What is the Crisis Standards of Care Framework?
Catastrophic disasters like Hurricane Harvey in 2018 or the 2011 Joplin Tornado have had the power to overwhelm communities regardless of their level of preparedness. Disasters like these can impact day-to-day health care operations and create demand for health care that far exceeds available resources.

During a severe crisis, the way we deliver health care may need to be altered to shift focus from individual patients to the good of the whole community. The Minnesota Crisis Standards of Care (CSC) Framework was developed to describe how we will manage health care if a catastrophic disaster overwhelms resources.

What is the goal of the Framework?
The goal of the CSC Framework is to provide ethically sound guidance to health care organizations so that they can successfully manage an emergency where the standards of care have been altered from routine to a crisis state. This ethical guidance should reflect the values and priorities of communities around the state.

Public Engagement
The Minnesota Department of Health-Center for Emergency Preparedness and Response (MDH-CEPR) is conducting public engagement sessions across the state in order to:
- Increase understanding of the Framework and
- Further develop the proposed ethical guidance for Minnesota’s CSC Framework

Initial sessions took place during the spring and summer of 2017 and additional sessions will take place throughout 2018/2019.

Why Public Engagement?
Public participation in shaping the CSC ethical guidance ensures that the Framework created reflects community values and priorities from around the state.

Engagement on CSC can also increase public understanding of what CSC is, why or when it might be enacted, and more generally, of the need for disaster preparedness.

Who will participate?
MDH-CEPR will strive to engage community members representative of the diverse demographics of the state.

In order to ensure equity, efforts will be made to engage groups that have been historically marginalized, including individuals with access and functional needs (such as the disability community) and immigrant and refugee populations.

Engagement sessions with health care professionals are being conducted separately.
What will sessions include?

Engagement sessions include an educational component and scenario-based discussions. Participants will be asked to consider how to manage health care in situations where a catastrophic disaster overwhelms resources.

What will be done with the results of the session?

Notes taken during the sessions will be analyzed and incorporated into the MDH CSC Framework.

Session participants will receive a summary of how their conversations were integrated into the MDH CSC Framework.

How can I help?

MDH-CEPR wishes to collaborate with state agencies to conduct engagement sessions with their staff. Conducting sessions across state agencies builds on established relationships and educates state employees on the statewide Minnesota CSC Framework.

MDH-EPR will be asking state agencies for the following assistance:

- Identification of venues for engagement sessions (i.e. staff meetings, brown bag sessions, lunch and learns, etc)
- Promotion of the engagement sessions
- Participant recruitment

State agency participation in this project is on a volunteer basis.

What will MDH do?

MDH-CEPR will:

- Develop agendas for and facilitate the engagement sessions
- Support all logistics for the sessions
- Work with partners to recruit participants
- Collect and analyze the results of the discussions
- Share back a summary of the engagement sessions
- Amend the Crisis Standards of Care Framework

Where can I get more information?

For more information on this project, please contact:

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