

Jacobs hopes state will help institute fulfill its mission

By Travis Gulbrandson

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For the first 15 years of its existence, USD's Disaster Mental Health Institute (DMHI) was on the scene at disasters around the globe, from the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001 to the Indian Ocean tsunami.

The DMHI provided direct mental health support and training in the wake of these traumatic events, and helped other countries develop their own response programs for use into the future.

Then in 2009, its funding was cut due to the economic crisis.

"Basically, disaster response was taken out of our job description," said Gerard Jacobs, Ph.D., USD psychology professor and director of the DMHI.

"(The program) doesn't make money, and therefore it's something the university prefers not to fund."

Jacobs said he hopes that this will change with the improvement of economic conditions.

"The disasters certainly aren't stopping, and we need to learn more about how to help people to get through those difficult times not just in our country, but in countries around the world," he said. "I think it's a moral obligation to be able to share the resources that we have with those who are less fortunate, and to try to help them rebuild their lives in the aftermath of destruction."

The DMHI was established based on the proposal of Jacobs and Randal Quevillon, Ph.D., in 1993. Their idea was to develop a national plan for disaster mental health, to have national standards, policy and training, and prepare people respond to those kinds of events.

"We didn't envision in 1993 the degree of international work that we would be called to do. We've worked now in well over 30 countries," Jacobs

said. "We didn't envision that world scope initially, but the fact is that our expertise in the field was called on particularly to help in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami.

"I spent the good part of three years working with countries affected by the tsunami, helping them to develop their psychological support programs and helping them to implement those programs," he said.

The DMHI has received numerous awards, including the American Psychological Association International Humanitarian Award in 2007, an award for advancing the science of psychology internationally from the International Union for Psychological Science in 2008, and the Distinguished International Psychologist award in 2006.

Jacobs and Dr. Beth Boyd also were appointed by order of President George W. Bush as two of the 12 "invited experts" on the Disaster Mental Health Subcommittee of the National Biodefense Science Board. The DMHI was the only organization to have two experts on the board.

In its present state, the DMHI provides training to undergraduate and graduate students, as well as professionals, such as through its Psychological First Aid course, which provides people with the tools to cope with disasters and traumatic events, as well as day-to-day life.

The DMHI also has research programs to advance the scientific understanding of the work on the field, and consults and trains people who are helping communities and countries prepare for disasters.

One example is Japan, with whom the DMHI developed a psychological support program, which was utilized in the aftermath of its earthquake and nuclear crisis.

"We're still working with them," Jacobs said. "We're about to begin

some research to look at the ways the Japanese people responded, and how we could perhaps improve their psychological support program in the future."

The cut funds enabled the DMHI to work with other countries more effectively, Jacobs said.

"In the world of disaster response and humanitarian assistance, normally you have to go out and do the work first, and then the reimbursement comes down the line," he said. "But, if you don't have that money up front, the work simply can't be done."

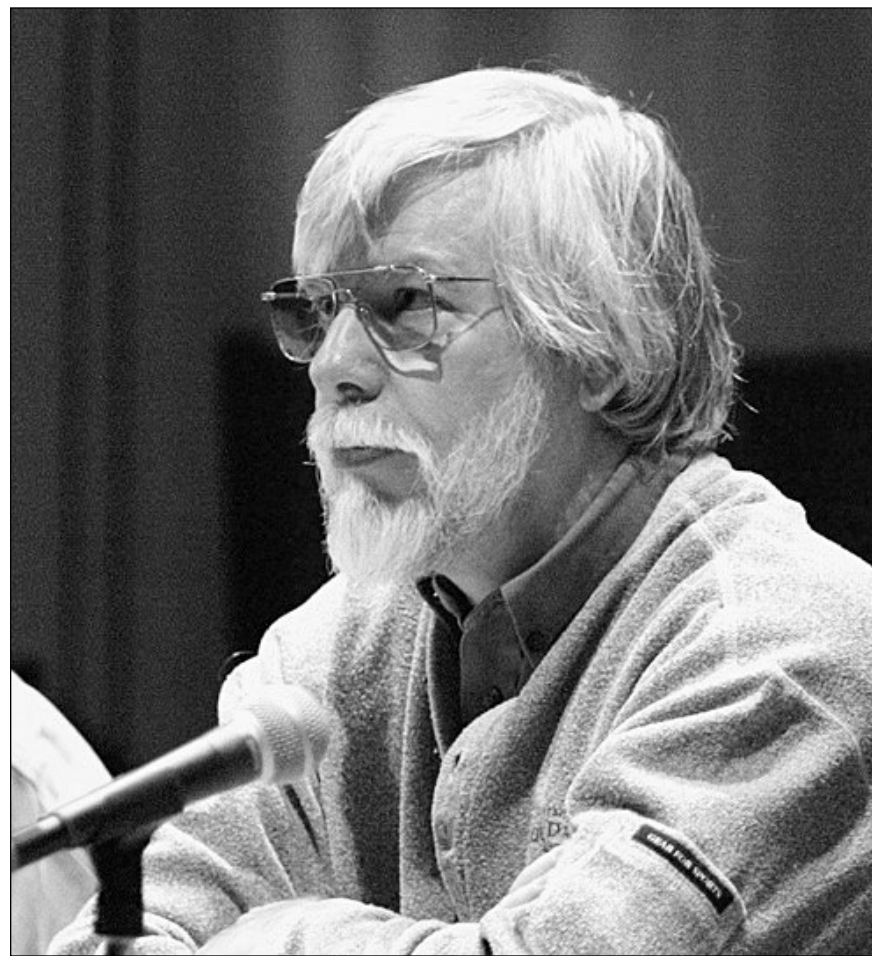
As a result, the DMHI has utilized online interactive technologies to work with people and organizations from other countries.

