2.1: Integrate mental and behavioral health for children into all public health and medical preparedness and response activities.

2.3: Enhance pediatric disaster mental and behavioral health training for professionals and paraprofessionals, including psychological first aid, cognitive-behavioral interventions, social support interventions and bereavement counseling and support.
Disaster Preparedness and Response is considered a local responsibility that is supported and organized within states.

There is a national effort to develop coordination and keep a data base of certified volunteers.
The National ESAR-VHP program provides guidance and assistance for the development of standardized State-based programs for registering and verifying the credentials of volunteer health professionals in advance of an emergency or disaster. Each State program collects and verifies information on the identity, licensure status, privileges, and credentials of volunteers. The establishment of State programs built to a common set of National standards gives each State the ability to quickly identify and assist in the coordination of volunteer health professionals in an emergency. State ESAR-VHP programs are intended to serve as the statewide mechanism for tying together the registration and credential information of all potential health professional volunteers in a State.
ESAR-VHP is based in the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

Local and state governments share the responsibility for protecting citizens from disasters and for helping them to recover when a disaster strikes.

When a disaster situation exceeds the capabilities of the state and local government to respond, federal law (the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act or Stafford Act) enables the state governor to petition federal assistance.
The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), now part of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security, is tasked with coordinating such assistance.

The Guide to the Disaster Declaration Process explains the petition process and provides an overview of the assistance available.

FEMA has ten regional offices and two area offices. Each region serves several states, and regional staff work directly with the states to plan for disasters, develop mitigation programs, and meet needs when major disasters occur.
Following receipt of a request for federal support by a governor and the subsequent declaration of an emergency by the president, the federal government provides local and state governments with personnel, technical expertise, equipment, and other resources, and assumes an active role in managing the response effort. Such assistance is provided under provisions of the Stafford Act and, until recently, was implemented through the Federal Response Plan (FRP).

Cont’d
FEMA is the lead federal agency in the execution of the FRP. While it provides guidance for the coordination of federal assistance following disasters, a core principle of the FRP is that the local or state jurisdiction is in charge of managing the disaster response and that federal resources work to support local efforts.
The Federal Response Plan

- The FRP is an all hazards plan under which federal resources are provided by 27 federal departments and agencies and the American Red Cross. Resources are organized into 12 emergency support functions (or ESFs). Each ESF is headed by a primary agency and supported by other federal agencies as appropriate. Medical and public health resources are deployed through the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Emergency Preparedness (as defined under ESF 8: Health and Medical Services).

Cont’d
In 2005, the Department of Homeland Security issued the National Response Plan (NRP) to provide guidance for strengthening the national emergency response process by harmonizing existing FRP activities with incident management leadership responsibilities assigned by President Bush to Secretary Ridge through Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD) -5, Management of Domestic Incidents.

The NRP enhances the ability of the United States to prepare for and manage domestic incidents by establishing a single, comprehensive national approach that coordinates all levels of government and ensures cooperation with the private and public sectors.
In HSPD-5, the Department of Homeland Security also was tasked with developing and implementing a National Incident Management System (NIMS) as part of the NRP. Announced in 2004, the NIMS provides a consistent nationwide approach for federal, state, and local governments to standardize incident management practices and procedures to enable them to more effectively and efficiently prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity.

mailto:http://training.fema.gov/IS/NIMS.aspx
If you want to help in a disaster, it is critical to be part of a team. This helps ensure that you have the proper specialized training and credentials for the response activity and that the appropriate protective equipment and coordination are in place to make the best use of your skills and expertise.
National Disaster Medical System (NDMS)

The NDMS is part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It is a cooperative program involving other federal government agencies, state and local governments, private businesses, and citizen volunteers to ensure resources are available to provide medical services after a disaster that overwhelms the local health care resources.

Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs)

DMATs are groups of professional and paraprofessional medical personnel that provide emergency medical care during a disaster anywhere in the nation or overseas. Each team has a sponsoring organization, such as a major medical center or health department. DMAT membership is a part-time activity. Members complete Web-based training modules, participate in two training events per year, and must be ready to deploy if a disaster occurs during the two-month period their team is on call. When activated, members are paid as federal employees, reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses, and have licensure and liability coverage and employment protections.
Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

The MRC is a national network of community-based volunteer units that focus on improving the health, safety and resiliency of their local communities. MRC units organize and utilize public health, medical and other volunteers to support existing local agencies with public health activities throughout the year, and with preparedness and response activities for times of need. Practicing, retired, or currently employed health professionals can volunteer for a local MRC unit.

