

Nebraska Behavioral Health Emergency Response Team Recruitment and Application Package

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NEBRASKA

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

NEBRASKA

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY



RECRUITMENT AND APPLICATION PACKAGE

More Information:

CONTACT:

HEATHER NELSON

Disaster Behavioral Health Coordinator
Nebraska DHHS Division of Behavioral Health

Heather.Nelson@nebraska.gov

402-471-7849

OVERVIEW:

On August 7, 2008, the Governor’s Homeland Security Policy Group gave the Division of Behavioral Health (DBH) approval to move forward with the formation of a Behavioral Health Emergency Response Team (BHERT) for the State of Nebraska. BHERT consists of state employees who can be deployed on short notice at the request of the Governor via the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) who are familiar with behavioral health services and systems, or are subject matter experts. This document is limited to the recruitment of state employees who may be deployed on short notice.

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Overview Nebraska Behavioral Health Emergency Response Team:

PURPOSE: The primary purpose of the Nebraska Behavioral Health Emergency Response Team (BHERT) is to provide support and consultation to state personnel/teams or response agencies relevant to behavioral health needs that arise following a disaster. Nebraska BHERT provides:

1. Rapid deployment to local areas of behavioral health personnel who are experienced in addressing behavioral health needs of staff or consumers, assisting in recovery activities, training, and related assigned tasks.
2. A resource for state-run facilities or operations impacted by disaster (such as Regional Centers or Correctional facilities).
3. A resource of the governor in the event that behavioral health expertise is requested by another state's governor through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Team members must opt in before EMAC deployment.
4. Training or consultation to local areas or state-run facilities during preparedness, response, or recovery periods. This will generally be handled on a case-by-case basis through the Division of Behavioral Health.

AUTHORIZATION: The Nebraska Emergency Management Act (Neb. Rev. Stat. 81-829.36 to 81-829.75) provides statutory authorization for the formation and use of State Emergency Response Teams. The formation of a behavioral health emergency response team in Nebraska was approved by the Governor's Homeland Security Policy Group on August 7, 2008. BHERT is composed of state employees who work in the area of behavioral health. Thus, BHERT is considered a state resource. The team generally supports behavioral health functions referenced in the Nebraska State Emergency Operations Plan. For more information see: disastermh.nebraska.edu/resources/state-plan

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED: You are receiving this packet now because you have been identified as someone who is eligible to be considered for inclusion on this team. There are three steps you must take to be considered for inclusion in BHERT:

- Step 1: You must complete the brief application (written or on-line).
- Step 2: You should complete the Nebraska Psychological First Aid training within the first year of involvement with the team. (Opportunities will be sent to you about this.)
- Step 3: You should complete four on-line courses (approximately one hour each) through the emergency management institute over the course of the next year.

In addition, you will be asked to attend a yearly half day exercise focused on disaster behavioral health.

APPLY ON-LINE AT: go.unl.edu/bhertapp

Once approved, members must also register in [Nebraska's Emergency System for the Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals \(ESAR-VHP\)](#).

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Criteria for BHERT Members:

ALL APPLICANTS MUST:

- Be at least 21 years old.
- Be willing to travel across the state as needed.
- Possess a valid Nebraska Driver's license.
- Be authorized to drive a State of Nebraska vehicle.
- Meet minimum physical requirements:
 - ♦ Walk unaided.
 - ♦ Lift 30 pounds.
 - ♦ See and hear within a normal range (vision/hearing correction to normal range qualifies).
- Be willing to complete all recommended trainings.
 - ♦ ICS-100, 200, 700, and 800.
 - ♦ Nebraska Disaster Psychological First Aid Training.

SOME TEAM MEMBERS MAY, at times, serve as clinical supervisors during a disaster response.

Those serving as clinical supervisors:

- Should possess full Nebraska licensure (not provisional) as a psychiatrist, psychologist, LIMHP, or LMHP.

Based on applicable experience, the following may also serve as clinical supervisors:

- MD, APRN, RN.



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Expectations for BHERT Members:

SCREENING & DEPLOYMENT:

Team members are identified and screened prior to being eligible for deployment.

Team members will be deployed to meet specific mission objectives, and will be briefed on the mission and objectives prior to deployment.

Team members are expected to:

- Participate in readiness activities including training, exercises, and team meetings.
- Submit to a pre-deployment health screening when required prior to deployment.
- Carry out duties as assigned by team leader during deployment.
- Document deployment activities on team-member activity report.
- Participate in post-deployment activities including operational debriefings and after-action reporting.

The mission of any team will vary according to the disaster event(s). The details will be up to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) as well as the Division of Behavioral Health Director or designee(s) [such as the Chief Clinical Officer and/or Disaster Coordinator].

It is possible one is deployed in the field for up to fourteen (14) consecutive days and required to work twelve (12) hours per day.

Deployment example:

- BHERT was part of the five preliminary flood damage assessment teams that went to 60 counties the week of June 21, 2010, to gather information on the magnitude of damage to homes, property, businesses, and public infrastructure. These state behavioral health employees supported the teams, assessed the behavioral health needs of people impacted by severe storms and floods, and provided “psychological first aid” to people they came in contact with along the way.

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Application Form: Behavioral Health Emergency Response Team

Please provide the following personal contact information:

First Name

Last Name

Home Address

Address 2

City

Zip Code

Email Address

Home phone

Cell phone

The following contact information for your employer is needed in the event you are mobilized as a State Asset in response to a disaster or large-scale emergency. Your employer will not be contacted unless you are asked to be part of a mobilized team.

Employer (Dept or Agency)

Division (if applicable)

Address of work site

Address 2

City

Zip Code

Your position or role

Work phone

Work email

What is your employment setting? (e.g., in-patient, corrections, etc.)

Apply online at: go.unl.edu/bhertapp

Application Form: Behavioral Health Emergency Response Team

Please list any Professional Licenses or Certifications you currently hold in Nebraska.

NIMS courses completed (check all that apply)

100

200

700

800

Other

Have you completed the Nebraska Disaster Psychological First Aid Course?

Yes

No

Thank you!

Nebraska Behavioral Health Emergency Response Team (BHERT) members with current Nebraska professional licensure should also register with the Department of Health and Human Services Medical and Health Volunteer Site: volunteers.ne.gov/ESAR-VHP/faces/jsp/login.jsp