"In a lot of ways, that's easier because flying all over the place is not necessarily the easiest thing to do," Jacobs said. "But it's also very different from being on the spot and seeing the issues that they're dealing with and being able to look over their shoulder and provide feedback as they go."

Unfortunately, Jacobs added, these kinds of relief programs are "few and far between."

"We've been trying to help places expand, but it involves a lot of work, and when they realize how much time and work it involves, they tend to drop by the wayside," he said. "You need to stay current with the field, and you need to go out into the field and work with folks in disasters (to help them) understand what's going on."

"As with the state of South Dakota, they realized that doesn't have a big pay-off," he said. "There's not a big check at the end of the month to say, 'Gee, this is wonderful stuff. Keep doing it.' So the state decided to end the funding. I think the experience of a lot of other universities has been the



Gerard Jacobs, Ph.D., serves as director of the Disaster Mental Health Institute. (Vermillion Plain Talk file photo)

same. If it's not making money, then it seems harder for the universities to sustain."

For this to change, Jacobs said there needs to be a "change of attitude" by those in power, "a change to reflect the fact that not everything is about making profit, that sometimes you have to look at what you can do to help people who are in need. ...

"The scope of these things and the lack of resources in these developing countries is staggering, and being able to provide them with some inexpensive ways to respond to those events and help the people in rebuilding their lives I think is something that's well worth continuing," he said.

For more information, visit www.usd.edu/dmhi.

FOR THE RECORD

Cases Disposed 5/31-6/6/2013

Benton Mario Mason, 833 E. Duke #5, Vermillion; Driving with suspended (not revoked) license, \$204.00 plus costs

Steven V. Horsley, 47435 SD Highway 50, Elk Point; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Edward Daniel Wheeler, 447 N. Plum #24, Vermillion; No drivers license, \$54.00 plus costs

Mandie R. Weinandt, 456 Blue Stem Trail, Dakota Dunes; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Barbara J. Hudelson, 32022 Cusick Street, Burbank; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Allison Hubert, 308 S. Lewis St., Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways \$39.00 plus costs

Steven Joseph Sinnett, 2729 110th Street, Rock Rapids, IA; Log book/other violations, \$104.00 plus costs

Nathan Eric Schoolmeester, 4200 S. Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls; Speeding on other roadways, \$59.00 plus costs

Nathan Eric Schoolmeester, 4200 S. Minnesota Ave., Sioux Falls; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Brandon Steenholdt, 927 Ash Street, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Andrew T. Whitefeather, 207 S. Yale, Vermillion; Fail to use child passenger restraint system, \$25.00

Elaine McDonald, 31284 SD Highway 19, Vermillion; Speeding on other roadways,

\$19.00 plus costs

Isaac A. Beeck, 31341 477th Ave., Akron, IA; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Alyssa Jane Giedd, 516 S. Park Circle, Crooks, SD; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Shelby Lauren Meyer, 7100 W. MacDougell St., Sioux Falls; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Tracey Michelle Ogren, 1600 S. Grange Ave., Sioux Falls; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Amanda J. Wallum, 6301 Connie Ave. #302B, Sioux Falls; County speeding, \$39.00 plus costs

Mary Jane Schuh, 207 W. Jefferson, Elk Point; Municipal speeding, \$59.00 plus costs