Cont’d
Volunteers must meet the qualification requirements established by the MRC unit; licensure and liability considerations are based on state and local laws and regulations. While volunteer activity is uncompensated, resources may be available for training, equipment, and supplies.

This program is managed under the auspices of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Health and Human Services.
Serve NC website https://www.servnc.org/ where professionals can register and have their credentials verified.

This site allows you to register as a responder willing to provide services during a disaster or emergency situation. The registration system will collect basic information about you and your professional skills.
The American Red Cross

Mission Statement

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, will provide relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.
The relationship between the American Red Cross and the federal government is unique. The American Red Cross is an independent entity that is organized and exists as a nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable institution pursuant to a charter granted to it by the United States Congress. Unlike other congressionally chartered organizations, the Red Cross maintains a special relationship with the federal government. It has the legal status of "a federal instrumentality," due to its charter requirements to carry out responsibilities delegated to it by the federal government. Among these responsibilities are:
The American Red Cross

- To fulfill the provisions of the Geneva Conventions, to which the United States is a signatory, assigned to national societies for the protection of victims of conflict,

- To provide family communications and other forms of support to the U.S. military, and

- To maintain a system of domestic and international disaster relief, including mandated responsibilities under the National Response Plan coordinated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
Roles

- **Disaster Health Services**
  - Protocol specific functions to provide screening, limited first aide/medical assistance.
    - Predominantly Nurses
    - Physicians may not practice medicine

- **Disaster Mental Health Service**
  - Multidisciplinary teams with ARC supervisors
  - Must be licensed MH provider
The Division accepts the training from the DRN and the American Red Cross and also have a training curriculum that the DRN accepts.

Once individuals are trained in disaster behavioral health and ICS/NIMS, they have the option of responding for the state through a State Medical Assistance Team (SMAT).

The Division has a database of individuals trained, but is now encouraging people to register with SMAT or MRC to be part of a medical response.

The Office of Emergency Medical Services oversees this database and will activate individuals via email, telephone, fax, etc.

https://www.servnc.org
Medical Reserve Corps MRC Units in North Carolina (19 MRC Units found)
State Medical Assistance Team

- Primary SMAT member is employed with a Hospital, Medical Facility, or EMS agency within our SERAC region and paid through their host medical facility and reimbursed in the event of a state activation or deployment from the State Emergency Response Team (SERT).

- SMAT & MRC members will be required to attend 18-32 hours of initial training (depending on job classification) and maintain 16 – 24 hours of SMAT training each year.

- Medical
  - Medical Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics & EMTs, Respiratory Therapy, Pharmacist, Mental Health
American Red Cross

- Similar to DRN for licensed individuals. Psychiatrists will be considered behavioral health responders and will most likely not work as an MD. Individuals must go through their training. The respond locally, statewide, and nationally. Training is conducted periodically throughout the year.

To find a local chapter go to www.ARC.org
Any licensed clinical professional (Psychiatrist, LCSW, LPC, etc) can take their online and face-to-face training. This is a two part training with clinicians taking the online module training first, which is free and can be done at home, and then contacting the DRN to find out when their face-to-face training will occur. The face-to-face training focuses on skill building and there is a small fee. Once trained, the responder will need to take the ICS 100, 200 and NIMS 700 training and register with the DRN as a responder. To access their training, go to http://nccphp.sph.unc.edu/NCDRNtraining and www.fema.gov for ICS/NIMS. The DRN responds statewide as local responders as well as state level responders.
Managed Care Organization

- To respond locally the American Red Cross has established relationships with the state sponsored Managed Care Organizations.
Public Health Reserve Corps

About the Public Health Reserve Corps
The Orange County Health Department started the Public Health Reserve Corps (PHRC) in 2003 to improve its ability to respond to public health emergencies and provide ongoing public health programs. The PHRC recruits and trains community members as volunteers who help health department staff and partner agencies address urgent public health needs.

