



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response



## HHS Disaster Behavioral Health Concept of Operations



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ASPR is pleased to announce the release the *HHS Disaster Behavioral Health Concept of Operations* (DBH CONOPS). The HHS DBH CONOPS aims to improve coordination of federal preparedness, response, and recovery efforts concerning behavioral health. The plan comes as the result of extensive work with HHS agencies and partners and presents the overarching conceptual framework that HHS uses to manage federal disaster behavioral health personnel, response and recovery assets, and actions.

Specifically, the HHS DBH CONOPS describes how HHS transitions from normal operations to a coordinated department-wide response to the behavioral health elements of a public health and medical emergency. The HHS DBH CONOPS supports *National Health Security Strategy* goals. It forwards the integration of behavioral health into overall public health and medical preparedness, response, and recovery to address the behavioral health needs of disaster survivors, responders, and at-risk individuals (including children). The HHS DBH CONOPS is a living document, and will undergo review and revision annually as policy and operational approaches are enhanced and best practices are developed or identified.

The HHS DBH CONOPS is available on-line at  
<http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/abc/Documents/dbh-conops.pdf>

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