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March 2009 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 1 No. 4: March '09

Behavioral Health Drills Completed

Thirty-four volunteers attended the tabletop drills in Portland and Bangor to update skills and revisit the disaster behavioral health response. Volunteers found it useful and enjoyable. Three scenarios were used as settings where a DBH volunteer might be working: a shelter, hospital or in-the-field. A mini-black-out occurred during the Portland drill when electricity left the exercise in the dark. Kudos to the volunteers who barely skipped a beat as they resumed their focus on the task at hand! Jeff Wahlstrom of Starboard Leadership Consulting in Bangor was facilitator and author of the drill scenarios. We will make drills at least an annual event to keep volunteers practiced and ready!

Webinars and Webcasts on Disaster Behavioral Health

Two series of internet webinars are addressing trauma and disaster. Check out the host websites for details – <http://learn.nctsn.org> –see the series on Terrorism and Disaster of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. A recent webcast “Mental Health in Emergency Planning Response and Recovery” can be accessed by Googling the ASTHO website: www.ASTHO.org (Assn of State & Territorial Health Officials)...and occasionally Google “disaster behavioral health.”

HAN Alerts - How To Respond You can confirm receipt of an alert on the Health Alert Network by email, telephone or the Response Manager portal, depending on which devices you have listed in your alerting profile. Response Manager (RM) sends notifications to each device based on the order you select in your alerting profile. By email, open the message and click on the hyperlink to confirm by entering your username and password. Or open the email and click on “reply.” Then type the word **confirm** in the subject line after the ID number, e.g., [ID #####] confirm. Click send. To confirm receipt using a mobile device, answer and listen to the greeting, press any key at system prompt, enter ID ##### when prompted. After the message press 1 to confirm 2 to repeat. By Response Manager, log in to: <https://Mainehan.org> and click on the active alerts section of the website, click the Date/Time link for the details; at the top of the page click Confirm Receipt of Alert. Bill Jenkins (287-6551) can help!

MORE NEWS ON DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

–SAMHSA has invited state disaster behavioral health coordinators to attend a conference entitled, “All Hazards DBH: Successful Strategies in Challenging Economic Conditions.” This will be a 3-day conference in Bethesda, Maryland and promises to be an excellent opportunity to network as well as learn the latest in all hazards response.

–The Institute of Disaster Mental Health at SUNY New Paltz is hosting a conference entitled, “In the Wake of Disaster: Effective Mental Health Interventions,” in New York. An important focus of the conference will be research on early intervention and developing a screen and treat plan.



Upcoming Events of Interest:

April 11—Northeast RRC Drill, Bangor

May 18—Emergency Preparedness Considerations for Pediatric Patients, Augusta Civic Center

June (dates TBA) – Disaster Behavioral Health two-day trainings—Somerset & Franklin Counties.



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