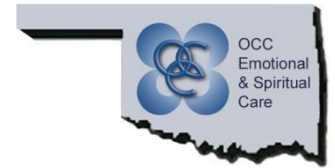


Oklahoma Conference of Churches Disaster Emotional and Spiritual Care Update January 2015 through June 2016



As a national benchmark program in disaster spiritual care, the Oklahoma Conference of Churches continues to build capacity. Our disaster emotional and spiritual care program, launched initially through the United Way grant in response to the 2013 tornadoes, has now expanded state-wide thanks to the donations local, state, and national faith-based partners. We now have more than **150** trained and credentialed disaster spiritual care providers representing **29 denominations and interfaith partners**, as well as several non-denominational churches.

Serving Disaster-Affected Oklahomans

In addition to numerous preparedness events, trainings, and presentations, OCC has responded to an exceptionally large number of disasters in Oklahoma over the last fifteen months, many of which we continue to work in long-term recovery. Many of these disasters could be described as “low-attention disasters.” A more detailed description of our activity is located in Appendix A of this report.

OCC has responded to ***eleven*** recent Oklahoma disasters:

2015

- 1) March 25, 2015: Moore EF-2 Tornado (Central Oklahoma)
- 2) March 25, 2015: Sand Springs/Sapulpa Tornado (Northeastern Oklahoma)
- 3) May 1, 2015 through June 22, 2015: Flooding in 45 Counties (Approximately the southeast 2/3 of the state)
- 4) May 6, 2015: South OKC, Moore, Bridge Creek Tornadoes (Central Oklahoma)
- 5) October 24, 2015: Oklahoma State University Homecoming Parade, intentional vehicular homicides, (OCC was the lead agency for the “Care and Community Resource Center,” at the invitation of the OSU Vice President for Student Affairs)
- 6) December 26-27, 2015: Flooding (Northeast Oklahoma)

2016

- 7) March 30, 2016: Tulsa, Claremore, Verdigris Tornado (Northeast Oklahoma)
- 8) May 9, 2016: Tornado (South central Oklahoma)
- 9) May 9, 2016: Tornado (Southeast Oklahoma)
- 10) June 12, 2016: Flooding, Lawton area (Southwest Oklahoma)
- 11) June 12, 2016: Flooding, Maysville area (South Central Oklahoma)

OCC continues to be involved in the ongoing efforts of LARC (the “Long-Term Area Recovery Committee”), serving the Moore, western Cleveland County, and southern Oklahoma City areas. OCC provides leadership for the LARC Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee. OCC’s Director of Emotional and Spiritual Care, Mary Hughes Gaudreau, also serves as chair of the Oklahoma VOAD Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee.

Tinker Air Force Base Memorandum of Understanding

In February of 2016, OCC signed a first-of-its-kind Memorandum of Understanding with the Tinker Air Force Base Chaplain’s Office. This MOU has been sent to the Pentagon as a national prototype. OCC’s disaster spiritual care team can now be called upon to serve Tinker civilian workers during crisis events, allowing OCC’s trustworthy, previously vetted, and trained spiritual care providers to supplement the work of Tinker chaplains.

National Profile

OCC's disaster spiritual care program continues to attract national attention. We are piloting the National VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) "Disaster Spiritual Care Guidelines" in Oklahoma, in part due to the fact that OCC's director of Emotional and Spiritual Care was chair of the national writing group for these high profile Guidelines. As a result, OCC regularly receives requests for consultation from other states. Mary Hughes Gaudreau continues to serve on the Executive Committee of the National VOAD Emotional and Spiritual Care Committee.

In August of 2015, OCC co-sponsored the National Disaster Spiritual Care Summit in Chicago, an event which brought together "thought leaders" from across the nation to explore and create strategic application, implementation, and operationalization of the National VOAD Disaster Spiritual Care Guidelines.

Training Academies

In January of 2016, OCC launched our new Disaster Spiritual Care Academy training format. OCC currently trains three categories for credentialed Disaster Spiritual Care Providers, each with specific training courses, qualifications, and accountability requirements. By taking various modules offered through the Academies, participants can now receive most of their required training for credentialing as "Local Spiritual Care Responders," "Deployed Spiritual Care Responders" (responding to disasters outside of their local areas), and "Disaster Spiritual Care Team Leaders." Training is consistent with National VOAD training competency and ethical standards.

Since January 2015, OCC has trained and credentialed **93** new Local Spiritual Care Responders and **39** new Team Leaders. In addition, **71** persons have continued training with additional modules toward credentialing as "Deployed Disaster Spiritual Care Responders" who can serve outside of their local communities.

Vital Partnerships

Some of our greatest accomplishments have emerged as a result of our strong cross-agency relationships with governmental and non-profit partners such as the Oklahoma National Guard, Mental Health Association Oklahoma, Tinker Air Force Base, Medical Reserve Corp (particularly their Stress Response Team), the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health, the Salvation Army, and our valued faith-based partners. Numerous multi-agency initiatives continue to bear fruit through shared deployments and cross-agency trainings.

Ongoing Need

Due to the cumulative nature of traumatic events, communities and states that have been impacted multiple times by disasters have emotional and spiritual care needs that cannot be cleanly tied to a single event. We are so very thankful for those who provide funding for our program and recognize the importance of emotional and spiritual care efforts far beyond the most immediately visible needs.

