

Community Resilience 2013 - 2014 Program Highlights



Community Resilience has been defined by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as the sustained ability of communities to withstand and recover from adversity.

Community resilience relies on the ability to develop informed, empowered and robust health care systems and social networks.

The Florida Department of Health, Division of Emergency Preparedness and Community Support, Bureau of Preparedness and Response, Community Resilience Unit supports a whole community approach to disaster preparedness, response and recovery. The groundwork for establishing a resilient community needs to be in place prior to a public health emergency event.



The following highlights are from fiscal year 2013-2014 program initiatives that support the enhancement of community readiness and the delivery of health care services to vulnerable populations most at-risk for poor health outcomes due to a disaster or incident.

Children's Disaster Preparedness

- Continued to make major strides with the Children's Preparedness Coalition to build the children's preparedness infrastructure in the state by:
 - Increasing the number of meetings with the coalition to receive updates on current initiatives, brainstorm various topics, provide input on workgroup projects and share valuable information to benefit the program and its partners;
 - Creating workgroups to address three of the identified high-priority areas for children's preparedness: state guidance, healthcare coalition involvement and education and awareness. The purpose of these workgroups is to: 1) create children's preparedness guidance for the state, 2) ensure pediatric representation in the state and local healthcare coalitions for planning purposes to meet the needs of children and 3) provide education and awareness to bolster the amount of information available to the public and partners concerning children's preparedness; and
 - Added new stakeholders to the coalition and reconnected former agencies with the group to be a part of the planning process.
- Developed two new children's preparedness resources to educate the public and include in the program's growing toolkit: 1) a School Preparedness brochure targeted to school principals/administrators and school safety officers to encourage the inclusion of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) based preparedness curricula at their schools for the benefit of all students, and 2) a Family with Children brochure that encourages proper preparedness. These tools were created to ensure children can be resilient during a disaster.
- Successfully partnered with the Statewide Healthcare Working Group to have children's

preparedness initiatives as part of the healthcare coalition structure and have representation in the local healthcare coalitions.

- Provided outreach and presentations to build interest in children's preparedness, such as the Florida Crisis Consortium, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Family Café and the Governor's Hurricane Conference.
- Began sending Children's Disaster Preparedness (CDP) information blasts to the Children's Preparedness Coalition to keep them informed of current CDP news, trends, research and other related information that will assist Florida in being prepared for disasters and emergencies.

Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI)

- Successful Technical Assistance Reviews were completed on all 14 participating counties.
- Tools and resources were collected for the updating and enhancement of an online CRI Toolkit.
- Monthly conference calls were held with local CRI coordinators to review plans, share resources and address questions and concerns.
- CRI was included in the annual state Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Technical Assistance Review by the CDC. Florida was awarded a score of 100.
- State Receipt, Stage and Store (RSS) Team participated in a CDC-hosted training to increase the state's ability to quickly receive, process and distribute emergency supplies.

Community and Health Care System Recovery

- Eighteen all hazards/Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) trainings and exercises were developed and conducted for 326 persons from Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC).
- Tools and resources to guide and support local communities in efforts to develop and sustain a health care continuum of care for elders during disasters were developed and posted to the Vulnerable Populations online Toolkit.
- Florida Crisis Consortium (FCC) members participated in trainings and exercises focused on children and disaster behavioral health, and active shooters.
- Conducted a session for Department of Health preparedness planners to discuss the CDC recovery capability and how the state and counties can work together to meet Florida's recovery needs after a disaster.
- Additional activities highlighted under individual programs support Community and Health Care System Recovery efforts.

Disaster Behavioral Health Response Teams

- FCC/DBH information booths were set up at the Child Protection Summit in Orlando, Florida Coalition for Children Conference in Tallahassee and the Florida Mental Health Counselors Conference in Lake Mary.
- FCC/DBH presentations were made at local Healthcare Coalitions in Pasco, Pinellas, Duval and Manatee counties.
- Advanced Team Training focusing on children and disaster behavioral health was provided to 20 FCC members.

