

Thank you for your subscription to Rep. Dan Huberty's Session Newsletter. If you wish to unsubscribe, please use the SafeUnsubscribe option at the bottom of this email.



October 13, 2017

Thank you for subscribing to my newsletter. This is the seventh edition of our disaster series compiling the resources to help you and your family recovery from this historic weather event. This week's edition includes recovery information and resources as well as some of our usual business.

This week, I was in Austin to chair the House Committee on Public Education hearing that addressed financial implications of Hurricane Harvey. The committee and I heard from superintendents from the areas affected by Hurricane Harvey as well as the TEA Commissioner, Mike Morath. The commissioner and the superintendents delivered a unifying message that problems with procurement of building materials and permits, student mental health, and transportation hurdles were the biggest problems facing school districts.

This next week, my office plans to issue a report to the Speaker of the House about our findings from this hearing. Additionally, I will be sending letters to President Donald Trump, the United States Department of Education, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency urging them to provide the services we need to keep our kids in the classrooms.

If you would like to watch the archived video of the hearing, you can find it on our [Committee Website](#) under "Broadcast Archives."

I would like to remind you that our district office is closed ***until further notice*** and will reopen once my staff can safely work in the building.

Additionally, **my Capitol Office will be on skeleton crew this upcoming week.** The best way to reach my office will be via email. You can either respond to this email with a question or concern, or you can scroll to the bottom of this newsletter to find out how to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Dan Huberty



Hurricane Harvey Recovery Resources

Public Invited to Harvey Recovery Fair - Sat., October 14, 2017



WHAT: Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fair

WHEN: Saturday, October 14, 2017, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

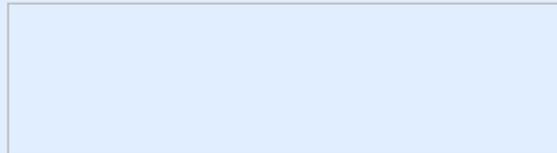
WHERE: The MET Church, Student Ministries Building, 12903 Jones Road, Houston, TX 77070

The Harris County Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management and Harris County Commissioner Precinct 4 invites residents affected by Hurricane Harvey to a recovery fair at the MET Church in Cypress.

The Harvey Recovery Fair will provide important recovery information about available disaster assistance from both governmental and non-profit organizations. Representatives from Harris County, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Small Business Administration (SBA) and other volunteer agencies will be available to answer questions and help residents apply for disaster assistance. Free MRE's (Meals Ready to Eat) available for residents attending.

To find out the participating organizations, [click here](#).

Health and Human Services Update



On Aug. 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey hit the Texas coast and caused significant damage and flooding in numerous counties forcing many to evacuate to temporary or subsequently permanent locations.

Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) is committed to sharing pertinent Hurricane Harvey information with you with this list of frequently asked questions (PDF). This document will provide tools and resources needed to ensure the provision of services and supports to residents in Texas in the aftermath of this natural disaster.

[Read more from HHS by clicking here](#).

Harvey Survivors Needing Hotel Stays Get Extension to Oct. 24



FEMA

Hurricane Harvey survivors who need more time to find housing are getting an extension to stay temporarily in hotels while they look for an alternative place to live.

The Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) program, which pays for short-term hotel stays, has been extended by 14 days. The new checkout date is Oct. 24. Participants eligible to continue in the program will receive a phone call telling them what they need to do to remain at their current hotel or find a new hotel. Applicants must meet certain requirements to remain eligible.

Hurricane Harvey survivors who are not currently in the program but who may be eligible are notified automatically. TSA participants must be registered with FEMA for disaster assistance.

FEMA pays directly for the room and any applicable taxes. Applicants are responsible for all other incidental costs (meals, transportation, etc.). Hotels may require a credit card for incidental expenses.

A household of four or fewer members is authorized for one hotel room and a household of five or more is authorized additional rooms based on a limit of four people per room. One member of each household 18 years old or older must reside in each room.

TSA-eligible applicants must find and book their own hotel rooms. The list of participating hotels is available at DisasterAssistance.gov under the [Transitional Sheltering Assistance Program](#) link or by calling FEMA at 800-321-3362. For 711 or Video Relay Service, call 800-621-3362. For TTY, call 800-462-7585.

Applicants with disabilities or who have access and functional needs should check with hotels to ensure appropriate accommodations are available. Those with pets must check with the hotel to see if they are accepted. Applicants must show photo identification and adhere to any hotel check-in requirements.

For more information on Hurricane Harvey and Texas recovery, visit the [Hurricane Harvey disaster web page](#), the [FEMA Harvey Facebook page](#), the [@FEMARegion6 Twitter account](#) and the [Texas Division of Emergency Management website](#).

