

# NEBRASKA DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



Issue 17, December 2016

Welcome to another issue of the Nebraska Disaster Behavioral Health Newsletter. In this issue you will find updates on activities around the state and country. Please visit our website at: <http://disastermh.nebraska.edu/>

## Upcoming Events

### ***Nebraska Psychological First Aid Training***

February 23, 2017 | 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM | Scottsbluff, NE

Contact Sue Teal ([steal@region1bhs.net](mailto:steal@region1bhs.net), 308-632-4412) or Kate Speck ([kspeck2@unl.edu](mailto:kspeck2@unl.edu), 402-472-0501) for more information.

Click [here](#) to register.

### ***Nebraska Psychological First Aid - Training of Trainers***

February 24, 2017 | 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM | Scottsbluff, NE

Contact Sue Teal ([steal@region1bhs.net](mailto:steal@region1bhs.net), 308-632-4412) or Kate Speck ([kspeck2@unl.edu](mailto:kspeck2@unl.edu), 402-472-0501) for more information. Click [here](#) to register.

### ***Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference - SAVE THE DATE!***

July 28, 2017 | Omaha, NE

Additional information will be released as it becomes available.

## Nebraska Receives an MRC Challenge Grant

In May, the Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) received the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Challenge Award to fund their project Connecting Volunteers - Protecting Communities. This project aims to increase community resilience in urban and rural areas by equipping volunteer responders with Psychological First Aid (PFA) skills. The Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa MRC is collaborating with the State MRC Coordinator and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center (PPC).

The MRC is developing a cadre of PFA volunteer trainers by hosting several Train-the-Trainer courses, taught by Kate Speck with the PPC. These volunteer trainers will be able to provide PFA training to other volunteer responders, such as other MRC and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) members.

Additionally, the PPC is developing a web based PFA just-in-time/refresher training course as part of the Challenge Award project. This course will benefit volunteer responders who may be deployed prior to completing the PFA training. It will also be a helpful refresher course for those who may need to review their PFA skills. The web based PFA course will launch in spring 2017.

**SAMHSA Supplemental Research Bulletin: Stronger Together**

The most recent SAMHSA Supplemental Research Bulletin focuses on community-level approaches to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. This issue presents case studies to inform the structuring and effectiveness of disaster behavioral health programs, which help disaster survivors cope with stress and return to their typical levels of functioning after a disaster.

You can obtain the full issue [here](#).

---

## **Disaster and Persons with Substance Use Disorders**

In a 13-minute podcast, Dee S. Owens, Special Assistant to the Director in SAMHSA's Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, presents ideas and strategies to account for people with substance use disorders in disaster behavioral health planning. This podcast is the fifth in a series on community disaster resilience.

You can listen to the podcast [here](#).

You can also click [here](#) for a transcript of the podcast, and access links to transcripts from other episodes in the series.

---

## **AHEPP Announces Webinar on New CMS Preparedness Rule**

In September, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services released a new rule regarding emergency preparedness of healthcare providers. This new rule implicates Community Mental Health Centers, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities, and possibly other behavioral health service providers.

The Association of Healthcare Emergency Preparedness Professionals (AHEPP), headquartered in Nebraska, is offering a webinar on December 21, 2016 about preparedness exercises and the new CMS rule. This webinar is open to AHEPP members.

To find out more about AHEPP and membership, visit their webpage:  
<http://www.ahepp.org/>

To register for the webinar, click [here](#).

---

[NE DBH Website](#) | [ATAP Website](#) | [Threat Assessment Website](#)

More information at <http://www.disastermh.nebraska.edu/>