# MENTAL HEALTH DISASTER AND RESPONSE

**PRIMARY AGENCIES:** Connections Recovery Services

**SUPPORT AGENCIES:** Wyandot Counseling Associates

Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky & Wyandot Counties

## I. PURPOSE

This annex includes provisions for a necessary mental health response post a mass casualty and/or other natural disaster event, including the immediate response which is available 24/7 as well as the long-term mental health treatment services.

## II. DEFINITIONS

Wyandot Counseling Services is a mental health and substance abuse counseling practice offering individual, group and family counseling and assessments, as well as drug and alcohol treatment.

Connections Recovery Services is a non-profit mental health agency that oversees the Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) & Critical Incident Stress Management Team (CISM).

The Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky & Wyandot Counties is a local entity that is empowered to plan, develop, fund, administer, and evaluate the local system of mental health and addiction services.

## III. SITUATION

Protecting the welfare of the community is a mutual undertaking. Close cooperation in preplanning mental health response activities is essential for the most successful outcomes of a mental health disaster situation.

Connections Recovery Services can dispatch their MCRT and CISM teams to the community in the event of a large-scale mental health traumatic disaster within Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties. Ongoing trauma related services created by the mental health disaster event will be offered at no cost to the community members. Services will continue until individuals affected receive services and/or are linked with additional mental health trauma related counseling services.

Coordination and collaboration of services will occur among all mental health agencies.

Such coordination will be led by the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties.

## IV. ASSUMPTIONS

Assistance from private mental health agencies is available to meet the increased demands of one-on-one counseling and therapy services.

Additional trauma related services (EMDR – Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) are available to meet the increased demand, at no cost to the individuals impacted by the mental health disaster.

Ongoing/long-term mental health services, including treatment and education services, are provided as needed by local mental health agencies to all victims of the disaster.

The initial mental health response is available 24/7 to assist individuals and the community with trauma related response services, including crisis management debriefing, debriefing, and defusing.

## V. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

### A. Initial Response

1. Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) is responsible for descaling mental health crisis situations and connecting citizens with the resources they require. They are available to respond immediately during normal operational hours, Monday-Friday 8:00am-11:00pm. The MCRT phone number is 419-552-1254.
2. Critical Incident Stress Management Team (CISM) will conduct debriefs, defusing and other evidence-based programs to help reduce the amount of stress associated with the tragic event. CISM would conduct follow-up care and programs based on the level of need for all involved in the event including citizens, public safety, and others. CISM members are not immediately available but can convene within a short time if needed 24/7/365. The CISM phone number is 1-833-779-2476.
3. Both teams will work to advocate for adequate and proactive behavioral health services in a similar manner to those regarding physical health so that underserved and disadvantaged populations can successfully obtain comprehensive treatment without a gap in their existing services due to disasters.

## VI. ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

### A. General Mental Health Services

1. Establish critical incident stress debriefing for emergency workers at the incident scene.
2. Provide for formal critical incident stress debriefing follow-up.
3. Ensure professional psychologist support is available for the public.
4. American Red Cross has mental health professionals available to assist disaster victims and can be reached at 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

B. Mental Health Facilities/Agencies

1. Mental health facilities and services in Wyandot County and neighboring counties provide varying services. These facilities are staffed with professional personnel representing a variety of treatment and care disciplines.
2. For a full list of local inpatient and outpatient mental health agencies and services available in Wyandot County, contact the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Ottawa, Sandusky and Wyandot Counties at 419-448-0640.
3. Both the MCRT and CISM teams shall be dispatched in a timely manner depending on the size and affected area after a mental health crisis to ensure proper care and follow up.

## VII. PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

A. Primary and support agencies will convene annually to determine if changes should be recommended.

9/23/2025
Date

Wyandot County EMA Director