Matthew Nelson, 29193 451st St., Viborg; County speeding, \$45.00 plus costs

Lea Ellan Rumelhart, 202 S. Pine, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Lena Thi Tran, 310 S. Spring Ave., Sioux Falls; Municipal speeding, \$19.00 plus costs

Daniel Stewart Jenkins, 8315 Karl Ridge Road, Lincoln, NE; Municipal speeding, \$59.00 plus costs

Jacob Andrew Ogdens, 410 S. Dakota St., Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Cassandra Hathaway, 126 Lookout Trail, Mission Hill; Municipal speeding, \$59.00 plus costs

Chisum Frand Broers, 125 N. Yale St., Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Austin J. Wieseler, 56299 296th Road, St. Helena, NE; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Kevin William Wikle, 4320 E. 3rd Street #1, Sioux Falls; Throw match or burning object from vehicle, \$54.00 plus costs

Tracey Ann Wikle, 4620 E. 3rd Street #1, Sioux Falls; Throw match or burning object from vehicle, \$54.00 plus costs

Laura Anne Kniffen, 1404 S. Marion Rd. #304, Sioux Falls; Speeding on other roadways, \$59.00 plus costs

Emily Grove, 15191 E. 1830 North Rd., Pontiac, IL; Speeding on other roadways, \$39.00 plus costs

Darice Diamond Cook, 833 E. Duke St. #12, Vermillion; Seat belt violation, \$25.00

Judge Tami Bern presiding

Mitchell James Olson, 31179 Greenfield Rd., Burbank; Driving under influence-1st offense, \$350.00 plus costs, five days jail suspended based on the conditions of the court;

Driving under influence-2nd offense, dismissal-reductions

Patrick R. Gone, 530 Elm Street #24, Vermillion; Domestic abuse - simple assault, \$300.00 plus costs, 60 days jail suspended based on the conditions of the court;

Domestic abuse - aggravated assault, dismissed; Domestic abuse - aggravated assault, recharged

Michael Thomas McDonald, 912 Deerfield Road, Vermillion; Petty theft 2nd degree-\$400 or less, \$100.00 plus costs, five days jail suspended based on the conditions of the court

Araya L. Cournoyer, 901 Rose St. #308B, Vermillion; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$54.00 plus costs, license suspended for 90 days, 30 days jail, 16 suspended

Mackenzie Nicole Viktor, 402 N. Dakota, Vermillion; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$54.00 plus costs

Dylan Geuther, 327 N. Pine Street, Vermillion; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$54.00 plus costs

costs, license suspended for 30 days

Rochelle Escobar, 1110 Madison Street, Vermillion; Allow unauthorized person to use vehicle, \$54.00 plus costs; Fail to maintain financial responsibility, dismissed

Carla Lee Sorensen, 46113 Timber Road, Vermillion; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$54.00 plus costs

Levi Parker, 213 S. Juniper, Lennox; Reckless driving, \$350.00 plus costs; Illegal lane change, dismissed

Nathaniel J. Uhl, 605 4th Street, Ponca, NE; Possession of alcohol by minor, \$54.00 plus costs

Katrina Rose Coleman, 1112 W. Clark, Vermillion; Driving with suspended (not revoked) license, \$204.00 plus costs, license suspended for 30 days; Fail to maintain financial responsibility, \$64.00 plus costs

Domestic abuse - violation of protection order, \$300.00 plus costs, 30 days jail suspended based on the conditions of the court; Domestic abuse - violation of protection order, recharged

Jamie Erickson, 1002 W. Main Street, Vermillion; Driving under influence-1st offense, \$325.00 plus costs, license revoked for 30 days, five days jail suspended based on the conditions of the court; Driving under influence-1st offense, recharged

Franklin Don Siouxbob, 1015 7th Ave. SE #35A, Aberdeen; Ingest intoxicant other than alcoholic beverage, \$621.00 plus costs; Possess two ounces of marijuana or less, dismissed; Use or possession of drug paraphernalia, dismissed

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The University of South Dakota is seeking a Facility Worker to provide custodial services. Duties will include, but are not limited to: room set ups, wet mop, strip and wax floors; vacuum and shampoo carpets; mop and/or buff floors; collect and remove trash; clean and dust furniture, windows and walls; clean and disinfect bathrooms and restock supplies; change light bulbs and clean light fixtures; remove snow; report needed repairs; and maintain a safe environment by cleaning up spills and removing hazards. Successful applicant should also be able to perform the essential duties, such as reading and following warning labels and written instructions in English and should have good work attendance and be able to work outside in all weather conditions.

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