

CHARLIE MELANCON  
3RD DISTRICT, LOUISIANA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND COMMERCE  
COMMITTEE ON  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2010

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Pamela Hyde  
Administrator  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
1 Choke Cherry Road  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Administrator Hyde:

I am writing to you today to request your Agency's help in securing needed mental health services in southeastern Louisiana. It is imperative that temporary services are established as soon as possible so that the residents and volunteers in the affected areas are provided the necessary tools to cope with this disaster

As you are aware, this area is currently suffering from its second disaster in less than five years---first from Hurricane Katrina and now due to the oil spill. Residents in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional district are starting to display symptoms of depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Adding to the seriousness of the situation is the lack of mental health services and providers available in this area. Any resources that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) can immediately offer would be of great assistance.

While I am requesting your assistance, I believe that BP and other companies involved should ultimately bear the costs of organizing and providing these health care services. It is the companies' responsibility and theirs alone in light of their negligence in this situation.

I look forward to discussing this request with you further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles J. Melancon".

CHARLIE MELANCON  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

CJM/vlg