

Partnerships For Emergency Preparedness: An Academic and Public Health Practice Collaboration for Needs Assessment and Course Development

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Presentation Objectives

- Describe the benefits of an academic and public health practice partnership
- Recognize the implications for improving workforce preparedness training opportunities
- Describe the impact of a needs assessment study on the effective development of training events

Presentation Overview

- Project Public Health Ready
- Training needs assessment
- Development of need-based training courses
- Academic/Practice collaboration benefits & outcomes
- Lessons learned from partnership

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR)

Collaborative activity between:

- National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Purpose:

- To prepare public health to respond to emergencies and protect the public's health

Goals:

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning
- Workforce Competency Development
- Exercises to Evaluate Preparedness.



Berrien County Health Department

- All-hazards approach to emergency preparedness planning and response.
- Help prepare the general public, health department, and community partners for public health emergencies.
- Population served: 162,453 (2000 Census)
- 2 nuclear power plants within area of responsibility (DC Cook and Palisades)



Michigan Center for Public Health Preparedness

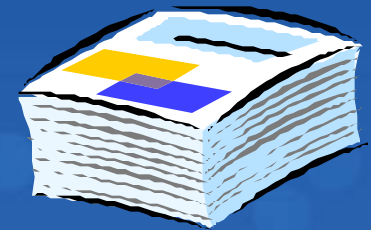
- National network of 36 centers (academic institutions) established by CDC to support the preparedness efforts of state and local health departments
- Goals:
 - ✓ Increase the number and type of professionals that comprise a prepared workforce
 - ✓ Deliver certification and competency-based training and education
 - ✓ Recruit and educate to retain a high quality preparedness workforce
 - ✓ Evaluate impact of training to assure learning has occurred.



Needs Assessment

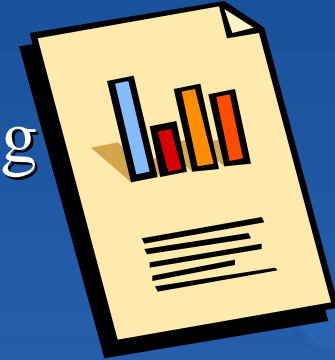
Multi-Method Needs Assessment conducted to assess the perceptions of public health emergency training needs among the health department employees (Spring/Summer 2006)

- 3 focus groups
 - ~ 2 non-management; 1 management
 - ~ Groups informed survey tool development
- Online survey
 - ~ Content: demographic information, training needs for specific public health emergencies, level of competence for 5 emergency scenarios; ratings for 10 preparedness competencies, personal impact of public health emergencies
 - ~ 69% response rate; >50% in all services areas with the exception of administration department



Results—focus groups

- Training needs: Personal role during emergency
- Training focus:
 - ✓ Management—transportation accident; nuclear plant accident
 - ✓ Non-management—terrorist incident; water contamination



Results—online survey

- Only 44% considered themselves essential personnel for emergencies.
- Majority would not report to work during a radiological/nuclear incident.
- Felt most at risk during a radiological/nuclear incident.
- Training needs:
 - ✓ Personal role during an emergency
 - ✓ Chain of command
 - ✓ Within and across-agency communications
 - ✓ Incident command procedures



Common Themes Among Both Methods

- Need for employees to know their personal role in the department's response to public health emergencies.
 - ✓ Responsibilities
 - ✓ Specific work tasks
 - ✓ Who to report to
 - ✓ How to communicate with others

Outcomes of Needs Assessment

- Training plan drafted to assist with gaps identified in the needs assessment.
- Courses developed to meet need.
- Stronger Academic-Practice partnership.
- Berrien County—one of 3 local health departments to be recognized by NACCHO as *Public Health Ready*.

Course Development 1



- Effects of Radiological Agents
 - Full day didactic training-November, 2006 (2x onsite, national live and archived webcast)
 - Focus on:
 - ~ Basic principles of radiation protection
 - ~ Roles and responsibilities of public health in an accidental or intentional radiological emergency event
 - ~ Biological damage from exposure to various types of radiation
 - ~ Positive medical aspects of radiation

Course Development 1

Positive Feedback:

- “The lectures by Dr. Joiner were outstanding. Some of the best that I have ever seen. [Our department] could certainly use them for our in-house training.”
- “Good overview of public health response, and also extremely detailed discussion of physiological aspects of exposure to radiological agents.”
- “Improvement in my knowledge of the public health responsibilities during disaster in the field.”

Course Development 2

- Applied Incident Command
for Public Health

- Full day interactive training (6 locations throughout Michigan)
- Focus on implementation of ICS 100 and 200 concepts from public health perspective during a foodborne scenario and communicable disease scenario.



Course Development 2

Positive Feedback:

- "[The course included a] detailed, step-by-step description of Public Health's roles and responsibilities in a situation where Incident Command is used."
- "Before the training, the ICS was "fuzzy" with this training the ICS is clearer and I can apply this to my local health department."
- "This course went beyond my expectations! I've taken the 100, 200, 700, 800, yet could not apply it to our ICS. This course made the info "click" for me. I finally get it, and I applaud the presenters. Great Job! Great Exercise!"

Course Development Partnership

- Planning committee
- Trainer
- Participant recruitment

Agency Strengths/Benefits

Academic Partner

- Strengths
 - ~ Content expertise
 - ~ Competency-based curriculum development expertise
 - ~ Needs assessment/analyses expertise
 - ~ Resources (time/\$)
- Benefits
 - ~ Learning needs of non-management staff at LHD; focus typically on training management
 - ~ Course design and development assistance from health department
 - ~ Commitment of health department

Agency Strengths/Benefits

Public Health Department Partner

- Strengths
 - ~ Field-based expertise
 - ~ Community partnerships
 - ~ Practice-based knowledge of training needs
- Benefits
 - ~ Identification of training needs of employees
 - ~ Access to relevant/free training for employees
 - ~ Awareness of additional training opportunities from academic connection

Partnership Benefits

- Training needs identified in all departments and at all levels of the local health department
- Relevant training developed to meet the needs identified



Key to a Successful Partnership



1. Goals that are common and realistic
2. Communication needs to be clear and occur frequently
3. Commitment by all agencies and management to achieve goals
4. Appreciation of the strengths and weaknesses of the other agency

Thank You!



Questions



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Full report available at
mipreparedness.org

