



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
Milwaukee County
SCOTT WALKER • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WALKER ANNOUNCES JOINT EFFORT TO AID FLOOD VICTIMS

MILWAUKEE – County Executive Scott Walker, along with the County’s Emergency Management Division and Department of Health and Human Services, activated the Disaster Mental Health Task Force.

“The recent flood has been devastating for thousands of people in Milwaukee County, particularly those who are the most vulnerable in our community. It is absolutely essential, in time of a disaster of this magnitude, that we recognize the need to support individuals in our community who are experiencing stress due to trauma, loss or relocation,” Walker said.

The Mental Health Disaster Task Force is chaired by the Behavioral Health Division Crisis Service Medical Director along with leaders from the public, private academic, professional and volunteer agencies, and institutions in Milwaukee County that provide mental health care. Agencies include:

Milwaukee County Emergency Management
Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services
Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division
Community Health Departments
Department of Health and Family Services
Impact 211 Helpline
Veterans Administration
Medical College of Wisconsin
Milwaukee Public Schools
Mental Health America, Milwaukee
American Red Cross
Pastoral Care Community
Project Recovery
Community Private Hospitals

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It is common for individuals who have been involved in a natural disaster such as a flood, to experience stress, anxiety and fatigue. Common symptoms of children or adults that may require medical attention include:

1. Children

- a. General fear
- b. Fear of being separated from parent or caregiver,
- c. Inability to sleep,
- d. Change in eating habits,
- e. Fear of leaving the house, or being outside
- f. Irritability or isolation

2. Adults:

- a. Physical manifestations of stress
- b. Excessive smoking, eating, or drinking alcohol
- c. Physical exhaustion affecting one’s ability to deal with daily activities
- d. Physical anxiety agitation, difficulty concentrating or over load.
- e. Trouble sleeping.

It is important to seek the advice of a medical professional if you or someone you know is experiencing symptoms of stress or trauma related to the recent disaster.

- 1. If you have a provider in the community contact them for the appropriate medical direction.
- 2. All insurance carriers cover services for individuals experiencing crisis.
- 3. If you are employed, employer programs typically have “Employee Assistance Programs.”
- 4. Individuals who have a disability, mental illness and older adults may contact the following:

BHD Adult Mental Health Crisis Line	257-7222
BHD Child Mental Health Crisis Line	257-7621
Disability Resource Center for individuals and families with physical and developmental disabilities. 0-60	289-6660
Aging Resource Center for individuals over the age of 60	289-6874
Warm line - Consumer Mental Health Support Line	777-4729

“It is important to know that help is available. If you, or anyone you know, is experiencing these symptoms, reach out to the resources identified.”

Please note this link to an extensive list of other important resources: <http://tinyurl.com/32qyhoj>

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