

Statement of Understanding

Between

The American National

Red Cross and

The National Mental

Health Association



**American
Red Cross**

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I. Purpose

The purpose of this Statement of Understanding (SOU) is to create a working relationship between The American National Red Cross (hereinafter referred to as the American Red Cross or the Red Cross) and the National Mental Health Association (NMHA) in preparing for and responding to disaster relief situations at all levels. This agreement provides the broad framework for cooperation between the two organizations in rendering assistance and service to victims of disaster, as well as other services for which cooperation may be mutually beneficial.

II. Concept of Operations

Each party to this SOU is a separate and independent organization. As such, each organization retains its own identity in providing service, and each organization is responsible for establishing its own policies and financing its own activities.

III. Definition of Disaster

A disaster is an occurrence such as a hurricane, tornado, storm, flood, high water, wind-driven water, tidal wave, earthquake, volcanic eruption, drought, blizzard, pestilence, famine, fire, explosion, building collapse, transportation accident, or other situation that causes human suffering or creates human needs that the victims cannot alleviate without assistance.

IV. Authority of the American Red Cross

In providing disaster relief, the American Red Cross has both a legal and a moral mandate that it has neither the authority nor the right to surrender. The American Red Cross has both the power and the duty to act in disaster, and our prompt action is clearly expected and supported by the public.

The American Red Cross authority to perform disaster services was formalized when the organization was chartered by the Congress of the United States in 1905. Among other provisions, this charter charged the Red Cross—

to continue and carry on a system of national and international relief in time of peace and apply the same in mitigating the sufferings caused by

pestilence, famine, fire, floods, and other great national calamities, and to devise and carry on measures for preventing the same.

-U.S. Congress, act of January 5, 1905, as amended, 36 U.S.C.

The authority of the American Red Cross to provide disaster services was reaffirmed by federal law in the 1974 Disaster Relief Act (Public Law 93-288) and in the 1988 Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

V. Organization of the American Red Cross

The national headquarters of the American Red Cross is located in Washington, D.C. National headquarters is responsible for implementing policies and regulations that govern American Red Cross activities, and for giving administrative and technical supervision and guidance to the chartered units. Chartered units include chapters and Blood Services regions. The Board of Governors has delegated to the duly-constituted volunteer governing board of each chartered unit the authority and responsibility for: (a) governance of the chartered unit, (b) delivery of authorized services in the territorial jurisdiction of the chartered unit, and (c) meeting corporate obligations, in conformance with and subject to the limitations stated in corporate regulations.

The American Red Cross provides the following five (5) services: Armed Forces Emergency Services, Biomedical Services, Disaster Services, Health and Safety Services, and International Services.

Each chartered unit has the authority and responsibility for carrying out the purposes of the American Red Cross, for delivering local American Red Cross services, and for meeting corporate obligations within the territorial jurisdiction assigned in conformity with corporate regulations. The chartered units (“chapters”) coordinate their work through voluntary state councils. There are more than 1300 chapters across the United States.

Each chapter is responsible for providing disaster planning, preparedness, education, and response. Each chapter has a disaster leadership team or committee.

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This team or committee studies the hazards of the locality and surveys local resources for personnel, equipment, supplies, transportation, emergency communications, and facilities available for disaster relief. The chapter disaster leadership also formulates cooperative plans and procedures with local government agencies and private organizations for carrying on relief operations should a disaster occur. Through its nationwide organization, the American Red Cross coordinates its total resources for use in large disasters. Services will be provided to those in need regardless of citizenship, race, religion, age, sex, or political affiliation.

VI. Organization of the National Mental Health Association

The national headquarters of the National Mental Health Association (NMHA) is located in Alexandria, VA. Established in 1909 by Clifford W. Beers. NMHA's purpose is to work for America's mental health and victory over mental illness through the development of a coordinated citizens' voluntary movement to advocate for the improved care and treatment of persons with mental illnesses; for improved methods and services in research, prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment of mental illnesses; and for the promotion of mental health.

