

Disaster Behavioral Health Activities in Iowa

Behavioral Health Response Training, training sessions being offered to enhance the state's capability to respond to disaster events.

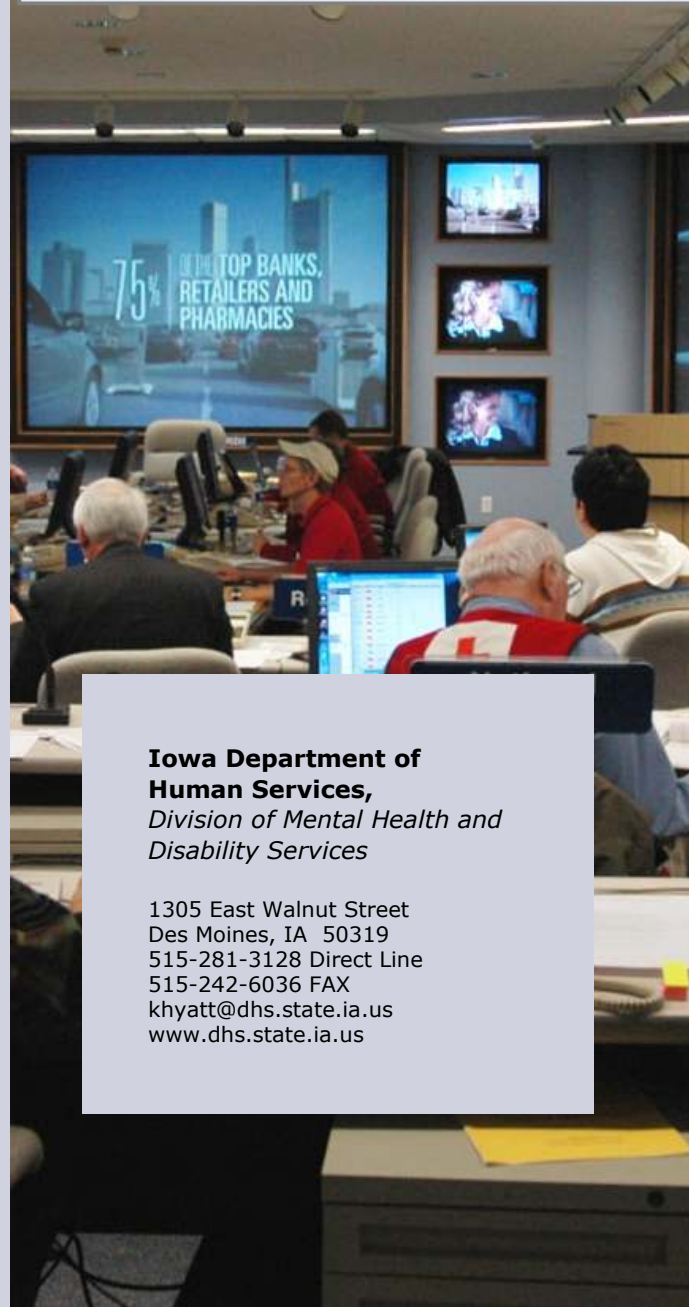
- Psychological First Aid
- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Mental Health First Aid
- Community Resiliency
- Other on request

Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team

Teams include volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds with experience in human services, psychology, mental health, substance abuse, social work, psychiatry, education or spirituality. Team members receive ongoing training and participate in community wide drills.

For information about the role these teams can play in assisting your community or to volunteer as a team member, please contact the Iowa Department of Human Services, Emergency Mental Health Specialist at: 515-281-3128.

State of Iowa Emergency Operations Center



Iowa Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Disability Services

1305 East Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50319
515-281-3128 Direct Line
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Iowa Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team



Mission: To lessen the adverse mental health effects of trauma for victims, survivors, and responders of traumatic events, whether natural or man-made.





DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESPONSE TEAM SERVICES

What is a Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team?

The Iowa Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Disability Services has developed an organized team of behavioral health providers to respond to the mental health needs of Iowa residents following disasters and critical incidents. Six regional Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams can be deployed anywhere in Iowa. These teams respond to disasters and/or critical incidents when local behavioral health resources have been depleted or are insufficient.

The goal of the Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team is to provide an organized response to individual victims, family members, volunteers, responders, survivors, or the community affected by critical incidents or disasters.

The Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team provides services for community providers based upon local area needs and may be delivered at a disaster site in an affected community or statewide. Services may include:

- Conduct behavioral health needs assessment following a disaster.
- Provide Psychological First Aid.
- Provide brief crisis counseling and intervention.
- Provide community outreach.
- Provide public information and education.
- Provide critical incident stress debriefing.
- Provide behavioral health consultation for providers, communities and others.
- Provide screening and referral for those affected by a disaster or critical event.

How To Request Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team Services

The Governor or designee at Homeland Security and Emergency Management, may activate the Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team (DBHRT) during a state disaster situation.

Local authorities may request DBHRT assistance in order to meet the behavioral health needs of communities in crisis by contacting the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Duty Officer at any time. The Duty Officer is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and may be reached at 515-725-3231