

THE NATIONAL

DIVISION ON EARTH AND LIFE STUDIES

ACADEMIES

Disasters Roundtable Workshop #25 Children and Youth in Disasters: Closing Gaps Among Research, Practice, and Policy

Robert S. Pynoos, M.D., M.P.H.

Professor and Co-Director,

National Center for Child Traumatic Stress

Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences

David Geffen School of Medicine,

University of California, Los Angeles

June 24, 2009



THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine

National Academy of Sciences

National Academy of Engineering

Institute of Medicine

National Research Council



Modernizing Disaster Mental Health

- **Well-equipped by accumulated scientific knowledge**
- **“Disaster Signature”**
- **Developmental and cultural parameters**
- **Seamless progression of data collection to govern disaster response planning, mitigation, and recovery**
- **Tiered public mental health approach and algorithms of care**



Modernizing Disaster Mental Health

- **Stratification, staging, continuum of intervention strategies,**
- **Tailored outreach efforts/enhanced services for at-risk populations**
- **Strength and skill-based interventions along with specialized treatment for highly distressed**
- **Integrated parent, caregiver, and child mental health services, e.g. family-centered, school-based, 1st responders**



Modernizing Disaster Mental Health

- **Preparedness - education, resilience building and infrastructure- is a mental health intervention**
- **Addressing community resource loss is a mental health intervention**
- **Modernizing crisis counseling to utilize state-of-the-art interventions – Skills for Psychological Recovery – is critical**
- **Early long-term recovery planning and resources is key**



Modernizing Disaster Mental Health

- **Integrate child-serving systems – trauma-informed practices and PFA Field Operations Guide**
- **Ensure regional and national disaster child and family mental health planning**
- **Adopt modern training platforms – distance learning and learning communities**