

Mental Health

Issues

- Stress on population
- Stress on mental health providers
- Relationship problems
- Domestic Violence
- Fear of uncertainty (job and financial)
- Lack of stability

Solutions/Ideas

- Increase access to mental health
- Involve churches in mental health care and education
- Peer-listener training
- Loan modifications backed by government policy/mandates

Physical Health Care

Issues

- Medicaid funding
- Obesity
- Is the community ready for a large-scale disaster in terms of hard assets?
- Increase in non-reimbursable health care, some as a result of transitional work force responding to spill

Solutions/Ideas

- Look at other models for providing health care. In New Orleans, after Katrina, there was an increase in community primary health care and a focus on information technology.

Healthy Living

Issues

- Obesity
- Diet
- Crime

Solutions/Ideas

- Public transit
- Promote active living
- Bike trails
- Sidewalks
- Make communities pedestrian and bike friendly
- Multi-functional properties
- Community planning

Education

Issues

- Funding

Solutions/Ideas

- Increase oil- and gas-related academic programs at colleges
- Offer a multi-discipline sustainability degree

Social Services

Issues

- Decline in non-profit and church contributions, resulting in a decrease in aid (for example, depleted food pantries)

Solutions/Ideas

- Network with other states/groups

Seafood Quality

Issues

- Fear over the quality of seafood

Solutions/Ideas

- Education
- Long-term monitoring of seafood and food chain

- Encourage/support positive media coverage

Other notes/Miscellaneous

- Study effects of Alaska oil spill
- Better communication needed after spill
- There is distrust in the community after the spill
- South Alabama needs a state response plan that involves local officials
- More information/data about the spill should be available to the public
- Consider establishing a foundation that would focus on the growth of coastal Alabama
- The oil spill made a bad situation started by hurricanes and the economy worse
- Think regionally but recognize Alabama's unique problems and assets
- Keep the money local