NMHA envisions a just, humane and healthy society in which all people are accorded respect, dignity and the opportunity to achieve their full potential free from stigmas and prejudice.

Through powerful and effective advocacy, NMHA will craft and support public policies that promote mental health and assure an integrated, comprehensive and accessible system of care for people with mental illnesses. NMHA is the only organization dedicated to addressing all aspects of mental health and mental illnesses.

Since the purposes are charitable, the Corporation shall not be conducted for profit or gain, and no part of its earnings or assets shall inure to the benefit of any individual, firm, or corporation.

In each state, territory, and federal district of the United States, NMHA shall promote and encourage the organization and operation of an affiliated organization, or organizations, of the Association to carry out its

general purpose under its general direction, including the expressed authority to assign, protect and enforce the trademark rights for such trademarks held by the Corporation. NMHA has 335 affiliates in the United States covering 43 states which operate as individual 501 (C) 3 non-profits.

VII. Methods of Cooperation

In order that the resources of the American Red Cross and the National Mental Health Association may be coordinated and used to the fullest advantage in rendering disaster relief, both organizations have agreed to the following:

1. Close liaison will be maintained between American Red Cross national headquarters and National Mental Health Association by conferences, meetings, telephone, facsimile, and other means. Each organization will share current data regarding disasters, disaster declarations, and changes in legislation. The same interaction and liaison will be encouraged at all levels of both organizations.
2. The National Mental Health Association may provide volunteers to assist the American Red Cross in disaster relief roles such as Disaster Mental Health Services or any other function, as mutually agreed upon. Except as set forth below, all such personnel shall be at all times considered a National Mental Health Association's volunteer. The American Red Cross and the National Mental Health Association's personnel may serve on each other's local disaster committees and/or boards, as mutually agreed upon.
3. All participating mental health professionals will be required to complete the Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Services Course, which certifies them as Red Cross volunteers for work at the site of disasters. The Red Cross will encourage local chapters to make this course available.
4. Upon successful completion of training as an American Red Cross volunteer, and when under the direct supervision and control of the American Red Cross, personnel from the National Mental Health Association as mutually agreed upon, shall be treated as an American Red Cross volunteer for a mutually agreed upon task or function, and shall have all the responsibilities and be entitled to all the

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privileges of an American Red Cross volunteer for the designated period in accordance with, and subject to, all American Red Cross standards and regulations. As appropriate, the American Red Cross will provide identifying apparel and/or badges to wear in any activities performed in accordance with this SOU.

5. The American Red Cross will encourage its service delivery units to communicate with local National Mental Health Association units to explore opportunities for collaboration to provide Community Disaster Education (CDE) within their respective communities. Cooperative efforts could include distributing CDE materials to targeted populations within the community, preparing National Mental Health Association volunteers as CDE presenters, or joint development and implementation of a CDE plan for their local community.
6. The National Mental Health Association will assist the Red Cross in maintaining a national disaster preparedness and response activities that targets the mental health needs of disaster victims and Red Cross volunteers at the site of the disaster or through the home chapter, as needed. The activities will be implemented on a local level by state and local associations with the national office providing assistance, as needed.
7. The National Mental Health Association will encourage its state and local affiliates to form local disaster intervention committees and coordinate efforts with local Red Cross chapters. Agreements between chapters and affiliates can be drafted as deemed appropriate by the local organizations.
8. The National Mental Health Association, in collaboration with the Red Cross, will develop an implementation manual for its state and local affiliates on how to develop and activate disaster relief activities.
9. The National Mental Health Association will encourage its state and local affiliate associations to work closely and cooperatively with other appropriate associations of licensed mental health professionals to encourage them to develop their own disaster mental health service networks.

Where other such networks exist, state and local affiliates shall be encouraged to collaborate with those networks.

