

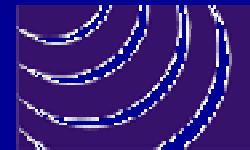
Are We Prepared for Pandemic Avian Influenza Session 5185.0

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&

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CONSTELLA



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Advancing Human Health

Planning, Preparation, and Implementation

Two Key Issues:

- 1. If Pandemic Avian Influenza (PAI) occurs, it will exceed our worst historical disasters.
- 2. How can we address the fact that the mental health and substance use fields are absent?

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The ABCs of PAI Projections:

- 1% will die; 10% will become very ill
- Economy will stop; schools will stop
- Several cycles will occur over and extended period
- Problem will be national; external resources will not be available

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ABCs of PAI Projections:

- CDC and HRSA have given grants to the States (Directors of PH Preparedness) to prepare PAI Plans and conduct Tabletop Exercises
- Plans are available at:
<http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

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ABCs of PAI Projections:

- These plans are critical: *Community and personal survival will very likely depend upon whether the Pandemic Plans actually work.*
- Therefore, Constella undertook a review of these State plans in 2006.

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Key Constella Findings in 2006:

- Plans should extend beyond health
- Impact estimates should be documented
- Government continuity should be addressed
- Business activities should be considered

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Constella Findings Continued:

- State plans should be coordinated with local activities
- Major health and social services should be included
- Communication plans should be broadened

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Constella Findings Continued:

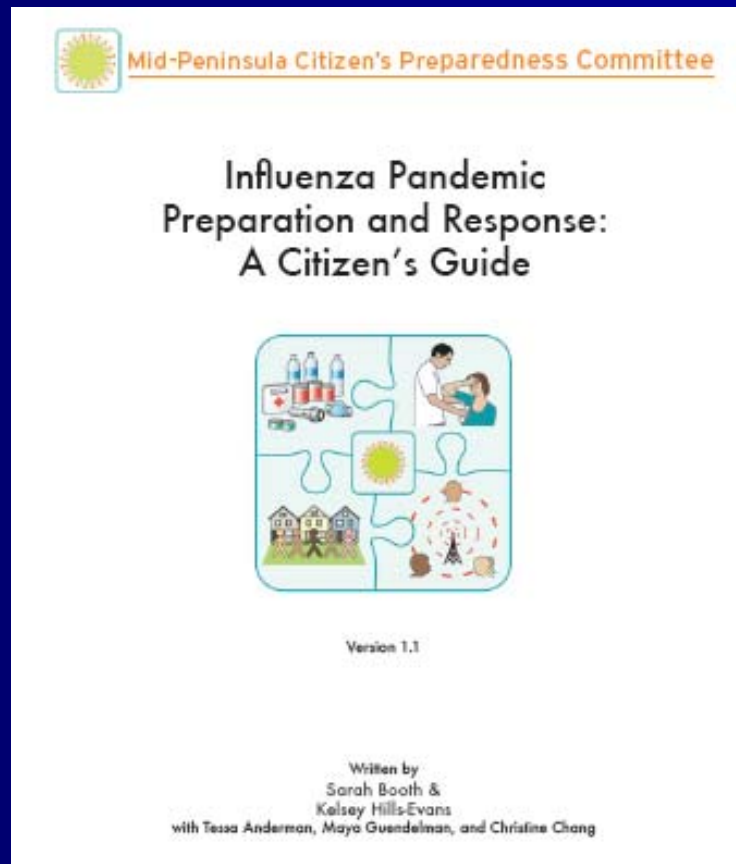
- Mortuary services should be considered
- Plans should include ongoing implementation activities

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Actions Constella Recommended:

- Conduct a Detailed Review of the Plans—Has been undertaken
- Create a Model Plan
- Convene Focus Groups of States: ID Barriers and Solutions—Constella has undertaken
- Provide State Specific TA

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Mental Health and Substance Use:

- Not usually mentioned in the State Plans
- Are a critical part of the State infrastructure
- Serve populations that will be particularly affected by the dislocations caused by avian flu

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- 6% of adults and 9-13% of children have serious mental illnesses.
- Public mental health consumers die 25 years younger than other Americans.
- Returnees from Iraq and Afghanistan have begun presenting with major mental health and substance use issues.

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- An estimated 44% of cigarettes are used by persons with mental illnesses.
- An epidemic of 33,000 suicides occurs each year.
- An estimated 30-40% of teenagers are experiencing depression.
- An estimated 60% of adults with substance use problems also experience mental health problems.
- And we could go on....

