Purpose and Role of the Disaster Mental Health Services Function

DMHS utilizes licensed mental health professionals to provide emergency and preventive mental health services to those affected by disaster and to Red Cross workers assigned to a disaster relief operation. This includes:
Purpose and Role of the Disaster Mental Health Services Function (Cont.)

- Education about stressors and their effects
- Methods of coping
- Advocacy
- Crisis intervention
- Referral services for resources to meet mental health-related problems
ARC Collaboration with Professional Associations

- American Psychological Association. 1992
- American Counseling Association. 1993
- American Psychiatric Association. 1995
- American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. 1995
- National Mental Health Association. 1998
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tr>
<td>Social workers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychologists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nurses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counselors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marriage &amp; Family Therapists</td>
<td>121</td>
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<td>Physicians/Psychiatrists</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2434</strong></td>
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Designated Organization Responsibilities

- Provide Mental Health and counseling services in coordination with the air carrier
- Provide a private environment for families to grieve
- Meet families traveling to the accident site, communicate with families who cannot travel
- Provide information on the roles of agencies, organizations, and air carriers involved with the accident
- Arrange for a suitable memorial ceremony
NTSB PLAN
VICTIM SUPPORT TASKS

VST1 - National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)
VST2 - Affected Airline
VST3 - Family Care and Mental Health - American Red Cross (ARC)
VST4 - Victim identification, forensic, and medical services - Dept. of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
VST5 - Assisting families of foreign victims - Dept. of State (DOS)
VST6 - Communications - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
VST7 - Assisting victims of crime - Department of Justice (DOJ) specifically, Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)
ARC Responses Since the Act

- Flight 5925-26 - Quincy, IL, 11/19/96 - 14 died
- Flight 3272 - Monroe, MI, 1/9/97 - 29 died
- Flight 801 - Nimitz Hill, Guam, 8/5/97 - 227 died, 27 survived
- Flight 111, Peggy’s Cove, Nova Scotia, 9/2/98 - 231 died
- Flight 1420 - Little Rock, AR, 6/1/99 - 11 died, 134 survived
- Flight 990 - Nantucket Island, MA, 10/31/99 - 217 died
- Flight 261 - Los Angeles, CA, 1/31/00, 88 died