

**Contact**

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**For Immediate Release**

**Hope4NC**

BEULAVILLE, NC – March 1, 2017

On October 8, 2016, Hurricane Matthew dumped between eight and twelve inches of rain across much of central and eastern North Carolina over the next two days. The storm caused flooding in all six of the state's river basins and, in some areas, was classified as a 100-year, 500-year or even 1,000-year event.

Hurricane Matthew caused billions of dollars in economic damages to businesses, public facilities, schools, roads, and agriculture. But for some, the devastation was much more personal. Damaged homes displaced thousands of families, many losing all their possessions. Many families continue to live in temporary housing. Some families lost loved ones, as 28 lives were claimed by Hurricane Matthew. Many are still dealing with the after-effects of the stress and losses they experienced.

Nearly six months after Hurricane Matthew's devastating landfall, North Carolina continues to make strides to help survivors and communities rebuild. While progress is being made in housing, roads, public facilities/infrastructure, and community recovery plans, more help is needed to help our citizens recover from the emotional and psychological effects of the disaster. That is where **HOPE 4 NC** comes into play.

Crisis Counselors are needed to help survivors with mental health and emotional challenges. Help 4 NC is a partnership between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (NCDMH/DD/SAS), Eastpointe & Alliance MCOs, and Behavioral Healthcare Providers. Seven of Eastpointe's counties, Bladen, Columbus, Edgecombe, Lenoir, Robeson, Sampson, and Wayne, will be served through **HOPE 4 NC**. Alliance MCO's Cumberland County will also be served.

For Eastpointe, twenty-two FEMA-trained counselors will provide services in local communities through this new **HOPE 4 NC** initiative. More counselors will be added as the program expands. Easter Seals/UCP will serve the counties of Edgecombe, Lenoir, Sampson, and Wayne in Eastpointe's northern area. RHA Health Services will serve Eastpointe's southern counties of Bladen, Columbus, and Robeson.

**HOPE 4 NC** will include services that work directly with individuals and families through the Crisis Counseling Program (CCP). The Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) does not provide diagnostic and treatment services. The Crisis Counseling Program is home and community based, assesses strengths and coping skills, counsels on disaster-related issues, accepts content at face value, validates common reactions and experiences, has a psycho-educational focus, and does not collect identifying information. Assessments and non-identifying data collected will be done via smart phones to expedite the process.

**HOPE 4 NC** will also include services to inform the public about the availability of services, resources, and referral information. This information campaign will be achieved through by:

- Distribution of Materials such as brochure, flyers, and mailings
- Public Education Presentations to community groups, survivors, etc.
- Public Service Announcements

Eastpointe is rolling out the Immediate Service Need (ISP) phase of the program for 60 days. There will be an evaluation to see if funds are available for an additional nine months, for the Regular Service Need (RSP) phase of the program. Long Term Recovery Groups are also being formed to unite local leaders from service agencies, volunteer groups and faith-based organizations to develop solutions to address unmet needs and unique local concerns.

To learn more about HOPE4NC in the Eastpointe service area, call our Member Call Center at 1-800-913-6109.

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