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**Gaps and Challenges in the Integration of
Public Health & Behavioral Health
Disaster Response**
-A Responder's Perspective


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Wednesday, October 31, 2012

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People matter, results count.

Presentation Snap-Shot


- Presenter Disclosure
- Disaster Behavioral Health
- The Perfect Plan
- Practice Integration
- Wrap-up



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Your Presenter

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Disaster Behavioral Health: Defined

“... comprises the mental health issues related to disasters and the means of addressing them, including proactive methods to build resiliency and short- and long-term approaches to restoring and maintaining psychological and emotional health in the face of an emergency.” - PPHR

“... the provision of mental health, substance abuse, and stress management to disaster survivors and responders.” - HHS

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) – 2012
<http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/PPHR/Criteria.cfm>




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Disaster Behavioral Health: A Public Health Practice

A common challenge with the integration of public health and behavioral health disaster response is the recognition of behavioral health as a public health practice.

- Just like environmental health, epidemiology, and biostatistics, behavioral health is a public health practice.
- Disaster Behavioral Health (DBH) further applies behavioral health concepts in times of a disaster to survivors, responders, and other populations.
- What is unique about DBH is that it applies to everyone:
 - Survivors of the affected community, individuals and populations of surrounding communities, and at times others across the Nation (e.g. Hurricane Katrina) and throughout the world (e.g. September 11, 2011 terrorist attacks)
 - Responders (e.g. Police, fire, EMS, utilities, volunteers, crisis counselors, etc.)
 - Providers (e.g. First receivers, mental health professionals, etc.)


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The Perfect Plan

One major challenge is knowing what to use; when to use it; how to use it...

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The Perfect Plan

One major challenge is knowing what to use; when to use it; how to use it...

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The Perfect Plan: National Incident Management System (NIMS)

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) defines **preparedness** as "a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action in an effort to ensure effective coordination during incident response."

This 'preparedness cycle' is one element of a broader **National Preparedness System** to prevent, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

<http://www.fema.gov/preparedness-1>

Homeland Security

The Perfect Plan: Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 8 – National Preparedness

National Preparedness Goal



National Preparedness System

November 2011



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The Perfect Plan: National Preparedness Mission Areas

Prevention

Protection

Mitigation

Response

Recovery



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The Perfect Plan: National Preparedness Mission Areas

Prevention

Protection

Mitigation

Response

Recovery

Whole Community



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The Perfect Plan: CPG 101 V.2



State, Territorial, Tribal, and Local Plans
Comprehensive Planning Guide (CPG) 101 V.2


- **Describes the fundamentals of planning and developing emergency plans**
- **Provides guidance for:**
 - Strategic Plan
 - Operational Plan
 - Tactical Plan
- **Plans described:**
 - Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)
 - Standard Operating Procedure / Guideline (SOP / SOG)
 - Field Operations Guide (FOG) or handbook

Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans
Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101
Version 2.0
November 2010



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The Perfect Plan: CPG 101 V.2



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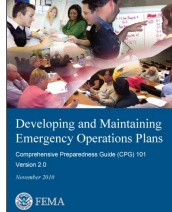
Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans
Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101
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The Perfect Plan: CPG 101 V.2

- Introduction and Overview
- 1. The Basics of Planning
- 2. Understanding the Planning Environment: Federal, State, and Local Plans
- 3. Format and Function: Identifying the Right Plan for the Job
- 4. The Planning Process
 - Step 1: Form a Collaborative Planning Team
 - Step 2: Understand the Situation
 - Step 3: Determine Goals and Objectives
 - Step 4: Plan Development
 - Step 5: Plan Preparation, Review, and Approval
 - Step 6: Plan Implementation and Maintenance



Developing and Maintaining Emergency Operations Plans
Comprehensive Preparedness Guide (CPG) 101
Version 2.0
November 2010



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Wrap-up



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Practice Integration

- Public health and behavioral health disaster response lack consistent collaboration and standardized integration with preparedness partners
- The concept of the “Whole Community” calls for the leveraging, collaboration, and cooperation of all key players and stakeholders
- Public Health, as the lead for **Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8: Public Health and Medical Services**, is expected by the public to provide health and medical direction, guidance, support, and services to individuals, families, and communities during disasters
- Disaster Behavioral Health services are an expectation of the public, and a critical need for responders



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Practice Integration

Steps forward in the National Capital Region (NCR)

- Regional preparedness and coordination efforts
- Regional health and medical planning
- Public health and behavioral health at the table with emergency management, public safety, hospitals, and others



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Practice Integration: Responder Focus

- It's time to take a second look at responders
- Responders provide a unique challenge for public health and behavioral health disaster response:
 - Provide initial contact with survivors
 - Expected to triage and treat patients according to scope and protocol, maintain incident safety and security, and/or conduct other emergency operations
 - Subjected to continuous exposure to a disaster scene and traumatic incidents
 - Are often survivors themselves
 - Lack standardized training, guidance, procedures, and protocols for application in the field
 - While many resources do exist, police/fire academies and EMS schools do not incorporate sufficient training, education, or competencies for responders

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Practice Integration: Responder Focus

"Psychological first aid is one of the most important skills my team can have in the field."

Christina Catlett, MD, FACEP
Medical Officer, MD-1 DMAT
Director, Johns Hopkins Go Team MRC

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Practice Integration: Responder Focus

- Disaster Behavioral Health (DBH) integration into first/disaster responder training, education, and certification process would help bridge the DBH gaps during the initial interactions of the survivor and responder.
- Standardized core DBH competencies for responders, in conjunction with requirements for skill demonstration (e.g. CPR, ACLS, etc.) would help bring DBH to life in practice, in training, and subsequently the field.
- Standardized guidance for survivors provides an opportunity for unaffected survivors to actually care for responders.
 - For example, encouraging survivors to demonstrate appreciation to responders for their duties is a powerful tool in refreshing and refueling responders.

Psychological First Aid for First Responders
Tips for Emergency and Disaster Response Workers




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Practice Integration: Responder Focus

*"I personally haven't saved a lot of lives in disasters...
... but I've given a lot of hugs and held a lot of hands."*

Christina Catlett, MD, FACEP
Medical Officer, MD-1 DMAT
Director, Johns Hopkins Go Team MRC

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Practice Integration: "Whole Community"

- Integrating Disaster Behavioral Health (DBH) Dynamically across the "Whole Community"
 - Survivors
 - Responders
 - Providers
 - Animals

ASPR

	Survivors	Responders	Providers	Animals
Survivors	S-S	R-S	P-S	A-S
Responders	S-R	R-R	P-R	A-R
Providers	S-P	R-P	P-P	A-P
Animals	S-A	R-A	P-A	A-A

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
A NATION PREPARED

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Practice Integration: Information Technology & Mobility

Health Information Technology (HIT)

Health Information Exchange (HIE)

The use information technology and mobility in the disaster response is here.
The time for Public Health and Behavioral Health Disaster Response to get involved is now.

Southeast Regional HIT-HIE Collaboration (SEARCH): Final Report, OVC State Health Policy Consortium Project: Health Information Exchange in Disaster Preparedness and Response, July 2012

<http://www.healthit.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/SERCH-White-Paper.pdf>

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Wrap-up

- Disaster Behavioral Health: *a public health practice*
- The Perfect Plan: *knowing what to use; when to use it; how to use it*
- Practice Integration: *responder focus*
- Practice Integration: *the "whole community"*
- Practice Integration: *Health Information Technology (HIT) and Health Information Exchange (HIE)*

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