The Office of Disaster Services increased services, training, outreach and education to internal and external partners through exceptional stewardship of 2018 grant funding. Highlights include:

**SERVICES: 28,888 Missourians served via FEMA MO 4317**

The FEMA MO 4317 Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) addressing Spring 2017 flooding in 27 counties concluded in August of 2018. The ODS needs assessment identified 11,719 people for services. The CCP served 28,888 overall, exceeding the original estimate by 17,856. Primary services included:

**SERVICES**

- Individual Crisis Counseling - 2,665
- Group Counseling/Public Education - 12,024
- Brief Educational/Supportive Contact - 14,199

**DISASTER RESPONSE**

In July 2018, ODS responded to Branson’s mass casualty event. ODS, Burrell Behavioral Health Center, SEMA, and the Red Cross worked in partnership to provide disaster behavioral health for the survivors, families, and community after the Duck Boat accident. The response was under the jurisdiction of the National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB), a first for ODS. Lessons learned are guiding improvements to Missouri’s disaster mental health response system.
Internal staff represented Central Office, Regional Offices, Facilities and State Hospitals

External partners represented local hospitals, other state agencies, community mental health centers, emergency managers and first responders.

**EXERCISES: 11 EXERCISES 325 PARTICIPANTS**

@ 4 DMH Facilities, 1 CMHC CEO Retreat and 1 STL Regional Executives meeting (DD and DBH)

ODS conducted 11 tabletop exercises with DMH or CMHC staff reaching 325 participants. ODS met with facilities staff and regional offices to discuss emergency planning. After Action Reports (AAR) were compiled following each tabletop exercise and shared with the facility head so that recommendations can be addressed.
In addition to serving on 21 active committees, DMH ODS expertise was requested for high profile initiatives such as New Madrid Seismic Zone emergency planning, state/federal repatriation planning in the event of war or natural disaster that requires U.S. citizens residing overseas to urgently return to the US), and the State Biosecurity Working Group which requested Eric to develop an exercise for the group.

In March, ODS invited 26 disaster mental health experts to review MO’s statewide disaster mental health response and advise on improvements. Their recommendations for next steps and shared vision guide the Coalition for Community Behavioral Healthcare Disaster Workgroup. DMH ODS will host the second Disaster Summit in May of 2019 to build the framework for a Behavioral Health Strike Team (BHST).
**Arkansas:** Beckie Gierer and Jill Richardson provided a Mental Health First Aid course to North Central Arkansas Medical Group in Mountain Grove.

**North Carolina:** SAMHSA and the SMHA requested Beckie Gierer to provide training to crisis counselors responding to Hurricane Florence.

**California:** The SMHA requested Beckie Gierer to provide training to crisis counselors responding to wildfires.

**EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION**

In August of 2018, DMH launched a mass notification system covering all DMH staff statewide. The system allows each facility/regional office/central office to control their own messaging and is used for emergency notifications. It is an opt-in system - meaning employees must enter their contact information and select their preferred notification methods. A superintendent used the system app to notify staff of a full facility lockdown followed by an all clear message 10 minutes later. No one was hurt and the system’s value was established.

**2019 INITIATIVES**

ODS will fine tune day-to-day operations and processes and focus on these, projects ranked in priority order:

- Hosting Disaster Summit 2.0. May 21-22, 2019 to build the framework for the State of Missouri Behavioral Health Strike Team.
- Developing an internal Incident Support Center (ISC) in Central Office to serve as a ODS hub (war room) when an event happens. This creates easy access for Senior Management Team members to get updated information quickly.
- Eric Evans will deliver ICS (incident command system) refresher training to DMH facility staff.
- ODS will contact each facility to review the AARs from 2018 and provide technical assistance as requested.
- Beckie Gierer will be presenting at the National VOAD Conference in Nashville with SEMA and the Red Cross on the Branson Mass Casualty event.
- Beckie Gierer will be a trainer for the CCP Train the Trainers event in Maryland as requested by SAMHSA.