

Project Resiliency Collaboration

During the initial weeks of the evacuation of Gulf Coast residents, Houston Mayor Bill White and Harris County Judge Robert Eckels directed the formation of an ad hoc group of behavioral health professionals to coordinate the community's response and to identify needed services and potential funding sources for those services. This group, now known as the *Project Resiliency Collaboration*, continues building upon a number of pre-hurricane coordination efforts among the community's behavioral healthcare providers as a logical extension of their previous work together. The *Project Resiliency Collaboration* embraces a mission of ***“supporting the emotional and social wellbeing of evacuees and assisting our community in moving to the next step”***.

Project Resiliency Collaboration Partners

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Behavioral Health Providers Network
- City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services
- The Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston
- Gateway to Care
- Houston Galveston Institute
- The Mental Health Association of Greater Houston
- The Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority of Harris County
- People in Partnership

CPR is one the initiatives of Project Resiliency to extend the behavioral health community's ties and resources among other Houston communities.

Houston Galveston Institute

Who are We? We are a private, non-profit organization that was established in 1978 and are nationally and internationally known for our family therapy innovation. Our therapists have training in marriage and family therapy, psychology, social work and counseling. We are experienced in working in various settings with a wide range of clients who face many different circumstances.

What do We Do? We provide therapy, research, consultation, and training services to individuals and organizations locally, nationally, and internationally. Our approach based in collaboration, values each person's viewpoint and searches for common ground, develops respect among participants, and uses all the resources that are brought by those involved to create new directions and resolution. Our staff demonstrates flexibility, improvisation, inclusion, multi-partiality, creativity, and team-building.

What is Our Experience with Disaster Response? In response to disaster, many of our staff have training and experience in mental health disaster response and did work at Red Cross sites during Tropical Storm Allison and in the immediate aftermath of Katrina/Rita. Additional background and expertise include work in Bosnia during the Balkan War in Croatia, and in India with refugees of ethnic and regional conflicts. The senior staff at HGI have provided training, supervision, publication and leadership in this area.

HGI currently is providing clinical services to hurricane victims who have been referred to our community clinic by United Way, NOW College Prep, Communities in School, Community Youth Service, Child Protective Services, schools, and colleagues.

Houston Galveston Institute
Sponsors

Community Partnership for Resiliency



Connecting Communities to
Strengthen Houston's
Resiliency

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What is Community Resiliency?

“Community resiliency” is the ability of a community not only to deal with adversity, but also to become strengthened in spite of such adversity. Collective trauma is a blow to the basic ties of social life. It damages the bonds that connect people together and mars the prevailing sense of communality. An important aspect of trauma recovery is social meaning-making and reconstructing lives. Thus creating contexts to envision and participate in the rebuilding of the new Gulf Coast will provide people who have evacuated with increased control in their lives and futures, and provide task-oriented activities/coping strategies, social connection, meaning making and collaboration possibilities all of which increase resiliency.

Community Partnership for Resiliency (CPR)

CPR aims at enhancing Houston’s resiliency by continuing and building upon the bridges created between the public and private sectors immediately after the hurricanes.

CPR Mission: *Enhancing the Houston communities’ resiliency in response to the Katrina/Rita disaster and disaster preparedness.*

CPR Vision: Enhancing psychological wellness and sharing best practices of community resiliency by creating collaborative partnerships community/civic organizations, businesses, higher education and research institutions, cultural arts and the disaster preparedness communities.

CPR Strategies/Activities

Non-traditional strategies are needed to reach the affected individuals who are now scattered throughout our metropolitan area through:

- Public dialogue
- Public celebrations and rituals
- Citizen and community participation
- Outreach to organizations within the community to enhance community resiliency
- Hosting community round tables
- Facilitating cross fertilization of ideas to enhance community resiliency
- Identifying, documenting and promoting best practices of resiliency-building within and across individual communities
- Identifying behavioral health strengths and needs within each community
- Linking organizations to resources for enhancing community resiliency
- Developing a process document and curriculum for replicating resiliency processes with other communities

We invite you to explore with us:

1. What are the existing collaborative initiatives in your community?
2. Who would you like to collaborate/partner with?
3. What are your resiliency efforts and how have those efforts been helpful?

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