



# Mental Health



## PURPOSE

### A. Purpose

1. The purpose of this annex is to provide general direction for coordinated Mental Health Services that will protect the population in our County. It addresses issues related to the mental health function in disaster events both for emergency workers and victims. It includes an assessment of the existing mental health program in the County, identifications of victims needing service and the necessary coordination with other emergency services.

### B. Responsibility

1. The County Health Department is responsible for coordinating mental health provisions with Pawnee Mental for all individuals affected by a disaster including:
  - a) **Current Caseload**—The residents of the County who are currently involved in the Pawnee Mental Health Program, would be at risk during a disaster. The persons should be evaluated for further assistance depending upon such factors as history, present condition and other factors which are available to the mental health professionals of Pawnee Mental Health.
  - b) **Victims**—Those who have been injured, have had family members killed or injured, extensive property losses, the elderly, the disabled, and non-English speaking people etc.
  - c) Some disaster victims and emergency responders may need mental health services in the aftermath of a disaster. Many seeking such help can obtain aid from existing local mental health programs and religious groups. As the demand for such services may increase significantly after a disaster and some local providers may become disaster victims, there may be a need for additional mental health resources.
  - d) If existing local resources are inadequate to meet the need for disaster mental health services, KDHE will be notified. Local mental health professionals and members of the local ministerial association, and other local support groups] may augment these services.
  - e) In addition to local and state mental health providers, some volunteer organizations active in disasters can provide crisis counseling to disaster victims. For a description of the services that can be provided by various organizations.
  - f) **Mental Health Support for Emergency Responders**--The Kansas CISM Network was established to assist emergency service personnel who have experienced critical incidents such as line of duty deaths, mass casualties, multiple fatalities, and local disasters. CISM teams are available upon request on a 24-hour basis regardless of whether a state or federal disaster has been declared

- g) **Requesting State Disaster Mental Health Services**--Local government requests for state crisis counseling, CISM, and victim's services assistance should be made by the County Emergency Manager to KDEM.

### C. Capabilities Assessment

1. Where emergencies result in federal emergency or major disaster declarations by the President, disaster victims may be eligible for specific human services programs as part of the recovery process.
  - a) **PreDisaster Activities**—The activities prior to a disaster concerning the **Mental Health of Residents** will continue as they would under normal conditions. The Pawnee Mental Health Department Director is responsible for developing:
    - 2) **Mental Health Staffing**—Criteria for a system to integrate volunteer, private practitioners and other agency persons into the mental health services team.
    - 3) **Training**—Developing programs in accordance with existing SOPs to train mental health providers and responders in emergency management functions to identify mental health issues.
  - b) **During Disaster**—During a disaster, the Pawnee Health Director will be responsible for the support of overall response operations by:
    - 1) **Needs Assessment**—Assessing the needs for and arranging mental health assistance to victims, emergency worker and persons currently under the Mental Health Program.
    - 2) **Coordination**—Of activities relating to mental health within the emergency management system include: reporting information and statistics to the EOC and supporting media releases through the Health Director.
  - c) **Post Disaster**—During the recovery phase of a disaster, the mental health program will be responsible for developing programs directly related to:
    - 1) **Follow up**—Continued services for individuals served during the event.
    - 2) **Reassessment**—Recognizing the needs that were not identified during the disaster and then improving the plans to correct deficiencies.

### D. Evaluation and Corrective Action

1. After careful review of this annex to the EOP there are no corrective actions necessary at this time.