



Psyc.E.In. MOOC 1

Unit 7

1.2 - b Establishing disaster mental health services

1. Establish a Disaster Mental Health Preparedness Committee.
2. Committee membership should represent administrative, environmental, allied mental health, and community relations interests.
3. Establish an emergency management organization chart.
4. Establish objectives of disaster mental health services.
5. Establish procedures for emergency response.
6. Incorporate procedures, included an overall disaster plan.
7. Develop memorandum of understanding between the organization and other key agencies within the community (e. g. Red Cross, local mental health).
8. Hire outside disaster consultants for planning and support of administration during the course of disaster.
9. Train mental health staff in disaster mental health plan, roles, responsibilities.
10. Have education materials pre - assembled for distribution.
11. Schedule regular mock exercises/drills with outside review.
12. Review and update Emergency Plan regularly (including evaluation of resources and what might hinder implementation).



**Psychological
Early
Intervention**

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Source: Young, B. H., Ford, J. D., Ruzek, J. I., Friedman, M. J., & Gusman, F. D. (1998). *Disaster mental health services: A guidebook for clinicians and administrators*. National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.



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