

Florida Children's Preparedness Coalition
Conference Call Minutes

October 22, 2013
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Welcome and Roll Call - Attendees:

Stephanie Brown – Facilitator
Vivian Carroll - Recorder
Victor Johnson
Gail LaRosa
Stephanie Anspaugh-Naples
Ashley Lee
John Lanza
John Wilgis
Mike Haney
Scott Needle
Tommy Schechtman
Debby Russo
Julie Robert
Donna Paquette
Kelly Stannard
Shawn Hamm

Update: Save the Children Report Card – Progress Report

Deborah Russo – Provided an update on the revision of child care regulations through the Department of Children and Families that enabled Florida to close the gap on the two remaining areas of the *Save the Children* 2013 National Report Card on Protecting Children in Disasters. Florida was identified among 28 states, and the District of Columbia, as still failing to meet minimum standards recommended by the *National Commission on Children and Disasters* to protect children. The report focused on two areas/gaps: 1) a plan for evacuating children in childcare, and 2) a plan for children with disabilities and those with access and functional needs. The full report is available at:

http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.8777053/k.F31D/Get_Ready_Get_Safe_Disaster_Report_Card.htm

The rule was opened in 2010, and required that there be evacuation and reunification plans in daycares and included language on children with special needs. It was unable to be promulgated until 2013 because it was included with the Food Hygiene rule, which had special requirements. The rule was officially adopted on August 1, 2013, with language recommended by Save the Children. The next report card should show Florida in full compliance with all four measures.

Disaster Behavioral Health: Children and Peds

Dr. Mike Haney reported on Psychological First-Aid for children with special needs and the creation of a workgroup focused on:

- The integration of children's disaster behavioral needs in emergency planning,
- Making sure of appropriate plans for this population to meet their needs and how they're impacted,

- Meeting their physiological needs, and
- Recruiting volunteers who have received training.

It was recommended that in the event of a disaster behavioral health need, to go through the local Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF8) Operations Center.

There's a training in Tampa on November 8-9, focusing on Psychological First Aid for children. Also, there's a training at the end of the week in Pensacola focusing on Diffusing Hostile Clients. Scott Needle requested of Dr. Haney for the American Academy of Pediatrics-Florida Chapter to collaborate with the department and other workgroup agencies to create a training for the Pediatric side. Dr. Haney agreed to work together in developing training for Primary Care Physicians and noted that there are a lot of materials available through the national child traumatic stress network, but would be glad to work on this through the Florida Crisis Consortium.

Strengthening Outcomes for Children and Peds

Stephanie Brown shared that as she looked into the coalition's history and meeting minutes she found several items and topics of interest that had been previously proposed and/or addressed for further action. She presented the following for input and feedback by the coalition and requested additional insight so as to be able to pick back up and move these areas forward:

Gap Assessment/Feasibility Assessment – The Gap Assessment was intended to discover any known gaps in services or needs for children in disasters and emergencies, while the Feasibility Assessment was proposed to look at training needs of state and regional coalition members to provide standardized training to the state. No one on the call was aware of any actions or further discussions regarding the assessments since the last meeting of the coalition last year.

However, it was recommended that a meeting be planned with Dr. Rex Northrup to see if he has any information in these areas. Also, John Wilgis suggested that these assessments be done through the regional coalitions as they are already tasked to do an assessment as a part of their setup and report the findings back to the state. Their assessments could be expanded to include some children-specific questions for response. Also, a suggestion was made for more Pediatric and Acute Care Training. Stephanie agreed to meet with John offline to work towards implementing this piece with the Regional Healthcare Coalitions.

Regional Fact Sheets

Insight was requested on the creation of Regional Fact Sheets for the Healthcare Coalitions that seem to be tied to an Index Tool (Medical HVA for Florida ESF8) for increased resilience. It was unclear to the group. Victor Johnson presented the various categories noted and offered that most of this data was already available through the bureau's HVA tool and other sources electronically and may become easily outdated if placed in fact sheets. There may be more value in noting the location. The issue could be revisited if more information becomes available.

Task Force Representation

It was noted that there is not a designated CDP role on the Florida Healthcare Coalition Task Force although there are valuable members of this coalition who also serve on the Task Force. Stephanie Brown proposed the possibility of someone from this coalition serving in a Representative Role on the state Task Force. John Wilgis noted that the Task Force would do well to have children represented but cautioned against a specific Representative Role as their goal was to keep the Task Force at a workable

size and there is a cadre of SMEs behind them. He also noted that this first year was mainly to help the groups meet the requirements of coalition creation and there are ways children issues can be included with the group. Stephanie and John agreed to meet offline with Christie Luce & Jeanine Posey to discuss the inclusion of children's preparedness on the state task force.

Linkage to Trauma Hospitals & Workgroups

Through discussion it was determined that Linkage to Trauma Hospitals was an initiative of the Hospital Children's Preparedness Workgroup. It was suggested that Dr. Rex Northrup be contacted for additional information on this. There were four known previously established ad hoc workgroups: Hospital Children's Preparedness (last met 4/5/12), Community Children's Preparedness, Website, and GIS Map Service. No meetings or further activity/information is known or noted since the last meeting of the main coalition.

Resources

The Department of Health recently restructured its website and has updated many of its links. The Children's Disaster Preparedness webpage is located at: www.floridahealth.gov/preparedness-and-response/prepare-yourself/childrens-preparedness and has many helpful resources for coalition members. Also, coalition members were invited to share information with Stephanie Brown for the website if the information would be beneficial to others. Gail LaRosa also encouraged the coalition to revisit and utilize the webpage, which has been a very resourceful tool in the past.

Comments or Questions:

In closing, the coalition was asked about their preferred meeting/call frequency. A suggestion was made for a quarterly meeting schedule. With no opposition to that suggestion, Stephanie Brown noted the new schedule and agreed to set the next meeting for January or February, 2014. The coalition was asked to send her the best meeting day-of-the-week and time-of-day to meet so the next meeting could be scheduled for the best possible participation. Stephanie also noted that email may be used in the interim to stay in contact, share updates, etc.

With all issues addressed, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.