2015 DISASTER HUMAN SERVICES TRAINING CONFERENCE

ENHANCING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

Wednesday, August 12, 2015
And
Thursday, August 13, 2015

AT WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Check-In begins at 8:00 am

Training Coordinated by:

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
ENHANCING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

The 2015 Disaster Human Services Training Conference is a series of trainings provided in conjunction with our community partners that focus on mass care, emergency assistance, and disaster human services. It is designed to enhance working relationships by creating opportunities to develop skills and knowledge collectively. Courses will include topics such as mass care, planning with individuals with access and functional needs as well as emergency behavioral health. The 2015 Disaster Human Services Conference is coordinated by the Department of Human Services, Division of Emergency Planning and Safety Operations.

AGENDA

DAY 1

Wednesday, August 12, 2015

8:00 am  Registration
9:00 am  Opening Remarks
10:15 am Session 1
11:45 am Lunch
1:00 pm  Session 2
2:45 pm  Session 3
4:15 pm  End of Day 1

DAY 2

Thursday, August 13, 2015

8:00 am  Registration
8:30 am  Session 1
10:15 am Session 2
11:45 am Lunch
1:00 pm  Session 3
2:45 pm  Session 4
6:00 pm  Session 5 (Optional)

COURSE OFFERINGS

PROMOTING POSTIVE ADAPTATIONS BY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES FOLLOWING A NATURAL DISASTER

DAY 1, SESSION 1

This presentation considers how to promote positive adaptation by children and families following a natural disaster. Natural disasters constitute one a form of group trauma, which may be superimposed on other, prior forms of individual trauma. Attendees will discuss how disasters and disaster responses are similar to but different from other types of trauma, and how trauma informed interventions are essential. In addition the presentation will explore the nature and benefits of Skills for Psychological Recovery (SPR), a modular, evidence-informed intervention approach intended for use during the intermediate, post-disaster phase of recovery, after safety and other immediate needs have been met. Participants will understand how counselors and other professionals can assist children and families in their recovery from a natural disaster through the use of SPR, and how they can obtain more in-depth training.

PRESENTER:  

Gordon Hodas, MD  
Department of Human Services
SHELTER FUNDAMENTALS: SAFE & WELL LINK TO FAMILY REUNIFICATION
DAY 1, SESSION 1
After a disaster, letting your family and friends know that you are safe and well can bring your loved ones great peace of mind. The American Red Cross Safe & Well Link to Family Reunification is a way for people affected by a disaster to register information regarding their welfare, allowing family and friends can check their status. It helps provide displaced families with relief and comfort during a stressful time.

PRESENTERS: Victor Roosen, Regional Disaster Officer, Western PA Region, American Red Cross
Grant C. Wilson, Government Liaison Volunteer, Western PA, Region American Red Cross

MASS CARE CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS
DAY 1, SESSION 1
Diversity issues are extremely important and are a significant consideration due to increasing changes in the population of the United States. While managing diversity during a crisis can be a challenge, research suggests that responders and emergency personnel benefit by learning skills which value multicultural differences and create inclusive environments that ensure the dignity and respect of each person. This training provides a general definition for “cultural competence”, examines the impact of generational differences, discusses the benefits and challenges of mass care diversity, and presents strategies for managing a shelter population’s diverse considerations.

PRESENTERS: Virginia Dikeman, Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Donna Hess, Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

INCLUSIVE PLANNING WITH PERSONS WITH ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS
DAY 1, SESSION 2
The most effective way to prepare to meet the needs of people with access and functional needs (AFN), including those with disabilities, in emergencies is to involve community members with disabilities in the planning and preparation process. Drills and Exercises should also included Involvement with community members, especially those who use assistive technology (AT) and durable medical equipment (DME)

It is important to realize that people with disabilities, even more than other demographic segments of the population, are not a homogeneous group. Persons with disabilities have differing capabilities, differing needs for AT, diverse opinions, needs, and circumstances, and no one person or organization speaks for all people with disabilities.

There are a number of organizations in most communities that make an effort both to represent the interests of their constituencies and to work with government and civic officials to ensure that people with and without disabilities work together on issues of common concern. Many of these organizations can provide a wealth of information and assistance guiding emergency professionals to available resources related to persons with AFN, durable medical equipment and assistive technology. It is best practice to develop relationships with these organizations prior to the emergency, not during or after the event!

PRESENTER: Jamie Arasz Prioli, Program Coordinator
PA’s Initiative on Assistive Technology, Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

SPONSORED BY: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Preparedness
RESILIENCY SKILLS: TOOLS FOR SUCCESS IN CRISIS RESPONSE  
DAY 1, SESSION 2  
Resiliency refers to a person's ability to moderate and recover from the effects of a traumatic event. Coping is the expending of conscious effort to solve or tolerate personal or interpersonal problems, stress or conflict. Assisting survivors in tapping into their own resiliency, and learning new resiliency and coping skills is essential to their recovery. This training examines the role of resiliency in the recovery from trauma and teaches specific coping skills to assist in lowering anxiety.

