

## **Behavioral Health Disaster Volunteer Training Curriculum: *Helping People Find Strength Following Disaster***

This training package, *Helping People Find Strength Following Disaster*, has been adopted by ODMH and approved by the Ohio Citizen Corps/Ohio Medical Reserve Corps (**OCC/OMRC**) for the purpose of preparing licensed behavioral health professionals to provide behavioral health services following a disaster.

This training package has been designed to meet the basic psychological needs of those who have been subjected to severe crisis and traumatic experiences. Those individuals who experience human suffering, due to these traumatic events, will receive help and support from the many clinicians and other trained professionals who fulfill the requirements of this training. As clinicians learn connecting, grounding and supporting strategies they will be better equipped to help survivors normalize their experience of trauma and prepare for the future by recovering more fully.

This training curriculum is a modified form of a two-day curriculum that was developed by a collaborative team of Behavioral Health Disaster Training Experts under the leadership of Dale Svendsen M.D., and Joseph Hill of the ODMH. The team included Glenn Jackson, LSW, LCPC, Bonnie Selzler, RN, Ph.D., and Anthony Speier, Ph.D., of FEMA and other representatives from ODMH and NEOUCOM. This training was implemented throughout Ohio in 2004. The training curriculum was revised in 2005 by the University Linkages Committee to focus on specific information for clinicians about how to provide behavioral health interventions following a disaster.

This training owes a particular debt to the University Linkages Committee members who have worked for nearly two years in developing this training package and have provided the crucial guidance for its evidence-based content. We acknowledge the thoughtful deliberations and professional expertise of this dedicated group of clinicians, educators, administrators and trauma survivors, many of whom have faced the challenge of providing empathic support to many trauma victims during the most stressful of events. With the generous support of their Universities, agencies and their own personal sacrifices these participants have developed a curriculum that provides a highly professional, thought provoking and empathic approach to human supports in times of great stress and trauma. The members of this group are listed below.

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