

Information provided  
to assist in preparing,  
responding, and building  
resiliency in the event of a  
disaster or terrorist event.

# advance notice

April - June 2009

Vol. 2 No.2



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Making a Plan
- Taking Care of Their Own
- DHSS Measures Success
- H1N1 Virus

## UPCOMING EVENTS

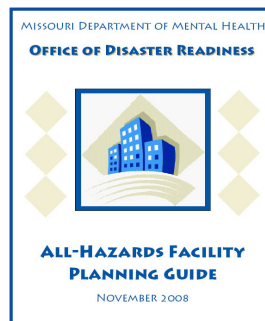
Israeli Medical System:  
Response to Disaster  
St. Louis  
July 10, 2009  
314/421-4220

Psychological First Aid  
Training  
August 6, 2009  
Jefferson City  
[www.dmh.mo.gov/  
diroffice/disaster/  
disaster.htm](http://www.dmh.mo.gov/diroffice/disaster/disaster.htm)  
Under Training  
Opportunities

## Making A Plan

A large part of the responsibilities of the Office of Disaster Readiness is dedicated to assuring and reassuring that plans are in place and preparations have been made in case a disaster would occur. For this reason, *the All-Hazards Facility Planning Guide* was developed by this office in September of 2008.

Anticipating that most disasters could restrict access to essential resources, including; relief personnel, transportation, food, water, utilities, fuel, and medications, the All-Hazards Planning Guide was prepared to assist facilities in dealing with worst case scenarios while maintaining continuity of facility operations. The guide is designed with a consistent format throughout. It includes information and technical assistance that supports best practice, and also provides flexibility to accommodate a facility's individual approach.



The *All-Hazards Facility Planning Guide* encourages the Department of Mental Health (DMH) providers to adopt a team approach in performance of all emergency management functions: continual planning, training, exercising, and plan revision. Adding to the team approach, facilities and providers are encouraged to establish a working partnership with their local Emergency Manager Director (EMD) to obtain their input on effective disaster planning for their area. The local fire and law enforcement responders as well as the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) may also offer their assistance in reviewing emergency plans and assisting to identify gaps or additional measures that might be employed to strengthen their coordinated response capacity. Individuals who are consumers should be encouraged to participate in the planning process to provide pertinent information that relates to their wellbeing during a disaster.

The Department of Mental Health has provided locations of all facilities and contracted providers to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) in an effort to expedite appropriate disaster response to consumers.

## PANDEMIC PLANNING

In considering every potential scenario, the *All-Hazards Facility Planning Guide* may also be utilized in planning for an influenza pandemic or other widespread disease outbreak. The structure of the guide provides a National Incident Management or (NIMS) compliant model that includes all essential functions within a consistent framework.

The Office of Disaster Readiness is hopeful that the *All-Hazards Facility Planning Guide* will be used as a tool for the five phases of the emergency management cycle:

<http://www.dmh.mo.gov/diroffice/disaster/AllHazardsFacilityPlanningGuide.htm>

## Taking Care of Their Own

Issues of violence and victimization in correctional settings can differ significantly from those in society. Due solely to the correctional environment and the nature of corrections populations, the risk of being victimized on the job is greater for corrections professionals than for most other jobs.

The Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC) Workplace Violence Program established the Peer Action and Care Team (PACT) in order to help DOC staff remain productive at work and home. PACT members are there to provide a “safety net” of sorts for their co-workers who may feel traumatized by an event.

By providing peer support, advocacy, and referral to a large array of services, peer-to-peer intervention methods employed by the PACT team members serve to strengthen the emotional well-being of staff adversely impacted by a critical event or disaster. These interventions also lessen the disruption in employment. PACT team members actively promote the use of the Employee Assistance Program to assist fellow employees in finding and receiving the mental health services they may need to nurture their recovery.

The Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and Corrections have made collaborative efforts to support these teams within DOC by training them on the application of Psychological First Aid (PFA). Teresa Robbins, Asst. Coordinator, DMH Office of Disaster Readiness, provided several training sessions throughout the state to help equip institutional corrections teams, offenders and field probation and parole staff in their efforts to assist staff during these traumatic events. The training was well received and the principles of PFA complemented the efforts of the PACT teams.

## DHSS Measures Success



The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' (DHSS) publication, *Measuring Missouri's Public Health Preparedness Success – 2008 Update*, outlines key accomplishments of the department's progress in strengthening Missouri's public health preparedness capacity, highlights the successes, and describes how DHSS spent funding on public health, hospital and laboratory preparedness. The 2008 Update covers the past grant year (August 31, 2007 to August 9, 2008). The department encourages you to take time to review the 2008 Update at [www.dhss.mo.gov/BT\\_Response/MeasuringPublicHealthPreparedness.pdf](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/MeasuringPublicHealthPreparedness.pdf).

## H1N1 Virus (SWINE FLU)

On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) raised the worldwide pandemic alert level to Phase 6 in response to the ongoing global spread of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus. A Phase 6 designation indicates that a global pandemic is underway. More than 70 countries are now reporting cases of human infection with novel H1N1 flu.

WHO's decision to raise the pandemic alert level to Phase 6 is a reflection of the spread of the virus, NOT the severity of illness caused by the virus.– *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*

The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) was the lead agency for the state's response to the H1N1 Influenza A virus. The emergence of the virus offered an opportunity to realistically test the planning, response, and capacity of the DHSS and the Missouri Local Public Health Departments (LPHAs). Careful analysis of their combined efforts will help provide an even more efficient and valuable response as preparations continue for a possible re-emergence of H1N1 this fall.

### RESOURCES

#### All-Hazards Facility Planning Guide

[www.dmh.mo.gov/diroffice/disaster/](http://www.dmh.mo.gov/diroffice/disaster/)  
Look under Plans and Competencies



#### Public Health Awareness and Response Update

[http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT\\_Response/BTUpdate.pdf](http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BT_Response/BTUpdate.pdf)



Visit the **Office of Disaster Readiness** website at <http://www.dmh.mo.gov/diroffice/disaster/disaster.htm>



Missouri Department of  
Mental Health  
Office of Disaster Readiness  
1706 E. Elm Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65101  
573/751-4122  
800/364-9687