

## **Hurricane Katrina:**

### **Kansas All-Hazards Behavioral Health Program Response**

**11/05**

The Kansas Mental Health Authority (KMHA), the mental health authority in the State of Kansas, is responsible for planning, monitoring, evaluating, and funding of public mental health services in Kansas. The KMHA is responsible to address the behavioral health needs of Kansas's residents in the event of a Presidentially declared disaster. KMHA provides special disaster services and interventions for those with special needs, through either crisis counseling services for the general public or those specifically provided at behavioral health service sites. Furthermore, KMHA addresses training needs of behavioral health professionals and other interested citizens and delineates coordination with other State public and private agencies and delineates the responsibilities of the KMHA in the context of disaster related activities.

**GOAL:** To establish a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated behavioral health program to respond to environmental and human-caused disasters in the State of Kansas to minimize the adverse effects of stressful situations and/or traumatic events affecting citizens in the workplace and community.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Federal, state, and local governments recognize there is a role for local mental health authorities in disaster planning and response. The KAHBH Plan, as a Presidentially declared response, has been summarized and incorporated as a Behavioral Health Services Annex of the Kansas Emergency Operations Plan (KEOP), to Emergency Support Function (ESF) # 8, "Health and Medical Services." The KEOP is intended to be used by elected officials, State department heads, and certain private organizations (e.g., the American Red Cross (ARC), Salvation Army). The purpose of the KEOP is three-fold:

1. To identify the roles and responsibilities of state and local agencies for emergencies or major disasters, either natural or human-caused;
2. To describe the policies and procedures for the response and recovery phases of all emergency activities; and
3. To assign functional responsibilities to state and local agencies.

#### **THE KANSAS ALL-HAZARDS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (KAHBH) PROGRAM**

The KAHBH Program was developed through a contract between KMHA and Kansas State University, School of Family Studies and Human Services. The KAHBH Program at Kansas State is responsible for the following core tasks:

1. To develop a compendium of resources for use at community and regional levels, to meet the peri- and post-event psychosocial needs of victims, at-risk individuals, family members, and emergency first responders.
2. Assist hospital and public health regions by identifying key behavioral health professionals in the State who can assist these regions in developing behavioral health components of their plans.
3. To assist SRS in the development of an All-Hazards Behavioral Health Plan/Annex (which will serve as the SRS Behavioral Health ANNEX /Appendix to the Kansas Emergency Operations Plan).
4. To work with SRS Mental Health to identify the minimum behavioral health training competencies, to develop a curriculum, and to provide the training and refresher courses for health care professionals and community leaders responding to a Presidentially declared disaster or other public health emergencies.
5. To develop a system for SRS Mental Health to identify and track the number of health professionals and community leaders trained in the recognition, outreach, treatment and referral of patients exhibiting behavioral health consequences related to a Presidentially declared disaster and other public health emergencies.
6. To include the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) in behavioral health preparedness networks and work groups overseeing the All-Hazards Behavioral Health Plan development and implementation, and work with KDHE to ensure that regional hospital preparedness plans are integrated with this plan
7. To work with SRS Mental Health to design a process to make application, to coordinate community outreach services, and to provide on-site program management for the Center for Mental Health Services Immediate Services Program and the FEMA Regular Services Program in the event of a Presidentially declared disaster.

### **Hurricane Katrina: KAHBH Response Timeline**

During the response to Hurricane Katrina, the State of Kansas undertook a variety of activities at the state and local levels to prepare for Hurricane Katrina evacuees to arrive in Kansas. The following timeline provides a description of the

