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To: Brenda Bruun, SAMHSA
From: Dr. Susan Hamilton, Disaster Mental Health Activity Lead

With the presentation of appropriate identification on the part of social workers and substance abuse counselors:

Red Cross shelter management must allow B.A. social workers to enter their shelters in order to track cases and to reconnect their clients with available local resources. To not do so could impede the recovery of clients affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Red Cross shelter management must allow substance abuse counselors to enter the shelters in order for people with substance abuse problems to receive appropriate counseling.

Red Cross shelter management must allow 12-step program groups to form as these are part of community and social networks and will facilitate recovery.

Further, individuals employed as mental health providers in local community mental health facilities should be permitted and welcomed into Red Cross facilities to work alongside Red Cross personnel in order to optimize recovery efforts.

Together, we can save a life