If you live or work in Orange County and are age 18 or older, then you are eligible to join the PHRC. Read this brochure to learn more about your volunteer role and how to register.

For more information, call 919-245-2388 or visit www.co.orangenc.us/health

Community Members Needed

Public Health Preparedness
Volunteers in the PHRC could be asked to respond to natural and man-made disasters and communicable disease outbreaks. The PHRC prepares volunteers to work in mass dispensing clinics, mass vaccination clinics, emergency shelters, and communicable disease call centers in response to local and non-local public health emergencies.

Ongoing Public Health Programs
The Orange County Health Department offers a wide array of health programs. Volunteers in the PHRC are often asked to assist with health education events, wellness screenings, community health assessments, and flu clinics.

Types of Volunteers Needed

- Administrative
- Neighborhood Leaders
- PR / Media
- Animal Care Providers
- Medical Assistants
- Retirees
- Dental Health Providers
- Mental Health Providers
- Security
- Health Educators
- Pastoral Care
- Students (30 and older)
- Interpreters / Bilingual
- Pharmacy Professionals
- Teachers (All levels)
- Nurse Professionals
- Physicians / PAs
- YOU!

This is just a short list of the types of volunteers needed in the Public Health Reserve Corps. If you’re interested in joining, but not exactly sure if your skills will fit, call to speak with the volunteer coordinator.

Join the Public Health Reserve Corps
Becoming a PHRC volunteer is easy. Fill out the registration form sent with this brochure and return it to the program office by mail or fax. Registration forms can also be downloaded from the PHRC web page at www.co.orangenc.us/health. Once we receive your registration form we will verify any relevant credentials and invite you to a new volunteer orientation.

Want to know more about the PHRC?
Call the volunteer coordinator at 919-245-2388 or return this card to request an information packet. We will also tell you about upcoming information sessions.

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
City: ___________________ State: NC, Zip: ___________
Phone: ___________________ E-mail: ________________

Please list your occupation and any skills:
__________________________________________________________________________

Thank you!
North Carolina MRC

- North Carolina Zip 27705 - Medical Reserve Corps (5)
- Durham County Medical Reserve Corps 3 Miles
- NC-400 Duke Trauma RAC / NC-400 State Medical Assistance Team and Durham MRC 5 Miles
- Orange County Public Health Reserve Corps 8 Miles
- Mid-Carolina SMAT 8 Miles
- NC Baptist Men Medical Reserve Corps Central Region 19 Miles

Key Points

- Depending on their expertise and experience, child and adolescent specialists can serve as child advocates, child development experts, clinicians, community consultants, educators, and systems specialists.

- Know your roles and responsibilities in a response situation—and stay within them.
Participate in training offered by organizations like the American Red Cross and Medical Reserve Corps, and wherever possible, participate in local medical, psychiatric, and civil emergency preparedness and planning efforts. This should be followed by just-in-time training as clinicians deploy for a specific assignment.
Ensure that emergency plans address the unique health care needs of children and other vulnerable populations, particularly those with special needs.
Resources

❖ AACAP Disaster Resource Center

❖ National Child Traumatic Stress Network
  ❖ mailto:http://www.nctsn.org/trauma-types/natural-disasters
APA Committee on Psychiatric Dimensions of Disaster

- Update of website
- Creation of DB disaster listserve
- Greater exchange of networking and education on disaster mental health amongst DBs
- Lead for APA disaster response (i.e., Asian Tsunamis, Hurricane Katrina)
- Greater networking and collaboration with partners including AMA, APA, American Red Cross
- Greater public awareness of disaster psychiatry thru media
Resources

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
  - mailto:http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SAMHSA-s-Disaster-Kit/SMA11-DISASTER

North Carolina Disaster Response Network (NC DRN) Training

- [http://cphp.sph.unc.edu/training/nc_drn/](http://cphp.sph.unc.edu/training/nc_drn/)

- The 8 modules in this training were developed and narrated by volunteer members of the NC DRN

- Technical support, production, and hosting of the modules has been provided by the UNC Center for Public Health Preparedness at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.