

Effective Date: 1/10/2008; 11/21/2005
Revised Date: 7/3/2014
Review Date: 1/28/2015

North Sound Mental Health Administration

Section 1500 – Clinical: Disaster Preparedness

Authorizing Source: NSMHA contract

Cancels:

See Also:

Providers contracted to provide crisis and outpatient services should have policies that comply with NSMHA policies

Responsible Staff: Deputy Director

Approved by: Executive Director

Signature:

Date: 1/29/2015

POLICY #1549.00

SUBJECT: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

PURPOSE

To ensure the North Sound Mental Health Administration (NSMHA) complies with all state and federal requirements regarding disaster preparedness.

NSMHA is committed to meeting the needs of its enrolled individuals and all residents of our Region during disasters. Resources will be prioritized first to those with the greatest need.

POLICY

NSMHA must participate in all disaster preparedness activities and respond to emergency/disaster events (e.g., natural disasters, acts of terrorism) when requested by DBHR. NSMHA will comply with this policy through its subcontracts with providers.

PROCEDURE

NSMHA shall:

1. Attend DBHR-sponsored training regarding the role of the public mental health system in disaster preparedness and response.
2. Participate in local emergency/disaster planning activities when county Emergency Operation Centers and local public health jurisdictions request collaboration.
3. Provide Disaster Outreach Services, required in the State Mental Health Contract (SMHC), in NSMHA's service area in the event of a disaster/emergency.
 - a. Disaster Outreach Services means contacting persons in their place of residence or in non-traditional settings for the purpose of assessing their mental health and social functioning following a disaster or increasing the utilization of human services and resources.
 - b. There are two basic approaches to outreach: mobile (going person to person) and community settings (e.g., temporary shelters, disaster assistance sites, disaster information forums) The outreach process must include the following:
 - i. Locating persons in need of disaster relief services;
 - ii. Assessing their needs;
 - iii. Engaging or linking persons to an appropriate level of support or disaster relief services;
 - iv. Providing follow-up mental health services when clinically indicated.

4. Disaster Outreach can be performed by trained volunteers, peers and /or persons hired under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Crisis Counseling Grant. These persons should be trained in disaster crisis outreach which is different than traditional mental health crisis intervention.
5. Conduct post-disaster outreach to determine the need for disaster related crisis counseling and assess the availability of local resources in meeting those needs.
6. Provide the name and contact information to DBHR for person(s) coordinating the NSMHA disaster/emergency preparedness and response plan upon request.
7. Provide information and preliminary disaster response plans to DBHR within 7 days following a disaster/emergency or upon request.
8. Partner in disaster preparedness and response activities with DBHR and other DSHS entities, the State Emergency Management Division, FEMA, the American Red Cross and other volunteer organizations.
 - a. This must include participation when requested in local and regional disaster planning and preparedness activities and coordination of disaster outreach activities following an event.
 - b. Disaster outreach crisis services for enrolled NSMHA individuals will be coordinated between NSMHA, NSMHA's Integrated Crisis Response Services (ICRS) and outpatient providers.

ATTACHMENTS

None