

Washington County
Behavioral Health Division

Policy on Staff Response to Community Disaster and Critical Incidents

Policy Number: ADMIN 105
Responsible Team: Administration
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Related Documents: ADMIN 105a Procedure on Critical Incident Response, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Response Guide (EYP).

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this policy is to define the responsibilities of Washington County Behavioral Health (WCBH) staff during a critical incident in the community.

SCOPE/APPLIES TO

Washington County Behavioral Health employees, contracted employees, interns, and volunteers (hereafter referred to as “staff”).

POLICY

DEFINITION(S)

Critical Incident: Refers to a distressing or traumatic event which may have a serious psychological impact on the community.

Disaster: Refers to an occurrence such as a hurricane, tornado, flood, earthquake, explosion, hazardous materials accident, war, fire, transportation accident, or epidemic that causes human suffering or creates collective human need that requires assistance to alleviate.

POLICY STATEMENT

Washington County Behavioral Health Division (WCBH) prepares and practices our response to critical incidents and disasters identified in the *Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Response Guide (EYP)* to provide aid and engage existing resources and supports where available. To prepare and practice our response, WCBH will:

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1. Identify situations where a response by the behavioral health program to an event impacting the community is indicated.
2. Engage other crisis services and support where available and work collaboratively to provide a community-based response.
3. Deploy appropriate resources and support when critical incidents occur and ensure that the response to a critical incident is provided in a prompt and effective manner.

It is the expectation that WCBH staff, at the direction of the Behavioral Health Division manager, will provide support in the event of a critical incident or disaster and perform work that may not normally be assigned to them to assist the community.