
Psychological Impacts of Flooding: Resiliency in the Red River Valley

June 22, 2010 – Day of Resilience

Fargo Cass Public Safety Building

4630 15th Ave N

Fargo, MN

Also available via video conference and webcast

<http://www.sph.umn.edu/ce/trainings/coursepage.asp?activityId=9624>

Training Agenda

8:30-8:45 Welcome

8:45-12:00 Picking up the Pieces: The Psycho-Social Impact of Disasters

Peter R. Teahen

12:00-12:45 Lunch

12:45-3:00 Panel Discussion and Q&A: Breathing under Water: Sustaining Resiliency

Moderator: Jacqueline J Crawford, DMH Volunteer, Minn-Kota Chapter, ARC

Panelists Confirmed:

Kit O'Neill PhD - Chair, North Dakota Volunteer Organizations Assisting in Disaster (VOAD)
Resilience in Disaster Mental Health Response & Recovery

Master Sergeant Eric Johnson - Air National Guard
Resilience from the perspective of a first responder

Ruth Bachmeier – Fargo Cass Public Health
Resilience in the public health response

Rhonda Porter - Clay County Social Services Director
Resilience and behavioral health

Lee Gale - CISM Trainer/United Methodist Pastor
Resilience and spirituality

3:00 – 3:30 Small Group Discussion

3:30 - 4:30 Floods, Oil Spills, Tornadoes: The Psychology Of Resilience

Bob Veninga, Professor Emeritus University of Minnesota

Goals:

1. Deepen awareness of the immediate and long-term psychological impacts of disasters.
2. Describe strategies that can be used during the repeating cycle of flood preparation, response, and recovery to lessen immediate and long-term psychological impacts on responders, family members, victims, and community members.
3. Identify strengths and weaknesses in the response to mental health needs during and following the recent flood seasons. Identify emerging issues and opportunities for improving processes in future responses.
4. Provide an opportunity for renewal and community building among disaster response partners; describe strategies for promoting resiliency of responders and community members.

Target Audience

This training is designed for local public health workers, health care providers, first responders, and partners in the private and non-profit sectors involved in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery activities. This includes public health professionals, emergency department professionals (EMS, fire, law enforcement), behavioral health providers, healthcare providers, social workers, administrators, faith-based community representatives, and disaster responders.

About the Presenters

Peter Teahen

Peter R. Teahen is a Funeral Director and a mental health professional. He is president of Teahen Funeral Home, and founder of the International Mass Fatalities Center and AmericaReady. Peter is an Adjunct Faculty member at the University of Iowa. He serves in a volunteer role as national media spokesperson and a Government Liaison Officer for the American Red Cross. Peter has been involved in leadership roles in more than forty-five major disasters throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, Sri Lanka, and the Darfur Region of Sudan including the September 11th, attack on the World Trade Center, Hurricane Katrina, the Sri Lanka Tsunami 2004 and the Haiti Earthquake in 2010. He is recognized for his work on aviation disasters and is internationally known for his work and lectures in critical incident stress management, and the psychological and social impact of disasters.

Robert Veninga

Dr. Robert Veninga, Ph.D. is Professor Emeritus in the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota and an award-winning author. Among his books is the critically acclaimed *A Gift of Hope: How We survive Our Tragedies*. Dr. Veninga is a member of the Teacher's Hall of Fame at the University of Minnesota. His research on resilience has been used by organizations throughout the world.

After the floods of 1997, Dr. Veninga was invited to speak to several audiences in The Fargo-Moorhead and Grand Forks communities on how to build hope after the rivers receded and the devastation became apparent. Now 12 years later, Dr. Veninga returns to share what he has learned about how to stay hopeful in all seasons of life.

Panelists

Jackie Crawford

Jackie Crawford is a licensed psychologist in the state of Minnesota and volunteers with the American Red Cross, Disaster Mental Health Services. Through Jackie's volunteering with the American Red Cross she became the Chair of the Emotional and Spiritual Well-being Subcommittee whose Red River Resilience Project has helped to develop materials and projecting, all aimed at developing community resilience. The culmination of these projects occurs Tuesday, June 22, 2010 which they are calling the Day of Resilience.

In the Spring flooding of 1997 Jackie and her husband evacuated their flooded home south of Fargo. They rowed out, in the small hours of the morning, with two dogs and a cat. In the following months they rebuilt their home's foundation 4 1/2 feet higher on the same property. This 4 1/2 feet was enough to keep the water from flooding their home again when this area experienced it's record flooding in 2009.

