



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS



## AAR PANEL SHARING & DISCUSSION

**WHEN:** August 20, 2024 from 9:00 to 11:00  
**WHERE:** Polk County Emergency Management

**PURPOSE:** Metro Hospital Emergency Management Coordinators will discuss recent challenges like data disruptions, tornado recovery, and communication outages. Join us to gain valuable insights from their experiences to enhance your organization's emergency preparedness.



## DSMHCC STRATEGIC PLAN WORKSHOP

**WHEN:** September 12, 2024, from 9:30 a.m. to noon  
**WHERE:** Polk County Emergency Management

**PURPOSE:** Presentation of the proposed 5-year Strategic Plan. Join us to explore the document and discover opportunities for collaboration to advance our mission and vision.

**Mission:** Enhance the health and wellbeing of Polk County residents by engaging health care agencies through collaboration, coordination, mitigation, prevention, protection, response and recovery operations relating to public health and medical service events.

**Vision:** Establish a resilient, interconnected health care system that is accessible to all Polk County residents before, during and after disasters.

# Help us grow the DSMHCC+

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You can help us grow our professional network by sharing this newsletter with other healthcare professionals who may find it valuable. Our aim is to have a diverse representation from a range of healthcare-related institutions. During emergencies and disasters, our local healthcare systems are interconnected, and unity amplifies our strengths. Our focus will be on improving and coordinating our emergency response services. We are committed to enhancing capabilities and assisting the entire community.

Encourage individuals who are interested in engaging in conversations and partnering with other response organizations to click on the link below to be included in our email distribution list to receive timely updates and important information.

<https://forms.gle/rSVkoGEMyxtVPd1n8>

## COALITION COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Thank you to the many coalition stakeholders who have been working to update the Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) portion of the Comprehensive Emergency Plan (CEP). The intent is to educate more people about the existence of the plan and collaborate so we can improve and expand our readiness. The improvements include the inclusion of the Hospital Liaison position, ordering and distribution of liaison vests and collected feedback and implemented improvements with each MCI event. Check out the brief definition and best practices for responding to an MCI below.

## Mass Casualty Incident (MCI)

Polk County declares a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) for situations involving (or suspected to involve) five (5) or more critical patients or ten (10) or more total patients. This declaration can occur through an initial assessment at the scene by responding personnel or by dispatchers following credible reports. Here are the recommended actions to take when dealing with an MCI incident:

- Polk County Dispatch will inform Metro hospitals about the MCI.
- The EMA Duty Officer and Hospital Liaisons will be activated.
- The Transportation Officer is responsible for maintaining patient identification, destination, and method of transport.
- Critical patients being transported should be divided equally between MercyOne and Unity Point. Ambulance strike teams should be requested based on the severity of the incident.

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