

FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

GOVERNOR’S FLOOD RECOVERY ADVISORY BOARD — PUBLIC HEALTH WORKING GROUP

Meeting. The Public Health Working Group of the Governor’s Flood Recovery Advisory Board met on June 25, 2019, in Des Moines. The Public Health Working Group is one of six working groups created by the Advisory Board and is being supported by the Department of Public Health.

Long-Term Recovery Organizations. Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COADs, also called Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, or VOADs), are dormant frameworks for a working group that can be activated in a disaster to start providing essential services sooner. The group can then coordinate the long-term recovery efforts that the individuals in the community need. All counties generally call these groups something different. The groups are made up of representatives from faith-based, civic, nonprofit, government, business, and other organizations within the community that assist individuals and families as they recover from a disaster.

Some of the counties impacted by flooding already had a COAD in place that was activated at the disaster time, and three new COADs (located in Fremont County, Harrison County, and Mills County) have formed in the wake of this disaster.

Disaster Case Management. Relating to the discussion of long-term recovery was disaster case management. There was some discussion about people acknowledging that they needed help but not wanting to accept assistance immediately, because their neighbors might need it more. There was also discussion about stigma and people wanting to remain independent, so there is a need to figure out ways to reduce those barriers to access.

Mental Health and Recovery. The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management’s Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP) consists of two main grant types: an Immediate Services Program (ISP) for up to 60 days after a disaster and a Regular Services Program (RSP)

for up to nine months after the disaster. The ISP is currently working under two extensions which will extend the ISP’s length of services to 90 days. The RSP current end date is anticipated to be May 30, 2020. Program data is presented in the disaster outreach services table.

The Department of Public Health’s Substance Use Integrated Provider Network is working with three providers in the impacted areas to expand financial eligibility parameters for treatment services, initiate homeless outreach, and expand a media campaign, among other efforts. A sample ad is included at right.

Disaster Outreach Services to Date		
	Clients Served	Proportion of Clients Served
Individual Crisis Counseling	195	4.0%
Group Counseling/Public Education	493	10.1%
Brief Educational/Supportive Contacts	4,190	85.9%
Total	4,878	100.0%



Additional Information. Presentations and documents from this meeting are available from the LSA upon request. The following websites have additional information related to Iowa's flood and disaster recovery:

- [2019 Iowa Floods](#) has flood-related information, including flood recovery and road closures.
- [Flood-Related Disease Precautions and Information from the Department of Public Health](#).
- [Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council](#).
- The [Rebuild Iowa Office](#) website has archived information from the flood event in 2008.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Public Health Working Group is tentatively scheduled for mid-July. The tentative plan is to refine recommendations from these presentations and focus on issues related to environmental health.

LSA Staff Contact: Kent Ohms (515.725.2200) kenneth.ohms@legis.iowa.gov
Angel A. Banks-Adams (515.281.6301) angel.banks-adams@legis.iowa.gov

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