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November 2008 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. 3: November '08

IS 100 & IS-700 Offered In One Day

Plan to attend the special offering of IS-100 & IS-700 to complete the team registration process. The workshop is being offered on **Friday, December 12**, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We will have computers available to go on-line and take the test so you can complete the registration process before leaving. This is the step that many folks found difficult to complete—made easy! The courses will be offered at the Maine Principals Association by Kris Gammon and Nathaniel Sparling of the Central Maine Resource Center. Registration information is being emailed. There is no charge to team volunteers to attend.

North East Consortium Considered

A recent forum in New Jersey attended by 13 states presented the opportunity to discuss the desirability of forming a Northeast Consortium for disaster behavioral health response. Maine's development of response teams lags behind that of New Jersey, Massachusetts and some other New England states and there is a lot to learn about the progress in other states. This would provide an opportunity for a united voice for Maine and our neighboring states.

DBH Drills Planned

Whether or not it has been a while since you trained for disaster behavioral health response, this is an opportunity to revisit those skills. We've developed a realistic Maine scenario to help you practice and work with fellow team members to support special populations affected by a disaster. This will be our first opportunity to practice working with a team leader, getting periodic updates that simulate the progress of a real disaster. Plan to participate in either half-day drill, from 8:30-2:00 p.m., in Portland at the Holiday Inn West or in Bangor at the Spectacular Events Center. Registration information is being emailed. Please complete the form as soon as possible so we have an idea of how many will attend. The agenda promises to keep us busy and be a lot of fun as well as good practice!

MORE NEWS ON DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- The Disaster Mental Health Subcommittee of the National Biodefense Science Board is making recommendations next week on the process of providing disaster services throughout the nation. One subcommittee member is Jack Herrmann who developed the curriculum we adapted for Maine. DBH Coordinators in all states hope to be present by teleconference and to gain representation on the subcommittee in the future.
- The National Association of County and City Health Officials' (NACCHO) is offering four **Psychological First Aid Instructor Train-the-Trainer Workshops** for Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. The Association notes, "Psychological First Aid (PFA) is a supportive intervention offered to individuals in the immediate aftermath of disasters and other public health emergencies. PFA is also a useful intervention to assist MRC volunteers and other responders in coping with the emotional stress associated with disaster response."

2009 Dates To Remember

- ♦ February 13, 2009:
DBH Drill (8:30 -2 pm),
Portland
- ♦ March 5, 2009:
DBH Drill (8:30-2 pm), *Bangor*



Remember to complete your registration on the Health Alert Network (HAN) in order to get information about deployment. Call Pam (287-3796) if you need help.

Next years counties for Disaster Behavioral Health Team development are:



Somerset and ???

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

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