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## FEATURED TRAINING

### Maine Crisis Standards of Care Symposium June 27, 2017 at the Augusta Civic Center

This half-day symposium focuses on planning for local healthcare facility implementation of emergency crisis standards of care. Planning resources and considerations have been developed by the Maine Crisis Standards of Care Task Force since June 2015. Subject matter experts representing healthcare providers of all types as well as state agencies, legal, ethical and licensing have convened to create a State Crisis Standards of Care Plan and associated guidelines for healthcare organization use in such an event. The plan and guidelines will be presented during this symposium.

It is essential that healthcare providers in Maine develop the capability to implement crisis standards of care in collaboration with State public health and community stakeholders in order to respond efficiently and in a coordinated manner to large scale health emergencies.



[Learn more and register](#)

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## Important Survey - Behavioral Health Providers in Maine

Maine organizations with a behavioral health focus or component have been solicited to participate in an important survey that will assist in a statewide effort to improve Maine's disaster behavioral health efforts. The survey will inform public health planners with information needed to assess the level of emergency preparedness within behavioral health involved organizations. Further, the information collected will help to identify local resources and partnerships that will strengthen disaster behavioral health efforts throughout the state.

If you received this survey, please take a few minutes to complete it. If you run a private practice or you feel you are the individual within your organization/business best suited to complete the survey but did not receive the survey, please contact Kathleen Wescott, Maine Disaster Behavioral Health Director to request a survey link be provided to you. Thank you for your support in this important effort.

**Kathleen Wescott, LMFT-C**  
**Disaster Behavioral Health Director**  
**Division of Public Health Operations**  
**(207) 287-3796**  
[Kathleen.Wescott@maine.gov](mailto:Kathleen.Wescott@maine.gov)

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## **Video - Children in a Changing Climate: The Importance of Childcare Providers in Disasters**

This 48-minute presentation discusses the importance of childcare providers in disasters and other critical situations, and reports that 21 states and Washington, DC, don't require schools and childcare providers to have basic emergency plans. It focuses on the critical role childcare providers may play in a child's outcome before, during, and after a disaster. It references the book, *The Children of Katrina*, to present real world examples from Hurricane Katrina, when childcare providers served as advocates and anchors for the children in their care.

[Watch the Video](#)

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## **Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Emergency Preparedness Requirements for Medicare and Medicaid**

## Participating Providers and Suppliers - Final Rule (81 FR 63860, Sept. 16, 2016)

The ("Final Rule") establishes national emergency preparedness requirements for participating providers and certified suppliers to plan adequately for both natural and man-made disasters, and coordinate with Federal, state, tribal, regional and local emergency preparedness systems. The Final Rule also assists providers and suppliers to adequately prepare to meet the needs of patients, clients, residents, and participants during disasters and emergency situations, striving to provide consistent requirements across provider and supplier-types, with some variations. The requirements are focused on three key essentials necessary for maintaining access to healthcare during disasters or emergencies: safeguarding human resources, maintaining business continuity, and protecting physical resources.

Psychiatric Residential facilities, hospice and home health agencies, and some community behavioral health organizations' programs that are licensed under CMS will need to fulfil these new requirements.

[View the Survey and Certification Letter](#)

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### Exercises and Trainings:

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Bangor International Airport conducted their annual exercise drill that involved over 50 provider agencies, such as, Eastern Maine Medical Center, St. Joseph's Hospital, Acadia Hospital, Fire/Police/EMS responders, Community Health and Counseling Services, Maine Veterans Home, and several long term care residential and home health organizations. The exercise was in response to an aviation accident that involved over 100 passengers and crew who were designated to be injured victims, family members, and other airline survivors. The American Red Cross both paid and volunteer staff, and Crisis Team members from CHCS set up a Survivor Assistance Center at the airport hotel, and registered, provided practical assistance and psychological first aid. Each organization was testing their internal and external communications, continuity of operations and supporting a local community response.



**Psychological First Aid training** was conducted in May at the Auburn Hilton and was well-attended with facilitation by Marylena Chaisson, LCPC, a DBH Volunteer. Participants were actively involved in case studies to provide understanding of their reactions, to provide calming techniques, family assistance and resource management services.

Dr. Amy Nitza, PhD, Director of the Institute of Disaster Mental Health Services, University of New York at New Paltz provided (2) trainings on “Assisting Children and Families during Disasters”. The training focused on typical presentations of post traumatic stress in children and adolescents, identified informal and formal assessments of children’s function, and included experiential exercises for participants to practice the skills to work effectively with children and adolescents. Dr, Nitza shared many interesting examples of her trauma-related work in Botswana, Bhutan and currently as a consultant in Haiti working with children potentially traumatized from their earthquake disaster.

**Dr. Nitza will be returning to Maine in October 2017** to provide DBHRT training on working with Vulnerable Populations, particularly frail elderly and individuals with persistent mental health disorders. **Keep your calendars open for this important training event!**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS & TRAINING

Learning opportunities for behavioral health, spiritual care, substance abuse professionals as well as disaster responders and natural community helpers.

Announcing Summer/Fall Trainings  
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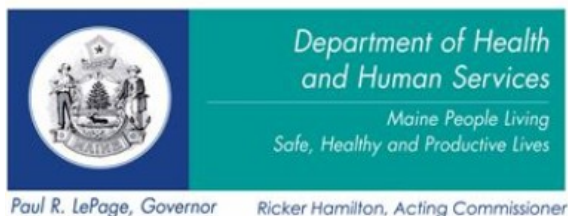


## **MGT-439: Pediatric Disaster Response and Emergency Management (DHS/FEMA Funded Course)**

**August 8-9, 2017 - Lewiston, Maine**

This course addresses pediatric emergency planning and medical response considerations through a combination of lectures, small group exercises, and a table-top exercise.

[Register Online](#)



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