http://www.sdbhc.us.com/> — check it out! All member and supporting states are able to post resources they have found useful. Affiliate recognition guarantees information about national decisions affecting disaster behavioral health.

DBH EXERCISE '10 - Focus on Leadership; Update Your Skills

This year's DBH exercise will focus on leadership in a disaster or emergency situation. American Red Cross and Disaster Behavioral Health team leaders will have an opportunity in the morning to reflect on specific responsibilities and to learn from discussion of past drills and deployments. A skills tabletop exercise will begin after lunch and the day will conclude with a panel of experienced experts who will share insights from disaster responses. Not to be missed—this is an opportunity to learn with and from, and to rekindle acquaintances with fellow responders. There is no charge to volunteers of the DBH or ARC. On-line registration and brochure are now available. CEUs will be available for entire day participation.

**Save The Date: Friday, June 18—8:30 or 1:00—4:30 p.m.**

MORE NEWS AND RESOURCES FOR DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- ◆ THE MAINE DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WEBSITE IS IN CONSTRUCTION AND WILL BE READY SOON! IF YOU HAVE RESOURCES YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE, LET PAM OR TAMMY KNOW.
- ◆ A GOOD REFRESHER — WEB-BASED TRAINING PROGRAM— MAINE'S ELDERLY AND EMERGENCIES: WORKING FOR THE FUTURE. VISIT: [HTTP://WWW.CPHP.SPH.HARVARD.EDU/](http://www.cphp.sph.harvard.edu/) USER NAME IS: ELDER; PASSWORD: ELDER
- ◆ MAINE RANKED HIGH FOR H1N1 RESPONSE. THE FEDERAL CDC HAS BEEN DOING AFTER-ACTION FOLLOW-UP WITH THE STATE ON HOW THE SCHOOLS VACCINATION EFFORT SUCCESSFULLY REDUCED THE SPREAD OF THE PANDEMIC.
- ◆ THE DBH CURRICULUM IS BEING UPDATED. THE NEW VERSION WILL REFLECT CURRENT EXAMPLES AND EXERCISES AND A MORE IN-DEPTH LOOK AT PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID AS A DISASTER RESPONSE TOOL.
- ◆ HAN REMINDER: UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION TO BE CONTACTED ABOUT ALERTS!

Many of our fellow New England States are flooding! Several states will be declaring disaster and applying for a Community Counseling Grant — we're lucky that Maine is able to avoid that!

Upcoming DBH Events!

- ◆ April 23, 2010 - PFA, Augusta
- ◆ April 29-30, 2010—Maine Partners in Emergency Preparedness—2nd Annual
- ◆ May 26, 2010: PFA, Ft. Kent
- ◆ May 27-28, 2010: DBH Training, Ft. Kent
- ◆ June 18, 2010: DBH-ARC Annual Exercise, Augusta

On-line Registration links:

**DBH Trainings:** [www.neias.org/mecdc/disaster2010.html](http://www.neias.org/mecdc/disaster2010.html)

**MEMA Preparedness Conf:** [www.maine.gov/mema/prepare/conference/index.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/mema/prepare/conference/index.shtml)

**PFA:** [www.neias.org/mecdc/pfa2010.html](http://www.neias.org/mecdc/pfa2010.html)

**Exercise:** [www.neias.org/mecdc/leadershiptraining2010.html](http://www.neias.org/mecdc/leadershiptraining2010.html)

**Vests, Jackets, Go-Bags Supplies are replenished, so be sure you order your size through Tammy! We're also hoping to add some items to the bags for use with children. Check the pre deployment list and add your personal items beforehand!**

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

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [Pamela.Holland@maine.gov](mailto:Pamela.Holland@maine.gov)