

Standard Operating Procedures Emergency/Crisis Event Response

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS)

Purpose: To assist localities, regions and responders by the provision of guidelines to direct the access to behavioral health supports and services during an incident.

Organizational Structure: DBHDS in partnership with the Community Service Boards across the Commonwealth is responsible for the access of citizens to behavioral health services. Community Service Boards serve as the single point of access to the continuum of resources available to citizens in the Commonwealth – to include crisis counseling services.

Concept of Operations: DBHDS is organized in accordance with Executive Orders 44 and 102 and functions as a NIMS-compliant team in the event of any emergency. The **Emergency Coordinating Officer** of DBHDS is a member of the Virginia Emergency Response Team and will report to the Virginia Emergency Operations Center and/or be a liaison officer to the VEOC and VERT teams in support of Emergency Support Functions. DBHDS supports ESF 6 (Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing and Human Services), ESF 8 (Public Health & Medical Services) and ESF 14 (Long Term Community Recovery).

- A. Participate in planning, exercises and training to develop local, regional and state partnerships with the Regional Hospital Coordination Centers (RHCC), agencies, VDEM, VERT, VEOC, VDSS and other response partner organizations and to have in place Continuity of Operations Plans, Emergency Operations Plans and other Hazardous Vulnerability Assessments to assure proper coordinated response to events or disasters affecting the Commonwealth.
- B. Direct the DBHDS healthcare facilities (hospitals & training centers), Central Office and Community Service Boards to establish liaisons(?) with local governments/RHCC's and to assist with local emergency operations as per the Code of Virginia. To implement crisis counseling services per the declaration of a Presidential-declared Disaster Declaration in concert with SAMHSA funding for such services post event. To provide voluntary assistance to the localities, if available, in lieu of funded counseling to the extent possible in accordance with local Emergency Operations Plans and agreements or MOU's.
- C. To provide liaison support to local, regional and state-wide events. The Emergency Coordinating Officer and/or the regional CSB will provide assistance in the form of liaison officer to any Emergency Operating Center in the locality or through the VEOC in support of the VERT role.

- D. The Emergency Coordinating Officer of DBHDS will provide support and assistance to the emergency contact and the executive teams of facilities, CSBs, local agencies, volunteer associations, advocacy groups and other state or federal agencies according to the capability of DBHDS during emergency operations.
- E. The Emergency Coordinating Officer of DBHDS as a member of the Virginia Emergency Response Team will be available at all times to the Virginia Emergency Operations Center and the Watch Desk for contact. In the absence of the ECO for DBHDS the Assistant Commissioner, Behavioral Health Services for DBHDS will coordinate communications and responses for DBHDS during any event in the Commonwealth.
- F. The Emergency Coordinating Officer of DBHDS will serve as an advisor to the Commissioner of DBHDS and/or CSBs should events require any facility or CSB to implement emergency procedures to close or transfer consumers, services or activities as a result of event or disaster. The leadership at the local level shall make such plans and implement those based on the local planning, and conditions present at such time. The local Mental Health Executive Leadership will advise the Commissioner of DBHDS and the ECO of any changes to either operations, hours of operation and location of services provided by each facility or CSB.
- G. Funding. It shall be the responsibility of Virginia Department of Health to assist with ASPR grant monies available as possible from sources within state or federal means to support the DBHDS role in emergency or disaster responses. VDH will sponsor the DBHDS facilities inclusion in each RHCC across the state and access to appropriate shares of regional ASPR grant funds for preparedness and resiliency. Funding during declared emergencies or events as indentified under the Stafford Act, SAMHSA Grants or other vehicles shall be the joint responsibilities of all partner agencies to assure the services can be provided during the duration of each event. (DBHDS, VDH, DGS, DPB, SAMHSA, FEMA ASPR)