- The FCC convened a meeting of nine statewide partners at the University of South Florida to foster collaboration, discuss program activities and review operating guidelines.
- FCC members participated in the Clay County Active Shooter Tabletop Exercise.
- An annual HSEEP-compliant DBH Tabletop Exercise was conducted in Tampa. The exercise included a cultural competency training module for team members.
- A five-person DBH Strike Team was deployed by state ESF-8 to Pensacola to support Department of Health personnel impacted by the May 2014 flooding.
- A five-person DBH Assessment Team participated in the Statewide Hurricane Exercise supporting the Jacksonville Special Needs Shelter.
- A training session titled, Integrating Disaster Behavioral Health into Disaster Planning, was presented to 19 attendees at the Governor's Hurricane Conference.
- FCC members provided information at a booth during the Governor's Hurricane Conference.
- A DBH responder session titled, Compassion Satisfaction or Fatigue for Interpreters, was included as part of the Emergency Management Interpreters for the Deaf Training held in Orlando.

Health Care and Public Health Critical Infrastructure Protection

- Surveyed assessed hospitals and confirmed the effectiveness, usefulness and value of the Healthcare Facility Security Assessment Instrument and assessment process.
- Fourteen in-state and five out-of-state trainees completed the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) for hospitals course.
- Three hospitals completed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Cyber Resilience Review.
- Prepared the health care and public health state significant critical infrastructure assets in the Automated Critical Asset Management System (ACAMS) for migration to the DHS Infrastructure Protection (IP) Gateway.
- Shared multiple DHS and local threat intelligence documents with hospitals throughout the state to achieve situational awareness.

Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP)

- Community emergency preparedness plans have been developed to prepare more than 163,461 Florida residents.
- The program executed 13 Memoranda of Agreement for 2013-2014 NEPP communities.
- There are currently 13 communities in 5 counties representing six sustaining counties and six startup communities.
- Monthly conference calls were held with county health department NEPP coordinators to review program deliverables and milestones, discuss upcoming events and address questions and concerns.
- The NEPP online toolkit was regularly updated and enhanced with more tools and resources to assist participating communities and points of contact.
- A community lead from a participating NEPP community made a presentation at the annual Governor's Hurricane Conference regarding emergency preparedness, response and recovery challenges faced by Hispanic communities.

- Each community emergency preparedness plan scored at least 94 percent in meeting the required plan elements and related expectations.

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR)

- Twelve counties that applied for PPHR recognition in 2013 (Brevard, Charlotte, Citrus, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Monroe, Okeechobee, Osceola, Seminole and Suwannee) were successfully awarded PPHR status resulting in 54 counties currently being recognized.
- Eight counties applied for PPHR recognition as Public Health Ready counties for 2014. Those counties are: Bay, Calhoun, Collier, Duval, Franklin, Gadsden, Jackson and Lafayette.
- Seven applicant county site visits were conducted to provide orientation and tools for completing the PPHR criteria and submission requirements.
- Monthly conference calls were held with counties and the NACCHO representative to review specific PPHR criteria, discuss applicant concerns, address questions and provide project updates.

Vulnerable Population Preparedness

- Developed videos addressing emergency preparedness issues for the deaf and hard of hearing, children with special needs and persons needing the use of special needs shelters in an emergency.
- Staffed and staged an exhibit at the Family Café Conference for Persons with Disabilities where information on emergency preparedness was disseminated to and discussed with over 5,000 participants. A brochure and poster featuring healthy foods to pack in a hurricane kit were also debuted.
- Presented sessions at the National American Public Health Association annual meeting in Boston. The department received excellent feedback on an oral session on discharge planning titled, “Safely Returning Sheltered Persons Back to the Community,” and a poster session/display describing the collaboration between the department and community based organizations for assisting persons with disabilities develop disaster preparedness plans.
- Enhanced and integrated vulnerable population county profile data into the department’s Community Health Assessment Resource Toolset (CHARTS) making it more accessible to planners and others who use this information.
- Sponsored and conducted an Emergency Management Interpreters for the Deaf Training in Orlando Florida in collaboration with the Florida Division of Emergency Management and the Florida Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. Eighteen interpreters from across the state were trained to prepare them to provide interpreting services in a variety of emergency management settings prior to, during and after disasters.

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For more information on the Florida Department of Health, Division of Emergency Preparedness and Community Support, Bureau of Preparedness and Response, Community Resilience programs and initiatives see individual program fact sheets or go to:

www.floridahealth.gov/preparedness-and-response/community-preparedness/community-resilience or go to www.floridahealth.gov and enter the word “resilience” in the search box.