House Committee on Natural Resources Hearing in Houston

Last week, the House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing in Houston to address an interim charge related to Hurricane Harvey:

"Examine the following issues within the committee's jurisdiction regarding Harvey and flooding in general: the role of regional entities in developing projects to control flooding, both through new infrastructure and enhancing existing infrastructure; mitigation efforts that would reduce the impact of future flood events, and strategies to fund those efforts; and the response of public entities that own or operate dams to large-scale rain events, including how such entities make decisions regarding dam and reservoir operations during such events, coordinate with state and local emergency management officials, and communicate with the public."

The hearing went on for hours, and the video is now available to the public. If you'd like to watch the hearing, click on the video below. The second half of the video should start playing immediately after.



Help Foster Hurricane Harvey Pets



There is a big need right now for temporary foster homes for the dogs and cats at the NRG Arena and would greatly appreciate your help. Foster caregivers have the first opportunity to adopt their foster pet if they choose.

Best Friends has had confirmed cases of canine distemper at the Pet Reunion Pavilion at the NRG Arena in Houston that were caught in the early stages and are being treated.

In order to reduce the possibility of more dogs becoming infected, and to prepare them for adoption, we are placing dogs into foster care. Cats, although not at risk of becoming infected, would benefit from a less stressful environment.

Best Friends is looking for foster caregivers who will open their hearts and their homes to temporarily care for these pets who have been through so much stress. They anticipate the dogs and cats will need foster care for a minimum of 14 days.

Cats can be placed in a foster-to-adopt home if not spayed or neutered. If they are already spayed or neutered they can be placed for adoption.

[Become a foster and learn about how you can help Best Friends.](#)



Texas Education Agency Updates

Commissioner Morath Announces 2017-2018 ADA adjustments for Eligible School Districts Hit by Hurricane Harvey



Commissioner of Education Mike Morath announced that certain school districts and charter schools within the Governor's state disaster declaration for Hurricane Harvey will be eligible for an adjustment to their average daily attendance (ADA) funding for the 2017-2018 school year, holding them harmless for losses of funding due to enrollment declines stemming from the storm.

"Many of our school systems have seen major disruptions in their communities because of Hurricane Harvey," said Commissioner Morath.

"This one-time adjustment is meant to bring some certainty for the remainder of this school year as school leaders face a number of major financial decisions following this devastating storm."

"Many Texas schools have suffered setbacks following Hurricane Harvey, but Texas is committed to ensuring that our students continue to receive the best education possible," said Governor Greg Abbott. "I commend Commissioner Morath and the Texas Education Agency for their efforts to get our students back on track and helping ease the burdens on school districts impacted by the storm. We will continue to work diligently to limit disruption in education while our schools and communities continue to recover and rebuild."

Because average daily attendance is a major component in determining Foundation School Program (FSP) funds, a loss of ADA would normally result in a loss of FSP funding or an increase in recapture obligations.

To mitigate against these changes in FSP funding for the 2017-2018 school year, Commissioner Morath is exercising his authority to adjust ADA for affected districts during the 2017-2018 school year.

[You can read the read the specifics about the adjustment on TEA's Website.](#)

Mental Health Task Force Created for Texas Schools and Universities Affected by Hurricane Harvey



Commissioner of Education Mike Morath announced the establishment of the Hurricane Harvey Task Force on School Mental Health Supports to mobilize the statewide mental health response in Texas schools impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

At the request of Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) is spearheading the effort in partnership with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and Texas Health and Human Services Commission (THHSC), in collaboration with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute. The Task Force will work to develop a list of tiered supports and resources that can be used by school leaders to address the mental health needs of affected staff,

students and families.

"The invisible wounds left behind after this storm are often the most difficult to recover from," said

Governor Abbott. "It is crucial that the State of Texas provides our educators and students with all available resources to address mental health needs as quickly as possible. I am proud of the work TEA is doing, in conjunction with state and local partners, to tend to these needs and assist in the areas of the recovery effort that may be unseen but are deeply felt."

"As I've traveled the state following Hurricane Harvey, it is evident that addressing the mental health needs of our students and educators is of the utmost importance," said TEA Commissioner Morath. "This coordinated mental health response will allow our state agencies to coordinate local responses that reflect the specific needs of each individual community."

The Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute will provide the Task Force with infrastructure and support by holding meetings with task force officials, identifying resources, consulting on best practices, recruiting providers and key stakeholders and assisting with the Task Force's goals to connect impacted schools with resources that will address their mental health needs.

"Hurricane Harvey was a traumatic event that will leave a mark for years to come. People in the affected areas need our support, and we are moving fast to come together to provide counseling and other mental health services through school partnerships," said Texas Health and Human Services Executive Commissioner Charles Smith.

"The Coordinating Board is working closely with the Texas Education Agency and the universities, community and technical colleges in the disaster area to make sure that students, faculty, and local school districts are getting the support and mental health services they need," said Commissioner of Higher Education Raymond Paredes. "This task force will provide crucial support to efforts already underway in the region to use counselors, faculty and graduate students in mental health programs to provide additional services to students and educators who are dealing with the impact of the storm's devastation."