H. Katherine O'Neill,

H. Katherine O'Neill, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist practicing in Fargo, ND. She earned her doctorate at University of North Dakota in 1992 and completed an internship at the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. O'Neill has participated in disaster mental health services with the American Red Cross as an instructor and responder since 1993. She has served on numerous local and national disaster operations, including the Red River Floods of 2009 and 1997, Hurricane Katrina, and the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Dr. O'Neill serves on the Advisory Committee of the American Psychological Association's national Disaster Response Network, and is Disaster Response Network coordinator for the North Dakota Psychological Association. She also is the current chair of North Dakota Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD). Dr. O'Neill has conducted research on the psychological effects of disaster, and provided commentary for the Discovery Health documentary, "The Road to Resilience", in 2002.

Master Sergeant Eric Johnson

Master Sergeant Eric Johnson was in the Active Duty Air Force 1984-1988 and joined the North Dakota Air Guard in 1992 as a Video Production Specialist for the 119th Wing Public Affairs. He has documented Red River Valley Floods in 1997, 2009, 2010, and the Northwood, ND, Tornado in 2007. A video he helped produce entitled "Guarded Waters" which depicts the North Dakota National Guard Response to statewide flooding in 2009 won first place at the National Guard level and second place at the Department of Defense for Documentaries. His wife Kelly and three daughters Elise(5), Brooklyn(2), Sophia(9 months) live in Fargo North Dakota.

Ruth Bachmeier

Ruth Bachmeier, MS, RN, has worked in the field of Public Health for twenty-two years, with the past 14 at Fargo Cass Public Health. She began her career at Fargo Cass Public Health as a Public Health Nurse and became the Director of Nursing a short time later. She has been in the position of Director of Public Health for the past 2 ½ years. Ruth received her undergraduate degree in Nursing from Jamestown College, Jamestown, ND and her graduate degree in Public Health Nursing from the University of Minnesota. Ruth is a Year 13 graduate of the National Public Health Leadership Institute, North Carolina Institute for Public Health. Ruth is the mom of two busy teenage children.

Rhonda Porter

Rhonda Porter has been the Director of Clay County Social Services in Moorhead, MN for over 5 years. Prior to this position she Supervised Child Protection and Licensing Services for 7 years as well as provided 6 years of direct service in Child Protection Investigations and Case Management for people with disabilities. Prior to coming to Clay County, MN, Rhonda worked for 3 years in Roseau County as a Social Worker involved in a variety of program areas.

Rev. Lee Gale

Rev. Lee Gale is member of the Dakotas Conference United Methodist Church serving the Northern Valley Parish (Minto, Knox Presbyterian, Grafton Federated, PCUSA, UMC and St. Thomas United Methodist Church). He is an International Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Foundation approved instructor training in Individual Crisis Intervention and Peer Support, Group Crisis Intervention and Pastoral Crisis Intervention. Lee has trained for the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services and for Pastoral Care at Innovis Health System. He is a member of the North Dakota CISM Team and is a newly appointed Coordinator for Disaster Response for the Dakotas Conference UMC in North Dakota. Lee and his wife Terri and have two daughters, one grandson, and another grandchild on the way.

Community Presentation and Resource Fair

June 22, 2010 – Day of Resilience
Moorhead High School Auditorium
2300 4th Ave S
Moorhead, Minnesota

Agenda

5:30 – 6:00 Resilience Resource Fair

6:00 – 7:00 What Are You Missing? How To Build Optimism in our Homes, Schools, Businesses and Churches
Bob Veninga, Professor Emeritus University of Minnesota

7:00 – 7:30 Resilience Resource Fair Continues

Who should participate?

Agencies and groups promoting resilience and healthy emotional responding such as first responders, city leaders, churches, schools, public health, mental health, emergency response groups, spiritual groups and community organizations.

Sponsors

Sponsored by the North Dakota Department of Health, City of Fargo, The Red River Resilience Project, the University of Minnesota Center for Public Health Preparedness and the Midwest Center for Life-Long-Learning in Public Health.

More details are available on the conference webpage at
<http://www.sph.umn.edu/ce/trainings/coursepage.asp?activityId=9624>

Additional information about The Red River Resilience Project is found at: <http://www.RedRiverResilience.com>