

Summary of Behavioral Health Activities related to the Omaha Mall Shooting

December 5, 2007 – March 5, 2008

Response Activities (December 5 – December 19, 2007)

- The Girls & Boys Town National Crisis Line was activated and publicized
- The Spring Center behavioral health crisis line was activated and publicized
- The American Red Cross and Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare volunteers were activated and deployed to the Family Assistance Center on Dec. 5 and to the Westroads Mall daily for one week beginning Dec 8.
- Region 6 Behavioral Healthcare convened 20 local agencies in the first week after the event to plan for behavioral health recovery (Dec 6, 8, 11 and every two weeks on-going)
- Nebraska Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Team served 125 emergency responders within two weeks of the event
- Risk communication messages developed by the risk communication cadre were used by DHHS in constructing press releases related to the shooting

Recovery Activities (December 20, 2007 to present)*

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Emergency Response Grant (SERG) was prepared and submitted within 10 days of the event. Grant activities focus on:
 - Coordination of outreach efforts to affected populations
 - Coordination of existing service providers to deliver services that are appropriate for affected populations
 - Ongoing behavioral health needs assessment
- Local SERG activities include:
 - Town hall meetings led by experts Dr. Robin Gurwitch and Dr. Dan Nelson (National Child Traumatic Stress Network)
 - UNMC trauma care providers (Dec 20, 2008)
 - In the community at Glad Tidings Church and the Holiday Inn Convention Center (December 20-21,2008)
 - 8-week support group initiated on January 7, 2008
 - On-going liaison work with the Von Maur Assistance Fund to promote use of funds to pay for private counseling for affected persons
 - Coordination of behavioral health recovery efforts with local providers (e.g., maintaining a list of qualified CBT trained clinicians, their rates and availability)
 - Disaster clinicians from Alegent Health and UNMC are under contract to provide specific outreach services to affected populations
 - Region 6 maintains leadership, coordination and liaison responsibilities in the community related to behavioral health recovery activities
 - Psychiatric Dimensions Post-Disaster: A Public Health Perspective (Dr. Tony Ng)
 - Physicians Only (February 12, 2008)
 - Psychiatric resident training (February 12, 2008)
 - Community (February 13, 2008)
 - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Training for clinicians – (Robin Zagurski)
 - Training for media on emotional response to disasters – (Bruce Shapiro)

**This list is not exhaustive because other community organizations also sponsored recovery activities that moved the area toward recovery.*