



## Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities

*Frank E. Shelp, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner*

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### Division of Mental Health, Office of Community Mental Health

Two Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 23.415, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142 404-657-2273 – FAX 404-463-7149

## DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH FIELD RESPONSE TRAINING

**Background:** It is generally accepted that everyone who experiences a disaster is affected by it, and evidence shows that psychological interventions reduce the negative affects and improve recovery. Due to the fact that disaster mental health is a unique intervention only implemented during times of emergency and disaster, special training is required. In an effort to provide support to first responders, hospital personnel and the general population of Georgia during and after an event, DMHDDAD, is offering training in Disaster Mental Health Field Response. Participants in this training event will be qualified to join Georgia's Disaster Mental Health Response Team.

**Purpose:** The Disaster Mental Health Field Response training has been created for the development of the Georgia's Disaster Mental Health Response Team. This course provides the basic information and skills to prepare disaster mental health responders to meet the needs of disaster survivors and the people who come to their aid.

In addition, Disaster Mental Health Field Response training teaches first responders and healthcare personnel skills that will enable them to assist with the emotional needs of co-workers and disaster victims. This training will enable first responders and healthcare personnel to integrate mental health into the work they already do to meet the needs of the community they serve.

**Description:** This is a one-day training, and it includes a "participant centered" approach to learning. The goal of participant-centered learning is to ensure that the information you learn will be experiential, visual, somatic, narrative, and meaningful.

Participants will receive Chapter 1 "Pre-Learning" via email at least a week before the training. This will allow them some time to read and review the brief introductory and foundational elements of the course prior to the core training experience.

Seven credit hour CEUs from the University of Georgia School of Social Work have been approved.

**Objectives:** The content of this course will include:

- General information about disaster response on the Federal, state and local level
- Basic understanding of the stress response
- Understanding the role of the behavioral health responders
- Addressing self-care needs in the field and during a deployment
- Understanding of the basic interventions to be utilized in a mental health disaster response
- Identifying the signs and symptoms of vicarious trauma and the steps to take to maintain personal health

To schedule a class, contact Jeannette David at 404-657-2354 or email [jedavid@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:jedavid@dhr.state.ga.us).

## Field Response Training

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