<b>Thursday, 9/01/05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KAHBH participated in a conference call that included Mike Hammond, Executive Director of the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas and Kathy Harmon. Following the conference, KAHBH contacted the Kansas American Red Cross office to coordinate with their programs.</li> <li>• CMHC Coordinators notified by KAHBH listserv that Kansas will be receiving evacuees from Katrina</li> <li>• CMHC Coordinators were directed to contact the American Red Cross office in their area and notify them of what behavioral health services are provided at their CMHC</li> <li>• CMHCs are notified that ARC may set up shelters across the state and that CMHCs may be asked to provide on-site crisis counseling support</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMHCs are made aware of the possibility of Kansas Crisis Counseling teams being deployed to states effected by Katrina</li> <li>• CMHCs are directed to contact the ARC and support their local response to Katrina evacuees.</li> <li>• KAHBH is established as a point of contact for technical assistance and state-wide coordination for CMHC coordinators</li> <li>• Common questions about refugee paper work are recognized</li> <li>• Contact information of those involved in coordination was provided through the KAHBH listserv</li> <li>• KAHBH officially activated</li> <li>• Technical assistance for CMHCs is available 24 hours a day by members of the KAHBH staff, through a hotline provided through a collaboration with the Kansas Rural Family Helpline at Kansas State University.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Friday, 9/02/05</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 child refugees from Mississippi expected to arrive in Salina</li> <li>• KAHBH office begins to track the number of people relocated to KS</li> <li>• Immediate Services Crisis Counseling Program (FEMA) designated as format for record keeping/data collection</li> <li>• CCP documents delivered via the KAHBH list-serv</li> <li>• Date of Governors Mental Health Services Planning Council announced</li> <li>• Methadone clinics contacted by SRS/Addiction and Prevention Services</li> <li>• Wichita chosen after Kansas City as a possible site for evacuees</li> <li>• Some self-evacuees from hurricane affected areas arrive in Junction City and Salina</li> <li>• CMHCs in those areas contact local ARC to provide crisis counseling and resource information on substance abuse and mental health services</li> <li>• Housing capacity of a number of designated sites addressed</li> <li>• A history of the creation and purpose of KAHBH is provided</li> <li>• Information regarding service capacity of systems of care throughout the state is gathered</li> </ul>
<p><b>Monday, 9/05/05</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30-70 Refugees relocated to Manhattan/Junction City.</li> <li>• 10 developmentally disabled refugees transferred to Harvey County</li> <li>• 1,500 additional evacuees expected to arrive in Topeka</li> </ul>

	<p>on Wednesday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The needs of animals during crisis are addressed</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday, 9/06/05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRS coordinates with the Executive Director of the Topeka Rescue Mission to have churches adopt and integrate evacuee families into the community</li> <li>• Role of Red Cross and FEMA clarified</li> <li>• SRS initiates daily briefings at noon regarding Katrina updates and refugee response</li> <li>• 750 evacuees currently residing in KS shelters across the state</li> <li>• 4,130 additional evacuees expected to arrive at a later date in KS</li> <li>• Mental health response efforts being made in other states are shared on the KAHBH LISTSERV</li> <li>• Crisis shelter locations and capacities communicated</li> <li>• Suggestions made on how to improve the process of documenting evacuees</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, 9/07/05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CMHS Crisis Counseling Training and Assistance Program Guidance information provided to the CMHC Coordinator LISTSERV</li> <li>• An email check was performed to ensure that all members of the LISTSERV were receiving notifications and updates</li> <li>• Topeka shelter site encounters hurdles with competing protocols and expectations of the various mental health agencies working together</li> <li>• Crisis shelter locations and capacities communicated</li> <li>• Suggestions made on how to improve the process of documenting evacuees</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, 9/08/05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kansas City KS receives its first group of evacuees</li> <li>• Kathy Harmon requests an abbreviated Crisis Counseling Program training for next week; this emergency CCP is developed by KAHBH Staff</li> <li>• Additional tracking forms prepared to be sent out to the CMHCs</li> </ul>
<b>Friday, 9/09/05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tracking forms delivered, including Individual Crisis Counseling Services, Individual Services Tally Sheet for Demographics Data, Group Crisis Counseling Services and Educational Services</li> </ul>
<b>Saturday, 9/10/05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tracking forms re-delivered via e-mail for good measure</li> </ul>
<b>Monday, 9/12/05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kansas is no longer a designated site of evacuation</li> <li>• Some 500 evacuees still expected to arrive in Wichita</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday, 9/13/05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• About 800 people have evacuated into KS so far</li> <li>• The number of people projected to KS is lowered dramatically</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CMHC coordinators are thanked and praised for their collaboration and coordination throughout the Response</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, 9/14/05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt announces \$600,000 is approved for emergency mental health assessment and crisis counseling</li> <li>• The funds will be divided between LA, AL, TX and MS</li> <li>• SAMHSA now has a toll-free, 24hr hotline available to provide counseling</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, 9/15/05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated CMHCs across the state of current evacuee MH needs</li> <li>• Provided the number of evacuee households in KS registered with FEMA</li> <li>• Facilitated communication between County and State level crisis responders</li> <li>• Encouraged CMHCs to be prepared for a possible delayed surge in evacuee MH needs</li> <li>• KAHBH CMHC coordinators contacted to determine current needs and plan for ISP application.</li> <li>• It is determined that CCP ISP application is not needed at this time, based on ability of CMHCs to respond adequately at the local level to evacuees in Kansas</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, 9/21/05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FEMA Region VII count at 1,084 families in Kansas (901 from Louisiana, 179 from Mississippi, and 4 from Alabama)</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, 10/13/05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total SRS Mental Health contacts: 21 Adults</li> <li>• Total SRS Addiction and Prevention Services: 3</li> <li>• Total KAHBH = 31 (number reported from 13 CMHCs)</li> </ul>