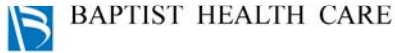


Lakeview Center



News

For immediate release

July 15, 2010

Lakeview Provides Support as the Community Deals with Spill's Effects

Lakeview Center is collaborating with local agencies, churches and community groups to support Northwest Florida's historically self-reliant and resilient populace as it deals with the economic and environmental effects the Gulf oil disaster.

Partnering with BRACE, an alliance of local organizations responding to emergencies, Lakeview Center will provide mental health information, training and services as needs arise or as requested by groups and individuals within the area.

Right now, the community's most immediate needs are economic. Although research and experience show that disasters can trigger an increase mental health issues, people in general manage to cope. As demonstrated by hurricanes Ivan and Dennis, the people of Escambia and Santa Rosa counties overall are resilient, caring and willing to help one another.

A plan drafted by Lakeview capitalizes on the unique strengths and resiliency of the people and culture of Northwest Florida. It relies upon ongoing collaboration with local organizations and churches to make sure mental health needs are addressed and that the community is equipped to help those who may be struggling with uncertainty and stress created by the disaster.

Emphasis will be placed on recognizing when someone needs professional mental health services and ensuring access to those services. Lakeview Center's HelpLine is ready to provide behavioral health-related information and referrals for Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. The HelpLine number is (850) 438-1617.

Churches or community groups can call (850) 469-3508 to obtain material about coping strategies, stress symptoms and mental health in general.

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An affiliate of Baptist Health Care, Lakeview Center Inc. is a network of behavioral health, vocational and child protective services. These services address a broad spectrum of human needs, reflecting a longstanding commitment to helping people cope with life's challenges.