

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE	Transmittal # 16-13	Policy # 12.9
Applicability: <input type="checkbox"/> All DJJ Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administration <input type="checkbox"/> Community Services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secure Facilities	Related Standards & References: O.C.G.A.49-4A-7, 49-4A-8	
Chapter 12: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES	Effective Date: 9/20/16 Scheduled Review Date: 9/20/17	
Subject: MAJOR INCIDENT OR DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE	Replaces: 11/12/14 Division of Support Services APPROVED:	
Attachments: None.	 <hr/> Avery D. Niles, Commissioner	

I. POLICY:

The Office of Behavioral Health Services will maintain a multi-level response system to provide behavioral health support to facilities in the event of a major incident or disaster.

II. DEFINITIONS:

Chief of Psychiatric Services: The licensed psychiatrist within the Office of Behavioral Health Services who oversees the delivery of psychiatric services statewide.

Chief of Psychological Services: The licensed psychologist who oversees the delivery of psychological services statewide.

Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP): Mental health staff with education, training, and experience adequate to perform the duties required in accordance with professional standards. When the QMHP is required to complete assessments or provide individual counseling to youth with mental illness, the QMHP must have at least a master's degree in a mental health related field and training and experience in the provision of mental health assessment and counseling procedures. A mental health intern under the supervision of a QMHP may perform the functions of a QMHP.

Regional Behavioral Health Services Administrator: Mental health staff that provide support to facility behavioral health staff and oversight to ensure the quality and accessibility of all behavioral health services provided in the facility.

III. PROCEDURES:

- A. The Director of the Office of Behavioral Health Services (OBHS) will coordinate a team of behavioral health staff who can respond to a secure facility in the event of a major incident or disaster.

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1. The team consists of:
 - a) Central Office OBHS staff (Director, Chiefs of Psychological and Psychiatric Services);
 - b) Regional Behavioral Health Services Administrators; and
 - c) Facility-based QMHPs as identified by the Director of OBHS on a situational basis.

- B. Team assistance may be requested in the following situations:
 1. Major disasters, including, but not limited to: tornado, flood, fire, etc;
 2. Major incidents, including, but not limited to: major group disturbances or hostage situations; and
 3. Situations of heightened alert, including, but not limited to: death of youth or staff, serious suicide attempts, serious assault of youth or staff, etc.

- C. The Director of OBHS or designee may initiate one or more of the following types of team responses. Response(s) may begin at any level and may increase or decrease in accordance with situational demands.
 1. Local facility mental health staff response:
 - a) Response of the on-call clinician; or
 - b) Response of some or all of the facility mental health team in addition to the on-call clinician.
 2. External team response:
 - a) Individual team member; or
 - b) Multiple team members.

- D. Deployed team members may provide one or more of the following services:
 1. On-site or remote facility consultation to assist with situational assessments relating to the event(s);
 2. On-site or remote technical assistance for the planning and implementation of appropriate mental health responses to the event(s);
 3. Direct mental health service provision to youth, including:

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- a) Crisis management;
 - b) Mental health assessment;
 - c) Individual therapy; and
 - d) Group therapy.
- E. The Director of OBHS or designee is the first point of contact to request a team response. The following staff may request team assistance via email, phone, or direct communication:
- 1. Commissioner;
 - 2. Assistant Commissioner;
 - 3. Deputy Commissioner;
 - 4. Assistant Deputy Commissioner;
 - 5. Regional Behavioral Health Services Administrator;
 - 6. Regional Administrator; or
 - 7. Facility Director.
- F. When responding to requests for team assistance, the Director of OBHS or designee will:
- 1. Consult with the facility Regional Behavioral Health Services Administrator;
 - 2. Formulate and activate the appropriate level of response;
 - 3. Communicate identified responses to at least:
 - a) The person who initiated the request;
 - b) The Deputy Commissioner of Support Services;
 - c) The Deputy Commissioner for the requesting facility; and
 - d) Others as the situation requires.

IV. LOCAL OPERATING PROCEDURES REQUIRED: NO