

# **Mental Health & Higher Education**

## **Introduction to a Toolbox for Jointly Sponsored Seminars**

April, 2009

The Higher Education Subcommittee (HES) of Missouri's Homeland Security Advisory Committee (HSAC) recommended the development of training materials to be used in partnerships between higher education campuses in Missouri and the mental health community to promote local efforts to plan effectively for emergency and disaster events that might occur. Because the recommendation came in the aftermath of the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007, there was general agreement that the toolkit should include information to encourage dialogue and problem solving related to indicators that an individual might require mental health evaluation and intervention on an involuntary basis.

The toolkit contents available on the HES website include:

- Learning and partnership objectives for the seminar
- Target audiences for participation
- An agenda for the seminar
- Powerpoint slide presentations for the seminar in three components:
  - Introduction and Disaster Mental Health Planning and Intervention Principles
  - Missouri's civil commitment laws and procedures
  - Discussion slides related to joint planning and collaboration

These materials have been provided to local community mental health providers that contract with the Missouri Department of Mental Health in addition to being posted on the HES-HSAC website. We encourage campuses to work jointly with their community mental health center to sponsor a seminar. Contact information for the DMH community mental health providers can be found at <http://www.dmh.mo.gov/cps/images/CPSAmap306.pdf> if your campus wishes to co-sponsor a session.