

AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Dear Colleagues:

We want to express our hope that you, your families, friends, and colleagues located in any of the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina are safe and sound.

We also want to update you on AGPA's disaster relief efforts. We have been reaching out to members and our local societies in the affected areas to insure that they are okay as well as to determine needs in the area. Those from whom we have heard so far are physically safe, although emotionally drained and overwhelmed by all that is occurring.

This is a devastating tragedy. Our recent 9/11 experiences have prepared us to be able to provide direct clinical services to survivors, training for those on the front lines, and support and supervision for the caregivers. There is little doubt that there will be enormous need for these and other services once adequate attention has been given to survivors' acute needs for food, water, shelter, and medical supplies and care.

We are currently conducting multiple outreach initiatives. Efforts are already underway to engage the Red Cross, others involved in the relief efforts, personal contacts, and, as noted above, association members in those areas that have been most affected. Our Community Outreach Task Force, under the leadership of Jeff Kleinberg and Kathy Ulman, is working to direct a coordinated AGPA response. Additionally, we have established a link on the home page of the AGPA website for members and the public to visit with various resources, including electronic versions of the trauma training modules, general information on responses to trauma and links to other organizations coordinating relief efforts.

We believe it is appropriate for all of us in AGPA to take whatever part we can in contributing to the relief efforts. To this end, we also want to assess our members' capacity to become involved in relief efforts initiated by AGPA, or anything we do in a coordinated fashion with other organizations. As is always the case in situations like this, personal contacts can be quite valuable. During this immediate post disaster period, please let us know whether you have contacts that will further facilitate the contribution of our expertise. These may include people in agencies and governmental units involved in the relief effort, local community groups that have sustained losses, etc.

Several of our members already have expressed interest in joining whatever contribution we are able to mount. We know that we can count on your support as we move forward. Let's be sure to keep one another informed as needs arise.

Our best to you and yours,

Robert Klein, Ph.D., CGP, FAGPA,  
AGPA President  
and

Marsha S. Block, CAE, CFRE  
AGPA Chief Executive Officer

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