



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Council on Recovery Deploys Social Workers to Area Shelters to Help Evacuees Deal with Emotional Impact of Hurricane Harvey**

**HOUSTON, Texas (September 1, 2017)** – The Council on Recovery, the area's leading non-profit provider of addiction and mental health services, has rapidly deployed many of its counselors and social workers to area shelters to help evacuees cope with the emotional impact of Tropical Storm Harvey. The Council has also sent recovery coaches and volunteers to shelters to help facilitate on-site support groups for flood victims who are struggling with addiction in the aftermath of the storm.

The Council's president & CEO, Mel Taylor, said the immediate deployment of counselors and social workers is vital to the physical and emotional well-being of storm evacuees. "Our shelters are full of people who have experienced physical and mental trauma as the result of the storm," Taylor said. "When the reality of their situation sets in, many may experience emotional anguish and our professional social workers are there to help them deal with it."

Taylor said that among those at the shelters may be individuals suffering the effects of withdrawal from alcohol or drug use, especially after several days without those substances. "People with substance use disorders, such as opioid addiction or active alcoholism may be suffering from symptoms of withdrawal or detoxification," Taylor said. "We trust medical care will be provided to those who need it, but our clinicians, who are highly-trained in these matters, will help will seek out resources for and provide counsel to shelter residents who needs help with alcoholism, addiction, or co-occurring mental health disorders."

"Our recovery coaches and volunteers are on-site at area shelters to facilitate support groups for people who need to process what's currently happening in their lives," Taylor said. "The importance of participating in these 12-Step meetings during this difficult time cannot be understated," he added, "and we're doing everything we can to make sure people have a safe and confidential place where they can share their experience, strength, and hope."

In addition to providing services at area shelters, The Council on Recovery's main campus at 303 Jackson Hill is open and providing counseling services to the entire community.

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**About The Council on Recovery:** Founded in 1946, The Council on Recovery is Houston's oldest and largest non-profit organization providing the full spectrum of prevention, education, intervention, treatment, and recovery services for individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism, drug abuse, other addictions, and co-occurring mental health disorders. Directly touching over 70,000 lives each year through programs for children and youth, in-school and clinical counseling for teens, outpatient substance abuse treatment for adults, services for the elderly, and more, our mission is to provide the highest quality of care at affordable rates, while turning no one away. Affiliated with the United Way of Greater Houston, The Council receives funding from private contributions and grants, special events, and program fees. Visit us at [www.councilonrecovery.org](http://www.councilonrecovery.org).