



HERMES, LLC

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NEWS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HERMES LLC, Health Education Research, Management and Epidemiologic Services, a research service firm located in RTP and Wilmington, has been awarded a 2-year Phase I Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to develop clinical and community provider training to address mental health conditions in the face of public health emergencies. Hurricanes Katrina and Floyd revealed how the lack of local provider preparedness and community-level capacities to address mental health consequences during disaster aftermath and recovery periods can differentially impact black communities. In response to these needs, HERMES' overall project goal is to adapt a community integration training model and use evidence-based practices (EBP) to build local health care provider mental health competencies.

“This training can address help address unmet mental health service needs that can have lasting and devastating effects on the recovery of populations from natural disasters, especially impoverished minority communities” Danielle Laborde, Ph.D.

HERMES will focus on hurricane-prone coastal communities in the Carolinas and Gulf Coast. The first-step will be to conduct an asset assessment to determine the resources already available to mental health practitioners and minority communities. The research team includes Dr. Stanley Kutcher, Head of International Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry at Dalhousie University and the Director of the WHO Collaborating Center in Mental Health Training and Policy Development and Duke University, community, and local health department representatives who will assist in adapting Dr. Kutcher's training model to the specific post-disaster mental health needs in underserved communities. Involving key stakeholders to guide training development increases efficacy and relevance of training materials.

Founded in 2002, HERMES LLC specializes in epidemiologic study design, community-based participatory research, health education, and monitoring and evaluation. For more information go to www.hermesllc.com



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