PRESENTERS: 
Lynne Feldman, Keystone Crisis Intervention Team Trainer  
Michelle Kern, Keystone Crisis Intervention Team Project Coordinator

RESPONDING TO GRIEF AND LOSS DURING DISASTERS – A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESPONSE  
DAY 1, SESSION 2  
This course will address the behavioral health needs of those who suffer grief and loss during disasters. Attendees will be introduced to the Companioning Model of Bereavement (Wolfelt) and the impact that grief can have on an individual level. Reactions to grief will be examined from the physical, emotional, and cognitive experiences of those who have suffered grief and loss secondary to disasters. Attendees will be introduced to the extraordinary meaning of routines and rituals and their significance to helping people return to their normal lifestyles. Differences and likenesses in gender characteristics will be examined. Lastly, this presentation will review the importance of self-care for the caregivers.

Types of mass casualty disaster responses introduced include those surrounding terroristic events, weather, active shooters, vehicular and industrial accidents. Course attendees will participate in an interactive breakout session consisting of case scenarios that will provide students with tools to enhance the helping skills of outreach workers. The presenters will integrate their own experiences to mental health disaster response through their combined 60 years of fieldwork.

PRESENTERS: 
Patrick R. Morrison, B.S.  
Fayette County Behavioral Health Administration  
Co-Chairman, PA Behavioral Health Crisis Response Advisory Consortium  
Jenifer A. Swab, M.S., EMT  
Ross/ West View EMS  
PA Behavioral Health Crisis Response Advisory Consortium

ENCOUNTERING PEOPLE WITH ACCESS AND FUNCTIONAL NEEDS IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS  
DAY 1, SESSION 3  
This presentation will focus on how emergency professionals, including public health and emergency managers, can effectively communicate and assist people with access and functional needs in an emergency situation. Discussion will emphasize how professionals can recognize characteristics, understand the complexity, and learn strategies to better serve people with varying abilities as part of the whole community.

PRESENTER: 
Jamie Arasz Prioli, Program Coordinator  
PA's Initiative on Assistive Technology, Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

SPONSORED BY: 
Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Preparedness
SELF-CARE FOR CARE GIVERS: HELPING THE HELPERS SURVIVE TRAGEDY, TRAUMA, LOSS AND GRIEF
DAY 1, SESSION 3
Hearing the troubled life stories of others and feeling their pain has always been an occupational hazard for people in the helping professions. Add to this the stress of the many other disturbing life events we have directly and indirectly experienced over our lifetimes including incidents of school and workplace violence, mass murder, terrorism, and war. Sadly, the result is an ever more co-traumatized workforce, as staff members and volunteers are increasingly experiencing compassion fatigue, secondary victimization (vicarious traumatization), and burnout. This lecture and discussion-style presentation will examine how and why the phenomena of co-traumatization is changing each of us and will offer a variety of personal and agency solutions that can be used to promote self-care and resilience.

PRESENTER: John D. Weaver, LCSW, BCD, ACSW
American Red Cross, Disaster Mental Health Volunteer and Instructor

PSYCHOLOGICAL FIRST AID TRAINING
DAY 2, SESSION 1, 2, 3, & 4
Psychological First Aid (PFA) is an evidence-informed modular approach to help children, adolescents, adults, and families in the immediate aftermath of disaster, terrorism, and other crisis events. It is designed to reduce the initial distress caused by traumatic events and to foster short- and long-term adaptive functioning and coping. Principles and techniques of PFA meet four basic standards: They are:
1. Consistent with research evidence on risk and resilience following trauma;
2. Applicable and practical in field settings;
3. Appropriate for developmental levels across the lifespan;
4. Culturally informed and delivered in a flexible manner.

PFA does not assume that all survivors will develop severe mental health problems or long-term difficulties in recovery. It is based on the understanding that disaster survivors and others affected by such events will experience a broad range of early reactions (physical, psychological, behavioral, and spiritual). Some of these reactions will cause enough distress to interfere with adaptive coping, and recovery may be helped by support from compassionate and caring disaster responders.

Program materials are based on the Psychological First Aid Field Operations Guide developed by National Child Traumatic Stress Network and National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Access at www.nctsn.org/content/psychological-first-aid

Lorri Vandermark, Contractor, DHS OMHSAS, Emergency Behavioral Health Program

EMERGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GROUP LEADER: INTEGRATING INTO THE ICS ENVIRONMENT
DAY 2, SESSION 1, 2, 3, & 4
Most emergency behavioral health responders function in a fairly individual environment influenced mainly by the “model” of the services they provide. When called to a large event being managed under the Incident Command System (ICS), responders must prepare to support the structures of information flow, documentation, supervision, and self-care required in a sometimes austere environment.