The Task Force will work to ensure coordinated responses to the needs of public school and university students and personnel suffering from the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. As part of that effort, Governor Abbott has charged the Commissioners of the three state agencies with the following:

- Leveraging existing networks, resources and supports and link to impacted schools and communities;
- Surveying and assessing impacted schools and communities and link them to resources;
- Developing a comprehensive list of statewide resources and regional resources;
- Linking responders to school communities in need of services and available supports;
- Engaging Education Service Centers in impacted regions to convene coordinated and triaged responses and supports; and
- Supporting development of regional and individualized community responses that reflect the specific needs of each community.

In addition, the Task Force will also work to coordinate and link local mental health organizations, primary care providers, psychiatric, counseling, and other groups (including volunteer networks) to school districts in impacted areas.

TEA, THHSC, THECB and representatives from the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute are continuing their coordination efforts and will soon provide additional details on accessing these needed services.

To help individuals in the affected areas identify and connect to appropriate services and supports, TEA collaborated with state and federal agencies, and local community organizations, to create the compilation of mental health resources. To view those resources, visit the Hurricane Harvey Recovery: Mental Health Resources for Schools page on the TEA website at https://tea.texas.gov/Harvey_Recovery_MH/.

For Your Information

Chairman Dan Huberty at the TASA/TASB Convention

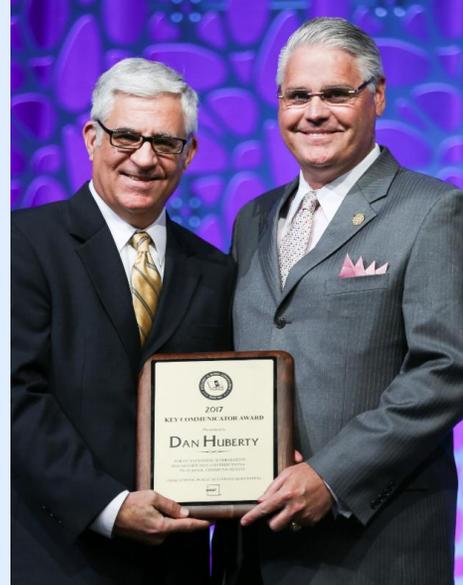
Last week, Chairman Huberty had the honor of attending the Texas Association of School Boards and the Texas Association of School Administrators Annual Convention.

At the convention, the Texas School Public Relations Association (TSPRA) has named Dan Huberty as the recipient of the association's 2017 Key Communicator Award. Huberty received the award on October 6 in recognition of his work to

improve and defend the public education system in Texas.

[You can read the rest of the press release from TSPRA here.](#)

Along with being presented with the award, Chairman Huberty was additionally honored to give a presentation to School Board members and School Administrators. At the presentation he spoke about what happened during the regular and special sessions as well as what is to come.



Chairman Huberty receiving the award for Key Communicator



Chairman Huberty speaking at the Luncheon

Constituent Resources

District Office Closure

Please be advised that, due to the flooding in HD 127, the District Office of State Representative Dan Huberty will **be closed until further notice**. Anyone needing immediate assistance should contact the Capitol Office. You can find out how to contact them at the bottom of this newsletter.

Need Assistance?

Our office is always ready to assist you. Call or email us and we will do our best to help. Many State Agencies also have hotlines or citizen assistance offices to assist you. That contact information is available at this link, in alphabetical order:

<http://www.lrl.texas.gov/genInfo/stateAgencies.cfm>

House District 127 Live Updates

All of the relevant information our office has gathered in regard to response and recovery of Hurricane Harvey is posted immediately to our Facebook page. Be sure to "like" us so that you can have the most up-to-date information.



Upcoming Events

October 2017

See an event you're interested in? Click the links on each date to learn more about the event's details. Under each link, you can find R.S.V.P. information, exact times, locations, and much more.

This color box indicates an event related to Hurricane Harvey.	This color box indicates a general purpose event.
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October - 1 Harris County D-SNAP Enrollment S-Z	2 Harris County D-SNAP Enrollment ANYONE House Committee on Appropriations Meeting to Discuss Harvey House Committee on Urban Affairs Meeting to Discuss Harvey	3 Harris County D-SNAP Enrollment ANYONE	4 Harris County D-SNAP Enrollment ANYONE House Committee on Natural Resources Meeting to Discuss Harvey	5 Harris County D-SNAP Enrollment ANYONE BizCom Humble	6	7 Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fair
8	9 Columbus Day	10	11	12	13	14 Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fair
15	16	17 Teachers of the Year Luncheon	18	19	20	21 Legal Advice Clinic
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Halloween	November - 1	2	3	4

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***NOTE: The District Office
is closed until further
notice. Please direct all
calls to the Capitol Office.***

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