

NE Disaster Behavioral Health Newsletter

Issue: 3

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**NEBRASKA
DISASTER
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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/>

Disaster Behavioral Health Conference

July 12, 2013 in Lincoln, Nebraska

The 2013 Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference will be in Lincoln, Nebraska at the Cornhusker Marriott.

Upcoming Events

June 11-12 | 8 am

Annual Preparedness Symposia sessions in Lincoln. [Register here.](#)

June 25 | 9 am - 4:30 pm

Psychological First Aid Training in North Platte, NE.

[Register here.](#)

Contact Shannon Sell with questions: 308.534.6029 ext. 152 shannonsell@r2hs.com

July 12 | 8 am - 4:30 pm

[2013 Great Plains Disaster Behavioral Health Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska.](#)

July 16-17 | 8 am

Annual Preparedness Symposia sessions in Kearney. [Register here.](#)

This conference focuses on issues related to disaster, including: resiliency, ethical issues, and children's response to disaster. This event is geared towards:

- Behavioral Health Professionals
- Public Health Officials
- Clergy
- Emergency Managers
- First Responders
- Security Professionals
- Those with responsibilities and/or interest in disaster preparedness, response, or recovery

Speakers include Dr. George Bonnano (resilience scholar); Dr. Robin Gurwitsch (children's mental health expert); and Dr. Chalmers Clark (ethics scholar).

Conference Objectives:

- Gain and apply knowledge of factors that predict outcomes after potentially traumatic life events
- Describe the technical, theoretical, and applied interests of community prior to and following a traumatic life event
- Identify and discuss common reactions in children after crisis events, and factors and interventions that moderate their reactions and promote resiliency

[Click here for a registration link and to view additional information.](#)

11th Annual Preparedness Symposia

A Series lead by experienced professionals from a variety of fields. This year includes information on the Red Cross Response to Hurricane Sandy and active shooter response. [Join other](#)

The Dialogue

Special Feature: Perspectives on Disaster Public Health and Disaster Behavioral Health Integration

In the latest issue of The Dialogue, James M. Shultz asserts that the issues of public health and behavioral health in the aftermath of disaster are closely intertwined. Using two disasters, the 9/11 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Sandy, Shultz demonstrates why psychological effects from disaster can be even more traumatic and long lasting than physical effects.

preparedness professionals to gain insight and learn preparedness and response strategies. For more information and registration, please click [here](#).

"For those disaster-exposed persons who escape physical injury, psychological casualties may be numerous but less likely to be identified or to seek mental health care," Shultz said.

Read more starting on page 2 of the latest issue of The Dialogue.

See the full issue [here](#).

Resource Spotlight: MRC

Medical Reserve Corps

The mission of the MRC is to engage volunteers to strengthen public health, emergency response and community resiliency. Nebraska has seven regional MRC units, bringing together volunteers with an interest in public health, medical, and non-medical roles. MRC volunteers participate in training and exercises in order to support public health initiatives and be of greatest assistance in the aftermath of a disaster.

Over the past year, MRC units have:

- Sponsored 5 Psychological First Aid classes
- Facilitated audience discussions about being prepared for severe weather and dealing with emotional reactions to disasters after each presentation of the play "What the Wind Taught Me", by the Angels Theater Company
- Volunteers participated in various trainings, improving their skills in suicide prevention, support for Alzheimer's patients in disaster response, and how to interview family members to help identify victims of a disaster
- Participated in the Eppley Airfield and Offutt Air Show disaster drills

Additional information about the MRCs across Nebraska can be found [here](#).

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