



Florida Crisis Consortium

Disaster Behavioral Health Needs of Persons with Mental Health and Substance Abuse Considerations

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The Florida Crisis Consortium is supported by the Florida Department of Health

Learning Objectives

- ◆ Identify unique disaster behavioral health needs of persons with mental health and substance abuse considerations.
- ◆ Provide tips/tools for addressing those needs.
- ◆ Outline current efforts towards emergency preparedness programs for persons with mental health disorders.

Learning Objectives

- ◆ Recognize the needs of persons with mental health disorders in an emergency situation.
- ◆ To encourage planners and emergency response personnel to engage advocates and individuals with mental health disorders in the planning process.
- ◆ To identify planning considerations involving persons with mental health disorders in their community.

Why?

- ◆ Recent disasters have highlighted the need for better identification and planning for individuals most at risk for adverse health outcomes during a disaster
- ◆ At risk or vulnerable populations are groups whose unique needs may not be fully integrated into planning for disaster response
- ◆ Sensitize emergency planners to the unique needs of these populations

Addressing Disaster Behavioral Health (DBH) Needs

- FCC Vulnerable Populations Workgroup identified DBH needs of each vulnerable population
- Developed Awareness Training for All DBH/Strike Team Members
- Changes to DBH Global Assessment Form to Assess Needs of Vulnerable Populations
- Strike Teams Will Include SMEs on Vulnerable Populations

Addressing Disaster Behavioral Health (DBH) Needs

- General Considerations when working with all populations:
 - When Communicating –
 - Monitor these in yourself:- volume, tone and cadence
 - Watch how you say things - Don't be harsh
 - Watch what you say – The words you use matter
 - Watch the speed and rhythm of your speech
 - Keep your tone calm and soothing
 - Stay focused

Addressing Disaster Behavioral Health (DBH) Needs

- 💧 General Considerations when working with all populations:
- 💧 Treat the individual as you would treat anyone else
- 💧 At all times be honest and respectful
- 💧 Smile, be friendly and courteous
- 💧 Make no assumptions, i.e., some individuals with intellectual disabilities are able to read, do math and/or write at some level
- 💧 If the individual gets off topic, gently re-direct them
- 💧 Be Patient

Mental Illness & Substance Abuse Considerations

Mental Health Issues are Varied and Diverse:

- ◆ Bi-Polar Disorders
- ◆ Major Depressive Disorders
- ◆ Psychotic Disorders
- ◆ Delusional Disorders
- ◆ Anxiety Disorders/Phobias
- ◆ Generalized anxiety
- ◆ Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- ◆ Substance Abuse
- ◆ Suicidal ideations
- ◆ Homicidal ideations
- ◆ Medication compliance and availability

Mental Illness & Substance Abuse Considerations

Resource Issues:

- Medication compliance and availability
 - Access to resources – Community Mental Health Center's - limited
 - "Baker Act" facility access – may be limited
 - Crisis Intervention support services – may be limited
 - Coordination of response – (FCC – Law Enforcement – DCF – ARC, etc)
 - Utilize licensed mental health professionals on FCC Team and Clinical Director(s) coordinate with community resources
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- DBH Teams will rely on their licensed clinical member to assist with any questions or concerns regarding mental health or substance abuse services

Mental Illness & Substance Abuse Considerations

Substance Abuse Issues:

- Withdrawal
- Increase in usage of alcohol or other drugs – binge drinking; poly substance use
- Increased anger
- Exacerbates other mental illness
- SA/Use often co-morbid with other mental disorders
 - Contributes to increased depression
 - Precipitates other symptoms with other disorders

Mental Illness & Substance Abuse Considerations

Substance Abuse Issues:

- Lack of community resources to respond
- Chapter 396 commitment knowledge
- Utilize licensed mental health professionals on FCC Team and Clinical Director(s) to coordinate with community resources



💧 Questions?

💧 Other Resources?