PEDIATRIC DISASTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESPONSE—OPERATIONAL PLANNING PROCESS

DISASTER OCCURS

Develop Initial Mission & Scope for Response

Key elements:

- Evaluate in context of organizational role and mission (day to day), potential response/recovery roles.
- Evaluate potential roles and functions against Pediatric Disaster Behavioral Health (PDBH) Framework.
- Consider organization's role as community leader, champion, or convener.
- Review the Pediatric Disaster Behavioral Health Assumptions & Principles as a primer.

Conduct Initial Impact & Capacity Assessment

Key elements:

- Within context of identified Mission & Scope, identify Pediatric Behavioral Health Essential Elements of Information (EEIs).
- Collect initial impact information and evaluate for potential behavioral health impacts compared to prior incidents.
- Collect and evaluate **preliminary** info regarding community capacity to provide behavioral health services, compare against initial impact assessments to evaluate potential gaps in available care.
- Establish initial tempo to collect and review Behavioral Health EEIs.

Develop Initial Response/Recovery Objectives

Key elements:

- Based on the identified mission and scope, and initial impact data, develop distinct objectives to guide response efforts.
- These should ideally be "SMART" objectives
- Consider the range of PDBH functions while generating objectives.
- Initial objectives should focus on assessing impacts, providing immediate support if appropriate (such as at family reception centers), connecting to response structures (internal/ external), and preparing for short-term recovery efforts.
- Consider the disaster phases and how these may impact current community needs.
- Review the PDBH Assumptions & Principles as a reminder of key considerations.
- Examples of objectives can be found here.

If needed, revisit and revise Mission & Scope based on Initial Impact Assessment

Select Intended Disaster Behavioral Health Response/ Recovery Strategies

Key elements:

- Based on the identified objectives, select a behavioral health strategies to be used in this incident.
  - Approaches range from public health-oriented education, community level supports, individualized and targeted care, triaged stepped care, and a mix of models.
- The PDBH Operational Overview Table outlines many of these strategies and interventions.
  - The PDBH Care process provides an outline of how to evaluate, plan for, scale, and deliver services along a continuum of care.
  - Review the Disaster Behavioral Health Assumptions & Principles as a reminder of key considerations.

Implement Response/Recovery Strategies

Continually Monitor Behavioral Health Impacts to Inform Ongoing Response & Recovery Efforts

Key elements:

- Based on the trajectory of the disaster and the ongoing response and recovery efforts, evaluate what behavioral health EEIs are monitored, in what tempo, to whom and how they are communicated, and what actions they are informing.
- As needed, adjust information collecting strategies, selected models and strategies, and the overall objectives of the behavioral health response/recovery efforts.

Continually Evaluate Effectiveness of Response/Recovery Strategies

Key elements:

- Consider the following:
  - Is the response having the intended effect?
  - What are the key barriers or limitations?
  - Are there unforeseen circumstances or inaccurate assumptions in our approach?
  - What alternatives are there, potential tradeoffs?
  - How long do we wait, or what are our triggers, before we take a different approach?
  - What are we hearing from partners and the community?
- Identify potential adjustments in implementation of selected models and strategies—or—if alternative strategies are required.

How Often?

Tempo based on rate of change in incident or response!

Conduct Operational Planning Process to Implement Selected Strategies

Key elements:

- Follow the ICS/HICS Operational Planning process to integrate selected models into the response.
- The ICS & HICS Integration sections outline potential approaches including team structures and staffing models.
- Alternatively, consider the following to operationalize these strategies:
  - What are the distinct steps required to achieve each of these objectives?
  - What are the resources required in terms of staff, space, stuff?
  - Are there any key approvals or partners required?
  - What is the required supporting structure to implement these tasks? What type of scale is required to meet the need?
  - How will we provide ourselves with room to plan the next steps while executing the ones we have identified?
  - What is our tempo to evaluate our impact (or impact of the disaster) and adjust strategy?
- It is critical to establish a strategy to bring organizational structure, increase ability to scale to achieve objectives and manage the response, and establish a sustain response tempo. This is an often neglected but essential part of early response.

Connect to Critical Partners (Internal & External)

Key elements:

- The primary objective is to ensure that the key operational pieces are coordinated (internally and externally) and communication with external partners to share situational awareness and resources.
- Internally, this may mean connecting with the broader response structure, key organizational leaders, or specific functions operating in the disaster. (EG: Behavioral health should be connected to Decontamination functions).
- Externally, this may mean other organizations that have a role in the behavioral health or disaster space. For example, local and state government, healthcare coalitions, children's hospitals, mental health services, nongovernment organizations (VOADs), faith-based organizations, schools, and so forth.
- See Structures & Systems section for an overview of key connection points and the PDBH Potential Partnerships table for a primer regarding potential system partners.

Continually Evaluate Structure, Scaling, and Response/Recovery Transitions

Key elements:

- The overall behavioral health response structure should continually evolve based on demands, resources, and identified response strategies. Without an effective management and support structure in place, it will be difficult to achieve impact regardless of the response model.
- Core priorities, sustainability, anticipated organizational support, and the broad trajectory of the response should be continually evaluated.
- Consider concepts such as span of control and sustainable response approaches.

Reevaluate Response Objectives, Models, and Strategies

Aligns with Operational "O" of ICS/HICS Planning "P"

(***Modified based on an operational planning process provided by Protean Preparedness***)