

## **Mobile Medical Health Services:**

*An emerging clinical system optimal for low income, displace families after a disaster*

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# Purpose

*A unique solution to healthcare access  
for children and their families post  
major disasters*

## The ultimate Puzzle Piece

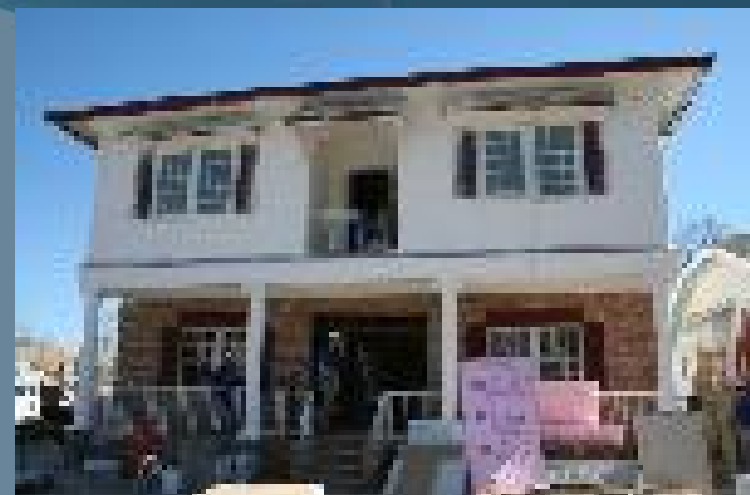
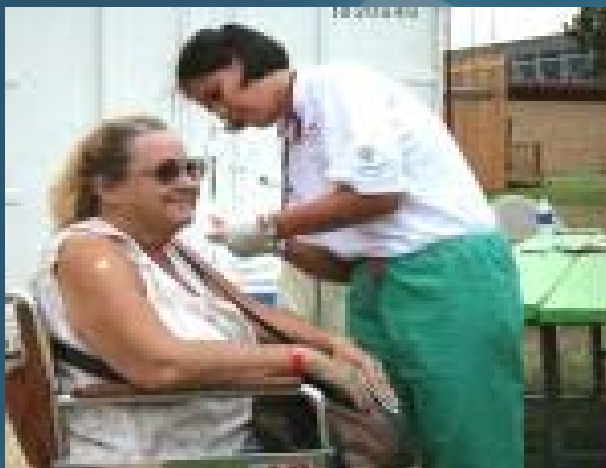


# Agenda

- Public health impact post major disasters
- The Children's Health Fund response
- Impact of mobile medical services
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Children's Health Project experience
- Current status in the Gulf
- Implications for the "newly poor"



# Public Health Impact





# Who are We?

- National network of 22 mobile medical programs
- Medical, mental, and some dental health services
- Children and their families
- Regardless of ability to pay
- State-of-the-art mobile units

*Founders:*

*Irwin Redlener, M.D., President  
and singer/song writer Paul Simon*







# Post Disaster Services

- Hurricane Andrew
- 9/11
- Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
- Clinical Services
  - Medical health
  - Mental health
- Public Health Research
- Political Advocacy

Operation Assist



# Arrival in the Gulf

- 5 days post Hurricane Katrina
- Urgent/Emergent Care for families four months
- Volunteers from 17 programs within *The Children's Health Fund Network*





## Impact of CHF **Operation Assist** post Hurricane Katrina and Rita

- **40,000 patient encounter** (Sept. 2005 – June, 2007)
- **38 sites** (Mississippi, Louisiana, Houston, Dallas and Austin Texas, and Hempstead, NY.)

*2007 Annual Conference-Operation Assist Update. October 11, 2007*





## Impact of CHF **Operation Assist** post Hurricane Katrina

- Establishment of **3 permanent direct service projects**
  - The Mississippi Gulf Coast Children's Health Project
  - The Baton Rouge Children's Health Project
  - The New Orleans Children's Health Project
- 17,544 patient encounters by the 3 projects in past 6 months (January – June 2007)

*2007 Annual Conference-Operation Assist Update. October 11, 2007*



# Optimal Solution for a Broken Healthcare Infrastructure

## The Mississippi Gulf Coast Children's Health Project



- Affiliation with Coastal Family Health Center
- Permanent program - December 2005
- Target: low income children, adolescents and young adults (0-24y)



# Mississippi Gulf Coast Children's Health Project

- Community Support and Resiliency Program (CSRP)

- Play Therapist
- Social Worker/Counselor
- Psychologist
- Field Specialist
- Health Educator

- Medical Mobile Unit (MMU)

- Pediatrician
- Nurse Practitioner
- Nurse
- Social Worker/Case Manager
- Field Specialist



# Ongoing Concerns

- Increased mental health concerns
- 30,000 residents in FEMA trailers
- Thousands of families still displaced
- 100,000 Mississippi children eligible, not enrolled MCD/CHIPS
- New Grand “parents”
- Hospital/ Medical office closings





# Areas of Greatest Concern Post Disaster

- **\*Urgent Medical Care**
- **\*Community Support**
- **\*Mental Health Support**
- **\*Continuity of Medical Care and Case Management**
- **\*Advocacy**



# Children's and Family Health Study

- Chronic diseases going untreated
- Mental illness on the rise
- Safety nets for vulnerable populations no longer exist

*Abramson, David. On the Edge: Children and Families Displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Face a Looming Medical and Mental Health Crisis. Aug. 2006*



# Harvard Medical School Katrina Advisory Group

- “Undetermined stress and/or vulnerability factors present among people from (areas other than metro New Orleans affected by Katrina) that should lead policy makers to focus attention on the needs of these people.”

*Ronald Kessler, Director*

*Norman, Joshua. SunHerald. Nov.4, 2007*



# Implications for Citizens

- Increase chronic disease mismanagement impacting HC system
- Soaring mental health concerns
- Limited Access = decrease care
- Continuity of care hampered
- Decrease school/work performance
- *Universal societal impact*





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- *The Children's Health Fund Response*
- *Impact of mobile medical services*
- *Mississippi Gulf Coast Children's Health Project experience*
- *Current status in the Gulf*
- *Implications for the "newly poor"*



# Mobile Medical Health Services:

*An emerging clinical system optimal for low income, displaced families after a disaster*

- *Comprehensive*
- *Quality*
- *Continuity*
- *Consistent*



**Access**  
**Socioeconomic status**  
**System Disconnect**

**Questions???**