

Effective Date: 1/20/2015; 1/10/2008; 11/21/2005
Revised Date: 7/3/2014
Review Date: 6/6/2018

North Sound Behavioral Health Organization

Section 1500 – Clinical: Disaster Preparedness

Authorizing Source: North Sound BHO contract

Cancels:

See Also:

Providers must comply with this policy and may develop
Individualized implementation guidelines as needed

Responsible Staff: Deputy Director

Approved by: Executive Director

Signature:

Date: 6/7/2018

POLICY #1549.00

SUBJECT: DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

PURPOSE

To ensure the North Sound Behavioral Health Organization (North Sound BHO) complies with all state and federal requirements regarding disaster preparedness.

North Sound BHO 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

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

PROCEDURE

North Sound BHO shall:

1. Attend DBHR-sponsored training regarding the role of the public behavioral 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 Behavioral Health State Contract (BHSC), in North Sound BHO'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 behavioral 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 behavioral 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 behavioral 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 North Sound BHO 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 North Sound BHO individuals will be coordinated between North Sound BHO, North Sound BHO's Integrated Crisis Response Services (ICRS) and outpatient providers.

ATTACHMENTS

None