

Improving Mental Health Response and Workforce Preparedness after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY
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Overview

- Review ongoing mental health impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and challenges in services delivery
- Describe REACH NOLA Mental Health Infrastructure and Training Project and improvements in care for depression & post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Describe how Tulane/RAND Community Health Worker Training Institute will expand preventive care and lower costs
- Discuss how LRA support for these critical workforce training opportunities will
 - × hasten mental health recovery
 - × bolster Louisiana's health workforce and preparedness

Mental health has declined dramatically since hurricanes of 2005

- **1 in 3 adults in South Louisiana has had symptoms of:**
 - depression
 - anxiety and/or
 - post-traumatic stress disorder
- **Without appropriate care, trauma-exposed children face risk of:**
 - lower educational attainment
 - possible long term disability
- **Suicide rates are twice as high now as before 2005**

Mental health providers unable to meet the region's post-hurricane needs

- **Fewer than 20%** of people received appropriate care for new mental health problems after hurricanes Katrina and Rita
- RAND Corporation study (2009): effective post-hurricane mental health care can be delivered, **if services capacity is improved**
- Sheer number of affected people suggest that our current regional capacity **is not enough**

REACH NOLA Mental Health Infrastructure and Training Project

- Builds capacity for region's mental health providers by offering training to improve care for depression and PTSD
- Since 2008, REACH NOLA has trained nearly 350
 - doctors
 - therapists
 - psychologists
 - social workers
 - case managers
 - health workers
- Collaborative effort involves more than 50 service agencies
- More than 80,000 clients have received services in Southeast Louisiana

Tulane/RAND Community Health Worker Training Institute

- **Institute will:**
 - Train 100 Community Health Workers (CHWs) per year to:
 - ✦ provide cost effective care to improve physical and mental health
 - Build needed skill sets for today's health workforce
- **CHWs will focus on:**
 - prevention, reducing cost of preventable illness
- **Trained CHWs will work throughout the state at**
 - health centers
 - hospitals
 - schools
 - businesses
 - non-profit agencies

LRA support of mental health recovery and workforce preparedness is critical

- **REACH NOLA and more than 50 partnering agencies require \$2 million through 2012**
 - to meet current mental health workforce needs
 - to improve community resilience and preparedness
- **Clinical training and technical assistance will:**
 - help hundreds of area clinicians to ensure
 - ✦ higher quality care
 - ✦ more rapid recovery
 - ✦ better preparedness for future storms

LRA support of mental health recovery and workforce preparedness is critical

- **Tulane/RAND Community Health Worker Training Institute requires \$1.5 million through 2012 to**
 - Support a quality, regional workforce capable of meeting today's physical and mental health needs
 - Encourage adoption of cost-effective and preventive care services led by CHWs
 - Foster improved disaster preparedness among communities and employers

Tulane, RAND, and REACH NOLA



**Building a Healthier Future for
South Louisiana**