



## DISASTER MENTAL HEALTH (DMH): ASSISTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES **RECORDED SESSION**

### Overview

For the third autumn in a row a training was provided to DMH responders. This year's training, developed and delivered by the Institute for Disaster Mental Health at SUNY New Paltz (IDMH), addressed the needs of children and families after disasters. This is an important group to focus on as children are recognized as a vulnerable population who not only can suffer short-term reactions to traumatic experiences but who can experience long-term consequences that disrupt their emotional, social, and academic development if their distress is not adequately addressed. Parents and caregivers can play an essential role in protecting children and responding to their needs but their own distress can rise if they feel unable to help their children, leading to a kind of negative feedback loop that harms the entire family system.

The training used an applied approach; teaching specific skills and providing opportunities to practice them and also incorporated personal stories from healthcare and mental health providers who have provided services to children post disaster.

### Target Audience

Community and healthcare personnel who are disaster mental health responders.

### Faculty

- Athena A. Drewes, PsyD, MA, RPT-S
- Robin Guiney, LCSW

### Recommended Prerequisite

It is recommended that prior to participating in this training you complete the DMH: A Critical Response training which will provide the basic fundamentals of disaster mental health.

### Registration

Click on <https://www.nylearnsph.com> and search Course Catalog for **OHEP-DMH06-Rec**. Once you have enrolled in course go to your home page and launch the course.

### Questions Regarding Training

Direct questions to [prepedap@health.ny.gov](mailto:prepedap@health.ny.gov) or 518 474-2893.

### NYSDOH Learning Management System (LMS)

Direct questions to [edlearn@health.state.ny.us](mailto:edlearn@health.state.ny.us) or call 518 474-2893.