

STATEWIDE MEDICAL AND HEALTH EXERCISE

BEHAVORIAL HEALTH OBJECTIVES

**How To Use This Document:** *The purpose of this document is to provide sample objectives   
and capabilities for exercise planners to select from in designing their Statewide Medical and Health Exercise (SWMHE). These capabilities and their supporting objectives were identified based on the Multi-Year Training and Exercise Plan developed by CDPH. To access this document, please visit www.californiamedicalhealthexercise.com*

*To use this document, insert your agency/organization’s name in the bracketed text in the header that reads “INSERT NAME OF AGENCY/ORGANIZATION HERE”. Review the suggested capabilities and objectives and* ***consider them as options to create an Exercise Plan that is tailored to the unique characteristics of your organization*** *and community. Select and modify as needed. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA),* ***ten or fewer objectives are recommended for a full-scale exercise****.*

*Behavioral Health objectives were written broadly to accommodate government agencies, public behavioral health clinics, and private behavioral health clinics.*

## APPLICABLE CAPABILITIES

* PHEP Capability: Emergency Operations Coordination

Definition: Emergency operations coordination is the ability to direct and support an event or incident with public health or medical implications by establishing a standardized, scalable system of oversight, organization, and supervision consistent with jurisdictional standards and practices and with the National Incident Management System.

* PHEP Capability: Medical Surge

Definition: Medical surge is the ability to provide adequate medical evaluation and care during events that exceed the limits of the normal medical infrastructure of an affected community. It encompasses the ability of the healthcare system to survive a hazard impact and maintain or rapidly recover operations that were compromised.

* PHEP Capability: Community Preparedness

Definition: Community preparedness is the ability of communities to prepare for, withstand, and recover — in both the short and long terms — from public health incidents. By engaging and coordinating with emergency management, healthcare organizations (private and community-based), mental/behavioral health providers, community and faith-based partners, state, local, and territorial, public health’s role in community preparedness is to do the following:

* + Support the development of public health, medical, and mental/behavioral health systems that support recovery.
  + Participate in awareness training with community and faith-based partners on how to prevent, respond to, and recover from public health incidents.
  + Promote awareness of and access to medical and mental/behavioral health resources that help protect the community’s health and address the functional needs (i.e., communication, medical care, independence, supervision, transportation) of at-risk individuals.
  + Engage public and private organizations in preparedness activities that represent the functional needs of at-risk individuals as well as the cultural and socio-economic, demographic components of the community.
  + Identify those populations that may be at higher risk for adverse health outcomes.
  + Receive and/or integrate the health needs of populations who have been displaced due to incidents that have occurred in their own or distant communities (e.g., improvised nuclear device or hurricane).

# PROPOSED OBJECTIVES

## OBJECTIVE ONE

Identify appropriate location for, and staff, mental/behavioral health services within [identify time] of notification of a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI). *PHEP Capability 3: Emergency Operations Coordination*

Sample Task(s):

* Interact with jurisdictional officials and emergency operations leadership to select sites for, staff, and operate mental/behavioral health services support facilities.
* Identify physical locations that can be utilized to support behavioral health response.

## OBJECTIVE TWO

Support the activation of healthcare medical surge by expanding the available staff pool and available mental/behavioral health centers. *PHEP Capability 10: Medical Surge*

Sample Task(s):

* During the Mass Casualty Incident, assist in the expansion of the healthcare system by activating behavioral health/mental health facilities and coordinating their involvement with partner agencies within the healthcare coalition.
* During the MCI, assist in the expansion of the healthcare system by activating pre-existing contracts with mental health providers within the community in order to bolster the number of available mental health staff.

## OBJECTIVE THREE

Support response to the incident by receiving and responding to requests for behavioral health needs within [insert amount of time] minutes of the incident. *PHEP Capability 3: Emergency Operations Coordination*

Sample Task(s):

* Identify and request specialized mental/behavioral health requirements (pediatric counseling, child welfare, Access and Functional Needs issues, etc.) *required* of an MCI.
* Within [insert amount of time] of the incident, notify Public Information Officer (PIO) of location and availability of behavioral health services.
* Provide specific talking points/tips to the PIO that address behavioral health concerns (e.g., appropriate tone of briefing, presentation of behavioral health services in such a manner that alleviates social stigma, etc.)
* Maintain situational awareness using information gathered from medical, public health, and other health stakeholders (e.g., DOC, EOC, fusion centers).
* Activate behavioral health specialists to assess needs of disaster survivors and responders.
* Utilize agency, community and faith-based partnerships to help assure the community’s ability to deliver mental/behavioral health services in both short and long term settings during and after an incident.
* Track and account for all behavioral health resources.

## OBJECTIVE FOUR

Develop and release guidance regarding mental/behavioral health issues and services. *PHEP Capability 1: Community Preparedness, PHEP Capability 3: Emergency Operations Coordination*

Sample Task(s):

* Identify a mechanism to follow-up with individuals in need of on-going behavioral health services.
* Ensure that the provision of ongoing behavioral health support services is accounted for in demobilization planning.
* Provide guidance to community partners and first responders to assist them in educating their own constituent groups on basic Psychological First Aid and assessment of issues such as compassion fatigue or stress in reaction to the scenario’s MCI.