PRESENTERS: Brenda Pittman, EMS & CISM Coordinator, Lancaster County Emergency Management Agency
Lauren Fleming, Emergency Management Specialist, PEMA
SACRED TURF: WHAT IS DISASTER SPIRITUAL CARE & WHERE DOES IT FIT IN THE MATRIX OF DISASTER RESPONSE?

DAY 2, SESSION 1

Disaster Spiritual Care is only now coming into full maturity as a professional response to disasters. In this presentation, participants will be introduced to the nature and tools of this response and its place among the many kind of responses needed when disaster strikes. We will review the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster Points of Consensus and how this response attends to the spiritual needs of those in crisis without compromising their specific religious beliefs. We will also introduce a new state-wide service named the Pennsylvania Disaster Spiritual Care Network (PDSCN) which is presently being developed to serve PA residents in both the immediate aftermath of a disaster and through the long-term recovery process. This presentation will be especially useful to those who deploy resources to stricken areas as well as to those who might want to consider becoming a credentialed Disaster Spiritual Care responder through PDSCN.

PRESENTER: Rev. Dr. Thomas Kadel, Co-Director of the Pennsylvania Disaster Spiritual Care Network

CARE OF INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER DURING DISASTERS AND TIMES OF CRISIS

DAY 2, SESSION 1

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex neurodevelopment disorder characterized by impairments in communication, social interaction and behavior. It is well recognized that the characteristics of ASD can create particular challenges in emergencies and times of crisis, leading to agitation, difficulties with assessment and potential safety concerns for patients and health care providers. With the rising number of Pennsylvanians carrying a diagnosis of ASD, there is a need for emergency medical services, health care facilities and government agencies to take into account the special needs of this population during disaster events or other emergencies. This presentation will begin by providing an overview of the characteristics of ASD with a specific focus on the implications for first responders in times of emergency and disaster. Drawing upon a validated training program for emergency medical services providers on care of ASD patients entitled Assess, Communicate, Treat (ACT) for Autism, the presenters will educate the audience on techniques for managing the needs of individuals with ASD during times of acute crisis. The presenters will conclude with case scenarios that show how the ACT for Autism framework can be applied in disaster and emergency triage and response situations.

PRESENTERS: Joann M. Migyanka, D.Ed., Bureau of Autism Services, Department of Human Services, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
              Arvind Venkat, MD, FACEP, Bureau of Autism Services, Department of Human Services, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNTERTERRORISM & MANAGING CBRN PSYCHOSOCIAL CONSEQUENCES

DAY 2, SESSION 1 & 2

The goals of a terrorist are to not only incite chaos and inflict physical pain, but to also instill fear into the general public. This workshop will explore both the psychological and psychosocial impact terrorism. In addition, it will highlight the differences between natural disasters and man-made, unanticipated events as well as review of “lessons learned” from both types of events. The use of videos, activities, and multiple opportunities for participants to share their experiences will advance the learning of attendees.

PRESENTER: Cherie Castellano, MA, LPC, CSW, AAETS
           Program Director for Cop 2 Cop,
           Senior Associate, Behavioral Science Applications
EMERGENCY SHELTERING AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
DAY 2, SESSION 2
Disasters can be unpredictable in scope, scale and size. In most cases, shelters will meet an incident’s needs. Each disaster presents a unique set of circumstances which require specific planning in order to meet the needs of people with disabilities and persons with access and functional needs. This presentation will identify specific planning considerations relative to sheltering in order to adequately meet the needs of the whole community.

PRESENTER: Jamie Arasz Prioli, Program Coordinator
PA’s Initiative on Assistive Technology, Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

SPONSORED BY: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Preparedness

SPIRITUALITY, RESCUERS, AND RESILIENCE
DAY 2, SESSION 3 & 4
The goal of this course is to provide information for first responders in a framework of faith and service as a core mission of their work. Research on the impact of service, kindness, and faith practices on the mental and physical well-being of the rescuer, his/her family and the community they serve will be explored. Resilience and "Post Traumatic Growth" will be emphasized as a model for future response efforts. In a mass disaster response, both man-made and natural disasters, choices for the "new normal" in every element of a rescuer's life will be discussed. The workshop will review the psychological impact of service, family impact, and the short and long-term implication to spiritual development.