For more information about OCC's Disaster Program go to

<http://okchurches.org/emotional-and-spiritual-care/>

***or contact Rev. Mary Hughes Gaudreau, Director of Emotional and Spiritual Care,
mgaudreau@okchurches.org, 405-315-1528.***

Appendix A:

Summary of OCC's responses to recent Oklahoma Disasters, March 25, 2015 through June 2016

DSCP = "Disaster Spiritual Care Provider"

LTRG = "Long Term Recovery Group"

MARC = "Multi-Agency Resource Center." A "MARC" serves as a "one stop shop" where disaster-affected individuals and families meet with multiple VOAD agencies offering services and goods.

March 25, 2015 EF-2 Tornado (Central Oklahoma):

County: Oklahoma County

Primary cities affected: Moore

OCC's response:

- 1) OCC Team leaders offered support to ongoing recovery staff
- 2) Provided printed material for distribution by local clergy
- 3) DSCPs provided spiritual care support at Red Cross Service Center
- 4) OCC provides ongoing spiritual care leadership support with LTRGs

March 25, 2015 Tornado (Northeast Oklahoma):

County: Tulsa

Primary cities affected: Sand Springs, Sapulpa

OCC's response:

- 1) Provided spiritual care alongside partner organization
- 2) Provided leadership in the ongoing LTRG
- 3) Provided printed material for distribution by local clergy

May 1, 2015 through June 22, 2015 Tornadoes and Flooding (Basically the southeast 2/3 of the state):

Countries: 45 of 77 Oklahoma Counties received presidential Individual Assistance declarations

OCC's response:

- 1) Provided "Caring for Our Community" training for local clergy in south-central Oklahoma
- 2) Provided printed material about trauma and recovery for distribution by local clergy
- 3) Provided spiritual care support and leadership with multiple LTRGs

May 6, 2015 Tornadoes (Central Oklahoma)

County: Oklahoma

Primary Cities affected: South Oklahoma City, Bridge Creek

OCC's response:

- 1) Provided spiritual care support and "ambassador" role at two Multi-Agency Resource Centers for multiple days (south Oklahoma City and Bridge Creek)
- 2) Provided printed material about trauma and recovery for distribution by local clergy
- 3) OCC provided leadership in the ongoing LTRG

October 24, 2015 Oklahoma State University Homecoming Parade, intentional vehicular homicides:

County: Payne

Primary city affected: Stillwater

OCC's response:

- 1) Lead agency for the multi-agency "Care and Community Resource Center," at the invitation of the OSU Vice President for Student Affairs
- 2) Provided printed material about trauma and recovery for distribution by local clergy
- 3) OCC staff met with Stillwater Ministerial Alliance, providing information about long-term impact of trauma
- 4) OCC Local DSCP provides ongoing leadership in the Ministerial Alliance

December 26-27, 2015 Flooding (Northeast Oklahoma):

Counties: Ottawa and Mayes

Primary city affected: Pryor (and others)

OCC's response:

- 1) Assisted with set-up of LTRG in Mayes
- 2) Provided printed material about trauma and recovery for distribution by local clergy
- 3) Local clergy leader, also an OCC Team Leader, is chair of the LTRG

March 30, 2016 Tornado (Northeast Oklahoma):

Counties: Tulsa and Rogers

Primary cities affected: Tulsa, Verdigris, Claremore

OCC's response:

- 1) Provided spiritual care support in the North Tulsa Red Cross Service Center
- 2) Provided printed material about trauma and recovery for distribution by local clergy
- 3) Team Leaders provided on-site support to families who sustained damage
- 4) Local DSCP, also a team leader, providing ongoing support in the area and with the LTRG

May 9, 2016 Tornado (South Central Oklahoma):

Counties: Garvin and Murray

Primary cities affected: Sulfur, Roff, Wynnewood

OCC's response:

- 1) Provided spiritual care support and "ambassador" role at Multi-Agency Resource Centers for two days
- 2) Provided printed material about trauma and recovery for distribution by local clergy
- 3) OCC Team Leader, also a local clergy in the area, provides spiritual care leadership in the ongoing LTRG

May 9, 2016 Tornado (Southeast Oklahoma):

County: Choctaw

Primary cities affected: Soper, Hugo, Boswell

OCC's response:

- 1) OCC Team Leaders deployed into the area in response, spent time assessing area damage and providing spiritual care to tornado-affected families
- 2) OCC Team Leaders provided very helpful damage information to other Oklahoma VOAD partners
- 3) Team Leaders who are also local clergy in the area will continue to provide support for emerging unmet needs

June 12, 2016 Flooding (Southwest Oklahoma)

Counties: Comanche, Cotton, Caddo

Primary city affected: Lawton

OCC's response:

- 1) OCC DSCP team served as "Ambassadors" in the June 17-18 MARC
- 2) More than 300 people (165 families) assisted in the MARC
- 3) Provided printed material about trauma and recovery for distribution by local clergy
- 4) Local OCC DSCPs will be involved in long-term recovery

June 12, 2016 Flooding (South Central Oklahoma)

County: Garvin

Primary city affected: Maysville

OCC's response:

- 1) OCC DSCP team served as "Ambassadors" in the June 25 MARC
- 2) Approximately 60 people assisted in the MARC
- 3) Provided printed material about trauma and recovery for distribution by local clergy
- 4) Local OCC DSCPs will be involved in long-term recovery