

Hoping that your holidays were memorable and that you had a chance to enjoy some down time with family and friends.

Thanks to Dr. Will Farquharson and the staff at Madonna Heights for hosting our last meeting.

1. Our last LISPAN network meeting was honored by a presentation from Dr. Thomas Demaria of C. W. Post, entitled:
"Providing Psychosocial and Grief Support to Children in the Aftermath of Crisis".

Dr. Demaria has agreed to share his comprehensive power point with all of you. Embedded within this PP is an invaluable set of other resources for your crisis management toolkit. As a former School Psychologist himself, Dr. Demaria was well-acquainted with the unique challenges faced within the culture of the school in responding to various crisis scenarios, and outlined the collaborative efforts of multiple school-based organizations nationally which resulted in some of the web sites and protocols he included as part of his presentation. Dr. Demaria praised the efforts of LISPAN to build a strong crisis response capacity within its local island-wide membership for a fast and coordinated response by any network members. We invite you to explore his slides in detail and take what you need. Please share this information with all members of your district crisis teams and those of neighboring school districts so that all may access it at will.

2. Also in attendance at this meeting was the American Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Lead for Suffolk County, Dr. Thomas Hlenski. He provided an overview for any of us who would like to be trained as a mental health volunteer for the American Red Cross, as follows:

American Red Cross Disaster Mental Health is designed to provide emotional and psychological support to those impacted by disaster. The primary focus of intervention is all persons impacted by a disaster to include the immediately affected clients, the volunteers and the staff that respond to an event. Interventions are informed by both professional training and the Red Cross guidelines for the role of the Disaster Mental Health volunteer.

Becoming a member of the ARC Disaster Mental Health Team involves three easy steps. Complete the on line application for the American Red Cross. Take the Disaster Fundamentals class, 3-4 hours in person or webinar. Take the Disaster Cycle Overview class, 20 minutes on line. After completion of these three steps, you will be referred for an ID. During this process, you will be in contact with your DMH Lead.

The Red Cross does not mandate service. National and or local deployment and is always at the discretion of the volunteer. In addition, the time available to serve on a particular operation is up to the volunteer. One exception, if a volunteer should decide to deploy nationally, the commitment is for ten days.

LISPAN will be speaking with Dr. Hlenski in the coming months to determine if a voluntary Red Cross training sponsored by LISPAN may be feasible in 2016.

3. It has also been brought to my attention by the President of the Nassau County Psychological Association, Dr. Maxine Marcus, that Nassau County provides a separate disaster training for interested volunteers. I have included that information as a separate attachment for courses from January through June, 2016.

4. Our current membership in LISPAN continues to grow. Our current member districts include Levittown, Roosevelt, Madonna Heights, Longwood, Smithtown, West Babylon, Cold Spring Harbor, East Rockaway, Deer Park, Herricks, Jericho, and most recently, Western Suffolk BOCES. Please continue to lobby your building administration and district office leadership regarding the benefits of LISPAN membership.

5. Both Eastern Suffolk BOCES and Nassau BOCES will be sponsoring PREPaRE training in late January, 2016 and March, 2016 respectively. I have attached the registration flyers for both of these events. Registration for the Western Suffolk BOCES PREPaRE 1 and 2 workshops on January 6, 7, and

8 is now closed. Please take advantage to register for workshops in your area. Remember that the focus of PREPaRE 1 is on crisis prevention and that the focus of PREPaRE 2 is on crisis intervention and recovery. **It is NOT necessary to complete PREPaRE 1 in order to register for PREPaRE 2, however, it IS necessary for at least one crisis team member in an individual district to complete PREPaRE workshop 2 in order to become eligible for membership in LISPAN.**

6. Our next LISPAN meeting will take place on Friday, January 29th from 8-10am at Massapeqa High School. This presentation will give you the tools to create a risk management team within your own district. Registration information will be sent soon. Also attached is a list of the final LISPAN network meetings through May, 2016. These are open once again to current LISPAN member districts and to prospective member school districts as well.

7. We take a moment to thank Dr Deborah Weisbrot from the SUNY Stony Brook Department of Psychiatry Risk Management Team for taking the time to be with us. We hope to have Dr. Weisbrot join us at a LISPAN network meeting next year to share her expertise in this area.

8. If anyone is interested in serving on the LISPAN Steering Committee in 2016-2017, please let me know. I have attached the current SC list for your information. We meet on a monthly basis and rotate our meetings across member districts. This group establishes policies and procedures for the operation of LISPAN, and is open to all school-based crisis team members whether your district is part of the LISPAN network or not. You must have the flexibility in your current position to attend most of these meetings, which typically take place from 8-10am during school days.

9. If you would like your team to view two FREE training courses from FEMA regarding the Incident Command System (ICS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS), please view the last attachment. These courses are 3 hours each and outline the procedures utilized by major first-responder groups who will come into your school as needed and requested.

Thanks to all of those who have supported LISPAN during its initial launch over the past year. It has taken so much work and requires a commitment of time from all of us for a day we hope will never come. However, I assure you as a building-based crisis team member for 38 years, on those days when my district was hit with a major crisis - I only wish that my Superintendent had the ability to activate the LISPAN crisis response network. It is the best insurance policy you can carry for your district in these unstable times. Feel free to direct any questions about LISPAN to me or to any of our Steering Committee members.

May you all enjoy a 2016 filled with good health, peace, and harmony.

Respectfully submitted,

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