

# Tagbilaran strengthens health workers for mental health support during crises



PHOTO: Dr. Jeia N. Pondoc, City Health Officer, is shown delivering a message at JJ's Seafood Village in Tagbilaran City (on April 14, 2026) to participants of the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Training participated in by frontline health workers and responders held for 4 days at the same venue.

The City Government of Tagbilaran conducted its second Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Training from April 14 to 17, 2026 at JJ's Seafood Village, Tagbilaran City.

The four-day training was attended by the staff of the Tagbilaran City Primary Care Facility (TCPCF) including doctors, nurses, midwives and other health personnel, as well as, Barangay Health Workers, Barangay Nutrition Scholars, and personnel from the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO).

The training was led by Dr. Jeia Pondoc, City Health Officer and head of the Tagbilaran City Primary Care Facility, with resource speakers from the Department of Health-Central Visayas Center for Health Development.

Dr. Pondoc said that the training was aimed at strengthening the capacity of city- and barangay-level responders to deliver basic mental health and psychosocial support, particularly during disasters, crises and other high-stress situations.

City Mayor Jane Yap added that the activity reflected the city's effort to make mental health support part of frontline public service.

"In times of crisis, people need more than physical assistance.

They also need care, understanding, and emotional support," Yap said.

"By training our health workers and responders, we are strengthening Tagbilaran's ability to care for our people in their most difficult moments."

The City Government of Tagbilaran is holding this training as part of its continuing effort to build a more responsive local health system, with mental health and psychosocial care integrated into emergency preparedness and health services.

