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
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 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

- 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
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?