

Providing Support through a Technological Disaster: Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Lifelines Counseling Services

Jan Preslar - Division Manager

Brent Vance - Outreach Coordinator

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Outreach Collaborative Partners

■ Oil Spill Distress Helpline

Operated by Mental Health Association-NYC /
Link2Health Solutions, Inc.

Administered by HHS / Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Local Call Centers located throughout Gulf Coast states

- Dial 1-800-985-5990 – 24 hours call center coverage
- Text services available by texting “TalkWithUsAL” to 66746
- Psychological First Aid Training
- Domestic Violence Hotline Training

Outreach Collaborative Partners

- Alabama Department of Mental Health
 - “Strengthening Families Program”, Facilitator Training
 - Community Resource Directory
 - Suicide Prevention Trainings
 - “Red Flags to Saving Lives”
 - “SafeTalk” – Living Works, Suicide Prevention Program

Lifelines Outreach Programs

- Boat People SOS – Bayou la Batre
Safe Dates- Adolescent Dating Abuse Prevention Curriculum
- Consumer Credit Counseling
Financial budget counseling, housing and foreclosure prevention
- Faith Works – South Mobile County
Peer Listening Training-Group of Community Leaders
Churches and non-profit agencies

Challenges in providing services

- Language barrier
- Trust factors
- Rise of domestic violence, anger and stress related issues
- Physical needs were more important than mental health needs
- Lack of transportation to services being offered
- Claim process frustrations
- Lack of coping skills and self care

Ensuring Community Support

- Local United Way 2-1-1 and Helpline will continue after BP and other funding ends
(Food, employment, basic needs, housing issues)
- Continual referrals to community counseling services and financial counseling (budgeting, housing, etc.)

Contact Information

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