Beckie Gierer, Director Office of Disaster Services
Alyssa Backes, Deputy Director Office of Disaster Services
Purpose: To deploy trained behavioral health team members and DMH Office of Disaster Services to provide psychological first aid to the impacted survivors and responders.

Primary Function: To support the behavioral health needs of civilians and responders in the aftermath of a crisis, emergency, or disaster in Missouri.
A Post-Disaster Stepped Care Model
History

- Disaster Summits
- Developed the idea and worked with CMHCs to check on interest levels
- Conducted trainings and exercises to develop & test CONOPS
- Branson Duck Boat MCI
- Established BHST specialty inside Show Me Response System
- Activated the team to support DSS Repatriation Exercise in St Louis.
CONOPS

- DMH ODS deploys with the BHST and acts as the lead;
- Behavioral Health agency contacted and ask to supply trained team members and support;
- CMHC provides direct liaison to DMH;
- Team deploys from nearest CMHC.
CONOPS cont.

- Team members deploy from 1 day to up to 2 weeks, 12-hour days;
- DMH manages logistics and communications during deployment;
- DMH works with ICS/DMAT/MO MORT and or local EM to support incident;
- BHST is working to add Disaster Chaplains to the team.
Logistical Support

- DMH manages logistics for BHST members.
- CMHC submits invoice for expenditures costs with documentation; DMH submits to funding/requesting agency.
- DMH plans for additional deployments.
Trainings

• Required courses
  • Psychological First Aid
  • Basic NOVA (National Organization for Victim Assistance)
  • ICS 100
  • ICS 200

• Annually
  • Two a year

• Approved topics
  • Trauma
  • Disaster Behavioral Health
  • Skills for Psychological Recovery
  • Disaster response and recovery
  • Advanced NOVA
  • CISM
  • Children and disasters
  • Self-care for responders
  • Empathy
  • Disaster reactions
  • Crisis Counseling
  • Access and Functional Needs
Deployments

• July 2018 - Branson Duck Boat
• April 2020 – Alternate Care Site
• April 2020 – Dignified Transfer Center
• June 2022 – Amtrak Train Derailment
Other Considerations

- Show Me Response
- Tiered training program
- Annual drills
- Recently added in SEMA Disaster Chaplains to the team (deployed with us in Mendon)
- Funding
- Types of events
Specialties inside BHST

• VIC
• Repatriation
• Schools
How to request

• SEMA
• DHSS/ESF8
RESOURCES

FOLLOW ODS! FACEBOOK, TWITTER & INSTAGRAM
@DMHDisaster

WEBSITE
https://dmh.mo.gov/disaster-services

TRAUMA INFORMED CARE COURSES
https://modmh.thinkific.com/

Quick Facts:  https://dmh.mo.gov/disaster-services/quick-fact-sheets
BHST:  https://dmh.mo.gov/disaster-services/behavioral-health-strike-team
Questions?

Beckie Gierer
Director, DMH Office of Disaster Services
Beckie.gierer@dmh.mo.gov
573-751-8136

Alyssa Backes
Deputy Director, DMH Office of Disaster Services
Alyssa.backes@dmh.mo.gov
573-751-9150