

# Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

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## **The Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is Providing Support Services to Communities Impacted by the Recent Storms, and Throughout Oklahoma**

The severe storms that recently impacted several communities in Oklahoma did more than cause physical damage. The emotional toll on storm-weary Oklahomans can be just as devastating. People who were directly impacted by these events will experience a range of emotions and stressors that very well may create a need for behavioral health support services. For others, these storms trigger responses tied to previous traumatic experiences that, too, may create a need for access to care.

“This is a perfectly natural response to such a traumatic event,” said ODMHSAS Commissioner Terri White. “The most important thing is to make sure that you reach out and talk to someone, and we are actively involved in all impacted communities to assist people as needed.”

ODMHSAS supports mental health and substance abuse services throughout the state, and has been in communication with all partner agencies to be on alert for the needs of storm victims.

“We have, on an on-going basis, provided trauma training to behavioral health providers throughout the state and maintain a far-reaching network of community-based services and providers,” said White. “All stand ready to respond as appropriate.”

White said that storm response services are still operational in Moore, continued as follow-up to the previous storms in that community. In fact, members of the community response team were immediately in contact with one another to prepare for needed support. The OK Strong “green shirts” gained national attention in the aftermath of the 2013 storms for their street teams that worked door-

to-door in the hardest hit areas. Additionally, the department is in communication with Oklahoma Emergency Management and ready to respond as needed in all other impacted communities.

For any Oklahoman in need of services for mental health or substance abuse issues, call 211. Call responders are able to assist with locating services in your area. If in crisis, call 911 or your local emergency responders.

In Moore, individuals in need of behavioral health support may call 405-703-0368. Members of the ODMHSAS community response team are also on hand at the Moore Community Center, and are in neighborhoods offering assistance and support.

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