



NEWS and NOTES

Bringing Hope and Help in Times of All Hazards and Disasters

January / February 2008

All Healers Mental Health Alliance

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JOIN AHMHA

AHMHA is a collaboration of psychiatrists, faith-based leaders, social workers, psychologists other mental health professionals, allied associates who have organized to develop timely and sustainable responses to the mental health needs of survivors of catastrophic events in this country and the caregivers who come to their aid. www.ahmha.org



**New York Society
for
Ethical Culture
SOCIAL SERVICE
BOARD**

"Ethics On the Air"
a Radio Show Hosted by:
Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross



Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross

2008 MARKS A FRESH START

Congratulations to us all! AHMHA is going strong and continuing to build our partners and collaborators.

Meetings with the Institute of Black World, Middle Collegiate Church in New York City, the World Council of Churches and the Samuel J. Proctor Project are beginning to bare fruit. We have been invited to participate in a variety of their programs. The supervised, prison video-visiting project is moving forward spearheaded by Dr. Charlotte Hilliman.

We are pleased that we have formed a partnership with Dr. Devine Pryor, Executive Director of the NuLeadership Center at the Medgar Evers College of the City University New York. We will begin a second year's participation with the OMNA on Tour and the APA in October, 2008 in Chicago to talk about transitional leadership and ongoing disaster mental health efforts.

We look forward to continued partnership with the Regional Hurricane Response Center at Morehouse School of Medicine and with the Social Service Board of the New York Society for Ethical Culture.

"Faith teaches us that putting our creed into deed makes one healthier and stronger and also makes one feel better."

PH-R

Click Here to Listen:
<http://www.nysec.org/new-york/wbai-ethics-on-the-air/>

Send Your Article

Please send articles you would like included to the AHMHA Editor: illum2@bpgny.com
All submissions subject to approval.

POLITICAL UPDATE:

Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross has met with Senators Obama and Clinton on a couple of occasions. She was able to make suggestions and recommendations:

Suggestions to Congress to Address the Mental Health Crisis in the Gulf Coast among Diverse and Underserved Populations:

- Identifying and engaging providers that reflect and are knowledgeable about the culture of communities with mental health needs would be a big start in providing services to cities with large, diverse underserved populations. If agencies are not able to do this we recommend technical assistance to be provided at the federal level through SAMHSA or non-profit organizations.
- Ensure that there is an extended length of time for out of state practitioners to practice in disaster-affected states so that they can help to build capacity and replenish the depleted workforce and dearth of minority providers of both mental health and substance abuse treatment services.
- Temporarily bring in Federal employees or health care providers paid for by the Feds until local systems can

Ways to insure resolutions are not broken

- Make sure your goals and resolutions are realistic.
- Write your goals and resolutions down.
- Refer to them often.
- Believe in yourself and your dreams.
- Keep positive about your goals.
- Add closure by reviewing your successes.

ABSTRACTS & PUBLICATIONS:

Disruption of Existing Mental Health Treatments and Failure to Initiate New Treatment after Hurricane Katrina

(Philip S Wang, Michael J Gruber, Richard E Powers, Michael Schoenbaum, Anthony H Speier, Kenneth B Wells, Ronald C Kessler)

Abstract (Summary) The authors examined the disruption of ongoing treatments among individuals with preexisting mental disorders and the failure to initiate treatment among individuals with new-onset mental disorders in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. English-speaking adult Katrina *read abstract:* <http://ahmha.org/Abstracts.asp>

Five Essential Elements of Immediate and Mid-Term Mass Trauma Intervention: Empirical Evidence

(Stevan E. Hobfoll, Patricia Watson, Carl C. Bell, Richard A. Bryant, Melissa J. Brymer, Matthew J. Friedman, Merle Friedman, Berthold P.R. Gersons, Joop T.V.M de Jong, Christopher M. Layne, Shira Maguen, Yuval Neria, Ann E. Norwood, Robert S. Pynoos, Dori Reissman, Josef I. Ruzek, Arie Y. Shalev, Zahava Solomon, Alan M. Steinberg, and Robert J. Ursano)

