

## **Lessons From the Storm: Crisis and Collaboration**

**Instructor:** Harold Suire

### **Course Description**

The lessons learned, and lessons still being taught, from Hurricane Katrina can assist all healthcare and family assistance providers in providing for future disasters. This session was conducted by Harold Suire, a consultant with over 20 years' experience in the state policy arena, who was called upon by the state of Louisiana in the aftermath of Katrina to coordinate the myriad of groups and foundations from throughout the nation and world. He shared his on-the-ground observations of collaboration and challenges in the vortex of one of the greatest natural disasters in the United States. We learned how lives were, and still are, in jeopardy while leaders, agencies, and groups fought and acted on policy, credit, regulations, funds, and turf. We also learned about the resiliency of providers and citizens and the power of collaboration and action for the greater good.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Describe the leadership skill set most useful in a major crisis.
- Identify the benefits of practical information sharing and use of data before and after a major crisis.
- Identify people and groups within a region or national scene that are most effective at managing resources and information and serving clients.
- Describe the major types of communication that fail and succeed within an interagency and provider network during a crisis.
- Identify future critical roles for public health practice in a major crisis.
- Identify several post-crisis factors that affect the health of citizens within and surrounding an impacted area, with an emphasis on mental health implications.

### **Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals** *\*Council on Linkages between Academia and Public Health Practice*

- 3A6: Applies communication and group dynamic strategies in interactions with individuals and groups
- 5A8: Identifies community assets and resources
- 7C3: Manages partnerships with agencies within the federal, state, and local levels of government that have authority over public health situations or with specific issues, such as emergency events

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