

BSAS/IHR Crisis Response Initiative

IHR's trauma specialists are available to provide on-site support for staff and/or clients of BSAS programs that have experienced a traumatic event. Just call 617-661-3991 and say you are calling for crisis response.

Because addiction is often a deadly and traumatic disease and because treatment providers engage in emotionally taxing work, The Massachusetts Department of Public Health/ Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) has contracted with the Institute for Health and Recovery to provide on-site crisis response services to BSAS-contracted organizations throughout the Commonwealth. The purpose of this initiative is to support staff and clients in recovering from a traumatic experience in a healing way.

When a program calls, within 48 business hours one of the trauma team members will work with the Program Director to develop a plan for supporting staff and/or clients. The plan may include meetings with individuals and/or groups of staff members and/or meetings with individual or groups of clients to have a dialogue about the incident. The dialogue will help elicit strengths and coping strategies and offer participants the opportunity to develop a self-care plan. It will also help participants recognize when they need additional professional help.

Examples of the kinds of situations that lend themselves to crisis response are:

- Death of a client or former client
- Death of a co-worker
- Violent events that threaten workplace or program safety
- Significant events involving children; i.e., removal of child from parent's care while in a program
- Natural disasters or acts of terrorism
- Fire at the workplace
- Any other traumatic event

If your BSAS funded organization would benefit from an individualized response to an acute or ongoing crisis, please call 617-661-3991 to learn more.