INSTILLING HOPE - There is strong evidence for the central importance of retaining hope following mass trauma. Hence, those who remain optimistic (Carver & Scheier, 1998) are likely to have more favorable outcomes after experiencing mass trauma because they can retain a reasonable degree of hope for their future. Instilling hope is critical because mass trauma is often accompanied by a “shattered worldview” (Janoff-Bulman, 1992), the vision of a shortened future (American Psychiatric Association, 1994), and catastrophizing, all of which undermine hope and lead to reactions of despair, futility, and hopeless resignation—that feeling that “all is lost.” Because mass trauma *read abstract:* <http://ahmha.org/Abstracts.asp>

Disaster Spiritual Care Practical Clergy Responses to Community, Regional and National Tragedy

(Edited by Rabbi Stephen B. Roberts, BCJC, and Rev. Willard W. C. Ashley Sr., DMin, DH)



The definitive reference for pastoral caregivers of all faiths involved in disaster response. This first-of-its-kind, innovative, practical resource integrates *read more:*

recruit and train or provide existing agencies with the necessary technical assistance.

- Find ways to restore supportive services that have been wiped out: group homes, mental health rehabilitation, adult ACT teams (assertive community treatment, an evidence-based practice), and methadone centers. Also, transitional housing has been reduced for people with substance abuse homelessness, mental health needs, long term care needs and families in need of reunification.
- Need technical assistance for state emergency mental health issues, including medical records, pharmacy, sharing records, etc.
- Direct funding to do cultural competence training and consultation relative to disaster mental health care.
- Use technology including telepsychiatry, conference calls, and videoconferencing to expand and enhance remotely mental health and substance abuse care.
- Organize networks to provide support, consultation, and care for the caregivers to maintain the limited work force available in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.
- As a proactive strategy, establish national network of culturally competent mental health and substance abuse treatment professionals to work with the Red Cross and other agencies responsible for disaster response.
- Equip with knowledge and empower gatekeepers such as community health workers, primary care practitioners and faith community leaders to serve as allies and facilitators of mental health and substance abuse treatment services in

<http://www.ahmha.org/Books.asp>

Rev. Ashley has been working with AHMHA, BPGNY, and NYSEC. He plays a prominent role in the New York "Heroes of Healing" events. He and Dr. Phyllis Harrison-Ross work together doing disaster healing work.

CONGRATULATIONS !!

Iverson Bell, Jr., MD, has been elected Distinguished Fellow of the APA.



SAVE THE DATE(s):

- **APA 2008 Annual Meeting** - Washington, DC - May 03-08, 2008. Join colleagues from across the U.S. and 50 other countries for the psychiatry event of the year. To register or for more information call toll free 1-888-35-PSYCH or visit www.psych.org
- **BPA Annual Spring Conference** - Houston, TX, 14-16 March 2008 www.blackpsych.org

Dr Pryor is currently the Deputy Executive Director of the Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions which is the worlds first and only academic center and public policy think tank to be created, developed and administered by formerly incarcerated professionals.

NuLeadership Policy Group
Medgar Evers College

Center for NuLeadership Goals

- To serve as a think tank for the development and implementation of a new criminal justice paradigm.
- To address the disproportionate mass incarceration of poor people, particularly Black males, within the criminal justice system.
- To develop and offer continuing education for the academic, professional and spiritual growth of urban scholars and students.
- To establish a certification program and, ultimately offer a two (2) and Four (4) year degree in urban studies with a concentration on social and criminal justice.
- To promote the inclusion and empowerment of formerly incarcerated professionals in the field of study.

Read the NuLeadership Executive Summary:

<http://www.mec.cuny.edu/spcd/caddi/nuleadership.asp>

distressed communities with unmet mental health and substance abuse care needs.

- Continue advocacy on the federal, state and local level for increased and sustained attention to mental health care and substance abuse treatment needs of populations affected by disaster and support for their caregivers.

- **Empower and support** existing community healers who are from the community.

- Ensure that collaborations of existing community healers, who are culturally empathic and competent and non-community experts, volunteers, workers, be used to **set standards, monitor, evaluate and train** provider healers, who are not from the affected communities.

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