PRESENTER: Cherie Castellano, MA, LPC, CSW, AAETS
Program Director for Cop 2 Cop,
Senior Associate, Behavioral Science Applications

TABLE TOP EXERCISE: ADDRESSING ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT NEEDS
DAY 2, SESSION 3 & 4
The purpose of this Table Top Exercise (TTX) is to provide participants with an opportunity to evaluate current response concepts, plans, and capabilities with regard to outreach and service provision to people with access and functional needs. The TTX will evaluate plans and procedures to address these needs, including access to assistive technology (AT) and durable medical equipment (DME). The TTX emphasizes the need for the emergency response community to effectively communicate, coordinate, assess the requirements and deploy appropriate corrective action to support the needs of people with access and functional needs.

PRESENTER: Jamie Arasz Prioli, Program Coordinator
PA’s Initiative on Assistive Technology, Institute on Disabilities at Temple University

SPONSORED BY: Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Public Health Preparedness

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES LAW
DAY 2, SESSION 3 & 4
This session will provide participants with an opportunity to learn about the amendments to the Child Protective Services Law. The workshop will specifically focus on the changes to mandated reporting, training and clearance requirements for employees and volunteers and will serve to ensure individuals are aware of these amendments and the impact on their specific roles.

PRESENTER: Cindi E. Horshaw, MSW, LSW
Acting Bureau Director, Office of Children, Youth and Families
Department of Human Services
SHELTER FUNDAMENTALS & INTRODUCTION TO EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 6
DAY 2, OPTIONAL EVENING SESSION

This training prepares participants to assist in all phases of a Red Cross Shelter. Participants will be able to describe the registration process, identify locations for appropriate signage, and explain the processes for dormitory operation and food distribution. Also discussed is the importance of information sharing in the shelter and the steps required to return a shelter to its pre-disaster condition. The Department of Human Services’ role in establishing a State Managed Shelters is also discussed in this course.

PRESENTERS:
American Red Cross
Department of Human Services, Division of Emergency Planning and Operations

LOCATION

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
700 South High Street
West Chester, Pa 19382

From Western PA (PA Turnpike)
Take Pennsylvania Turnpike to exit #312, Downingtown. Follow signs for Rt. 100 South. Shortly after the intersection of Rts. 100 and 30, follow the signs for Pottstown Pike. Route 100 S. will become High Street in the borough of West Chester. Stay on High Street until you come to Rosedale Avenue where the cornerstone of the University is located. Turn right, go one block, and cross Church Street. The Admissions Building (#12) is on your left.

From the Philadelphia Area
Take Schuylkill Expressway (Rt. 76 West) to exit #328. Follow Rt. 202 South, West Chester, for approximately 18 miles. Take High Street exit to second traffic light at Rosedale Ave., turn left. Go one block and cross Church Street. The Admissions Building (#12) is on your left.
Or take West Chester Pike (Rt. 3 West) to the Rt. 202 S. by-pass. Follow Rt. 202 S. to the High Street exit. At the second traffic light at Rosedale Avenue, turn left. Go one block and cross Church Street. The Admissions Building (#12) is on your left.

MEALS

Lunch will be provided on Tuesday August 12 and Wednesday August 13 at no cost. Participants must attend morning and afternoon sessions each day in order to receive lunch. If you have any food allergies or require an alternate diet, please contact Briton Lewis at Brilewis@pa.gov by July 31, 2015 in order to make accommodations.
The Whole Community

This Training Conference is for anyone interested in learning more about Mass Care and Emergency Assistance. Response professionals from all levels of government and non-governmental agencies as well as volunteers are welcome to attend.

Participation by all individuals is encouraged.

In order to provide accommodations for persons with severe allergies, alternate dietary needs, as well as access and other functional needs, please contact Briton Lewis at brilewis@pa.gov by July 31, 2015. Advanced notice of your needs will help us provide better service.

Registration Information

Pre-registration is required to attend the 2015 Disaster Human Services Conference

To Register, please visit:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DHSTrainingConference

- Participants interested in the Training Conference must complete the Registration Survey to select courses.
- There is NO FEE to attend this conference.
- Attendance is limited to the first 100 people to complete the registration survey.
- Participants will receive a final schedule of their selected courses at check-in at the conference.
- Conference check-in begins at 8:00 am on August 12, 2015.
- Continuing Education Credits may be available for some courses, pending approval. Some restrictions apply. Application will be submitted for Social Worker credits. More information will be available at the Training Conference.
- Conference Participants must attend both morning and afternoon sessions to be eligible for lunch.
- DHS may cancel a course without notice. Participants will be placed into their next available preferred course.
- DHS has coordinated the courses listed and is not responsible for the content of individual presentations.

If you have any questions or for more information, please contact Briton Lewis at brilewis@pa.gov.

Registration Deadline is Wednesday, August 5, 2015

Please Note: The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed Presenters at the 2015 Disaster Human Services Conference may represent policy within PA; however may not necessarily reflect the policy of the Department of Human Services or Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.