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Mental Health and Substance Use:

- Constella prepared a white paper, "Preparing for Pandemic Avian Influenza: Ensuring Mental Health Services and Mitigating Panic."
- This paper is available at www.constellagroup.com

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Mental Health and Substance Use:

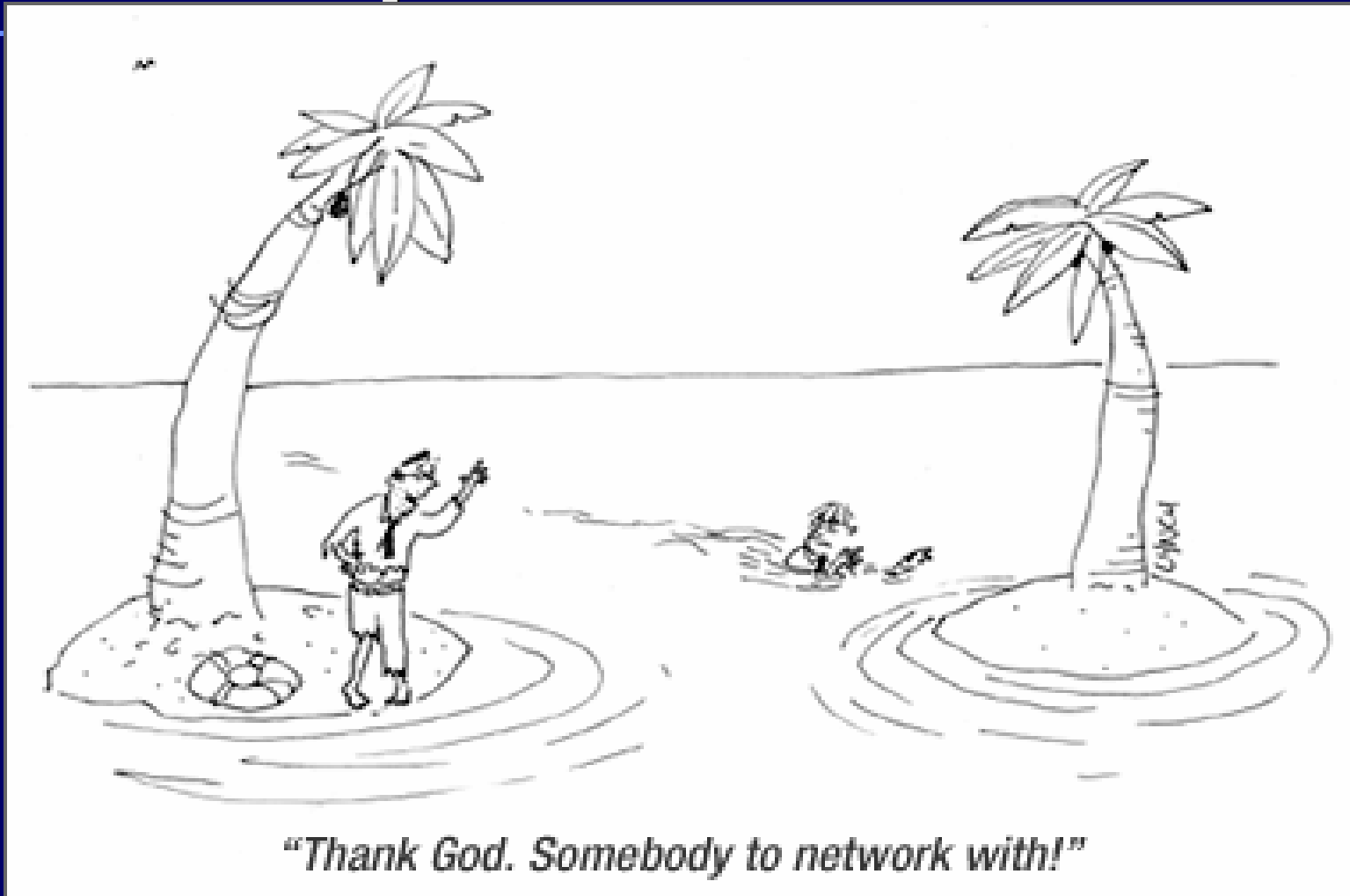
- Core Finding: *Ensuring MH and SU services and mitigating panic are essential to reducing the severe disruptions associated with the secondary effects of PAI.*

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Some Key Factors:

- Many new cases of mental illness are likely to develop
- Current clients will need ongoing care provision
- Panic reactions can threaten community infrastructure.

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Recommended Actions:

- Plan to Reprogram Federal MH Funds
- Plan the State and Local MH Response
- Support the Private Sector Response
- Ensure the Mental Health of Essential Personnel

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Recommended Actions:

- Mitigate Panic
- Identify and Empower a Lead Federal Agency

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Key Data Systems:

- **BIOSENSE**: Reporting of biological agents from terror, accident, or natural event. Currently, 1000 Hospitals.
- **VAERS**: Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. Currently, 50 State coordinators, 6 drug companies, citizens.

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- Some recent developments on Mental Health:
 - GAO has issued a report on *Disaster Preparedness* that calls for HHS and DOL-OSHA to assume responsibility for mental health care post a disaster.
 - GAO is working on a second report, *Disaster Behavioral Health*.

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- How can we get mental health and substance use care to the table?

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Potential Actions:

- SMHAs and SUAs need to reach out to the State Directors of Public Health Preparedness
- SMHAs and SUAs need to engage their own planners in a PAI plan process
- SMHAs and SUAs need to work with local facilities

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Potential Actions:

- MH and SU advocates need to work closely with the State PH Affiliate
- MH and SU advocates need to educate consumers and families to the PAI threat and reasoned responses.
- Other strategies?

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