10. The Red Cross and the National Mental Health Association will use their best efforts to facilitate any appropriate and authorized research around disaster preparedness and response.
11. During a disaster, the Red Cross is required to collect information about disaster victims for the purpose of (1) maintaining a central registration to account for the numbers, names, and locations of disaster victims who are injured; (2) responding to disaster welfare inquiries from relatives who live outside the disaster area; (3) facilitating the availability of assistance to disaster victims and families; (4) documenting anonymous statistical data for authorized scientific research regarding disaster-related injuries and illnesses. The Red Cross has specific regulations that protect the confidentiality of information obtained from clients, directly or indirectly, by paid and volunteer staff .
American Red Cross reporting and documentation procedures for Disaster Mental Health Services are in keeping with the ethical requirements of the National Mental Health Association. American Red Cross Disaster Mental Health Services complies with local, state and federal requirements pertaining to mandatory reporting and safeguarding of confidential information.
12. The National Mental Health Association will organize an advisory committee to help its staff design and implement these activities.
13. The Red Cross and the National Mental Health Association will collaborate on development of education materials (flyers, pamphlets, etc.) to address the mental health issues involved in disasters. Both organizations will ensure distribution of these materials to their local chapters/affiliates and encourage their utilization in preparedness and response activities.
14. Recognizing the need for advising the public of the work of both organizations, the American Red Cross and the National Mental Health Association will make every effort, through their public

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information offices during the time of disaster, to keep the public informed of their cooperative efforts.

15. The American Red Cross and the National Mental Health Association will inform their chapters, other units or departments, and administrative offices of, and otherwise widely distribute, this agreement and will urge full cooperation with each other.
16. The National Mental Health Association will encourage participation and coordination of services between its departments and the American Red Cross for mutual service to the community.
17. The American Red Cross and the National Mental Health Association will actively seek to determine other areas/services within their respective organizations where cooperation and support will be mutually beneficial and to amend this Statement of Understanding accordingly to include such agreements.
18. The two organizations agree that any expenses incurred as a result of cooperation or collaboration under the terms of this Statement of Understanding will be apportioned as agreed to in writing by both parties prior to incurring such expenses.
19. The use of the name and emblem of the American Red Cross by the National Mental Health Association shall be allowed only in the case of particular projects undertaken pursuant to the prior express written consent of the American Red Cross and when such projects are in conformity with American Red Cross regulations.
20. The National Mental Health Association recognizes that the American Red Cross is dependent primarily upon voluntary public financial support to carry out its programs. The National Mental Health Association will be sympathetic with the position of the American Red Cross in conducting special appeals and campaigns for funds during times of disaster, and will help interpret the need for such to its membership.

VIII. Periodic Review

Representatives of the American Red Cross Disaster Services and the National Mental Health Association will, on an annual basis, on or around the anniversary date of this agreement, jointly evaluate progress in the

implementation of the Statement of Understanding and revise and develop new plans or goals as appropriate.

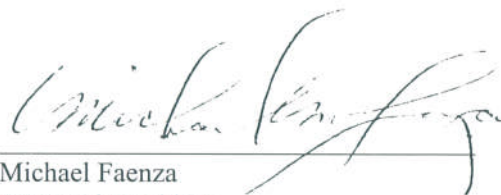
IX. Term of Statement of Understanding

This SOU shall be effective on September 28, 1998 and terminate on September 27, 2003. Six months prior to termination, the parties shall meet to review the progress and success of the SOU and determine whether it shall be extended for an additional five years. In no event shall any extension of this SOU be for a period exceeding five years.

It is understood by both parties that at any time this Statement of Understanding may be terminated by written notification from either party to the other.

X. Miscellaneous

This Statement of Understanding does not create a partnership or a joint venture, and neither party has the authority to bind the other.



Michael Faenza
CEO and President
The National Mental Health Association



Elizabeth Dole
President
American National Red Cross

Date: September 28, 1998