

## **KAHBH Program Timeline and Background Information**

September 11, 2001: Terrorists attacked New York City and Washington, D. C. The entire country realized its vulnerability as more than 3,000 citizens were killed and thousands more grieved those losses. A call for better readiness went out over the nation.

November 2001: The Departments of Health and Human Services/ SAMHSA held "Summit on Terror" in New York City. A team from Kansas attended to focus on developing a crisis response plan to acts of terrorism and bio-terrorism. The concern grew to include ensuring that the mental health and the substance abuse needs of the citizens also were met alongside their physical and safety needs.

June 2002: The State of Kansas held "Plague on the Prairie in Topeka. Representatives from 102 of the state's 105 counties participated in this bio-terrorism exercise. These included hospital and health care workers, mental health representatives, law enforcement officers, emergency management officials, county commissioners, public health officers, and those representing public information systems.

May 5, 2003: Tornadoes roared through the state, devastating several communities. Kansas SRS Mental Health Authority immediately arranged for disaster behavioral health care to the affected counties and utilized the strengths of the community mental health centers in those counties. The American Red Cross also responded, as did faith-based entities. Seven Kansas counties were affected in the initial disaster declaration. Two of them, Cherokee and Wyandotte, applied for and received funds for FEMA's Immediate Services Program. A month later, all seven counties received two days of national technical assistance for Crisis Counseling through FEMA and KMHA. Following these devastating storms, coupled with the call to the states to develop a response plan in case of terrorism, it became clear that Kansas needed a formal plan to care for the behavioral health needs of its citizens.

June 18-20, 2003: Kansas representatives attended "Creating a Road Map for Disaster Preparedness," a conference held in Washington, D.C. and sponsored by Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The Kansas team began the early stages of developing an all-hazards behavioral health response for Kansas.

July 2003: To further awareness, seven Kansas representatives traveled to attend an interstate bio-terrorism meeting. There the group learned many recommendations for behavioral health planning.

August 2003: These early stages of awareness and development set the stage for formal discussions between the Kansas Department of SRS, Mental Health, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

October 2003: The Assistant Director of KMHA participated in "Oktoberfest: An Exercise in Terror," a Kansas hospital bio-terrorism program.

April 2004: KMHA Assistant Director began serving on the Governor's Emergency Management/Bio-terrorism Planning Council to represent the behavioral health of planning. KMHA sent representatives to FEMA's Remedial Action Management Program Review to address the challenges that the previous year's tornadoes had presented.

May 2004: A seven-member Kansas delegation participated in the Midwestern Regional Conference in Chicago, "Planning for and Delivering Behavioral Health Care in Emergencies: All-Hazards Regional Training." The team developed action steps in order to collaborate with other agencies and stakeholders to complete a behavioral health annex to KDEM's state emergency operations plan.

July 2004: A KMHA representative attended "Basic Crisis Counseling Grant Training" at FEMA's National Emergency Training Center in Emmetsburg, Maryland.

August 2004: Through a federal block grant, KDHE established a contract with KMHA to hire a full-time coordinator to develop a disaster behavioral health plan for the State of Kansas.

December 2004: The grant was subcontracted to Kansas State University's School of Family Studies and Human Services. KSU hired the program coordinator and developed a team to create the Kansas All-Hazards Behavioral Health (KAHBH) Program.

January 2005: Year 1 of the KAHBH program began.

March 2005: The Kansas All-Hazards Behavioral Health Program Annex was drafted and submitted to the Kansas Department of Emergency Management (KDEM) to be reviewed and accepted into the Kansas Emergency Operations Plan. Acceptance is currently pending.

April 2005: 29 KAHBH Coordinators were identified by their CEOs, one at each of the 29 Community Mental Health Centers in Kansas. These KAHBH Coordinators will be responsible for coordinating their local Kansas All-Hazards Behavioral Health Teams during a Presidentially declared disaster.

August 25, 2005: Hurricane Katrina makes its 1<sup>st</sup> landfall in Florida as a Category 1 hurricane

August 29, 2005: Hurricane Katrina hits southern coast.

September 1, 2005: Hurricane Katrina response occurs in Kansas. KAHBH program put on alert to respond throughout the state (see KAHBH response sheet for more information)

September 24, 2005: Hurricane Rita makes landfall in Louisiana and Texas

October 6 & 7, 2005: *2005 All-Hazards Behavioral Health Symposium: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery in Kansas* held in Salina, Kansas.

November 30 and December 1, 2005: Technical Assistance and program consultation with Charles G. Cook, LSW, Director, Emergency Behavioral Health Professionals, formerly with SAMHSA.

November 2005: The Kansas All-Hazards Behavioral Health Operations and Procedural Manual was completed, and a copy was given to each of the KAHBH Team Members and coordinators who attended the KAHBH Core Training.

November 2005 to July 2006: The Kansas All-Hazards Behavioral Health (KAHBH) Program completed 10 trainings statewide and has recruited approximately 265 team members to be part of the KAHBH network. KAHBH Team Members are trained to respond to the behavioral health needs of disaster survivors during a Presidentially declared disaster.

January 2006: The Kansas Department of Health and Environment renewed a contract with the Kansas Mental Health Authority that provides funding for another year to coordinate the implementation and revision of the Kansas Behavioral Health All-Hazards Plan and to include the behavioral health component in the Regional Hospitals Bio-terrorism Planning. The sub-contract between Kansas Mental Health Authority and Kansas State University was renewed to provide services related to the development of a state-wide All-Hazards Behavioral Health Plan addressing preparedness activities, response coordination and recovery services in the event of a Presidentially declared disaster or other public health emergency.

March 2006: KAHBH joins the Kansas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), part of the National VOAD, in order to provide information about KAHBH and coordinate with other agencies that are often called on to provide crisis counseling in disaster events.

May 2006: 10 Behavioral Health Professionals attended the SAMHSA "Spirit of Recovery" Summit in New Orleans to address preparedness, response, and recovery efforts across the nation, and to consider the ongoing recovery efforts in New Orleans following hurricane Katrina.

May 2006: Planning begins for the 2006 Kansas All-Hazards Behavioral Health Symposium. This conference is hosted by Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the Kansas Adjutant General's Office, Kansas Highway Patrol, and Kansas State University. 300 people are expected to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Kansas All-Hazards Behavioral Health Symposium.

August 2006: The KAHBH Program completed a database of trained behavioral health and non-behavioral health professionals who can respond to the behavioral health needs of disaster survivors. A total of 339 people are listed as members of the KAHBH Network Database, with 245 of those members completing the KAHBH Core Training.

August 2006: A representative from the Kansas Mental Health Authority attended the "Basic Crisis Counseling Grant" training at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland.