


Tales from the Front: Tips for Effective Health Center Integration into Local and State Disaster Planning



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April 15, 2010



Presentation Overview

- Value of Community Health Centers (CHCs) investing in community disaster planning
- Review CHC Preparedness and Response Assessment Tool
- Review CHC Mutual Aid Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) document

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Why Should CHCs be Involved in Disaster Planning?

- All disaster response is local **first**
- CHC patients count on you for small or big disasters whether you are ready or not
- Your CHC can become more disaster resilient
- Aligned with your community mission to serve all regardless of situation or financial impact
- Strengthens ties with the health care delivery system in your region

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Community Planning Integration Dos

- ID preparedness and response roles you want to play
- Invite yourself to the next community disaster planning meeting and continue going!
- Look for common ground amongst stakeholders on the community disaster planning process

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EP & Response Capability and Capacity Assessment Tool

- Emergency Preparedness and Response Assessment Tool helps you to evaluate:
 - Your CHC's medical and non-medical assets and resources to offer to community disaster planners
 - ID the preparedness and response roles you want to play
 - Which community partners are best to plan with that can assist with effective community response

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Capability and Capacity Assessment

- General CHC Description
 - # of practice sites
 - # of CHC FTEs
 - # exam rooms
 - Core medical and non-medical services
 - Patient demographics
 - Additional/unique community services provided

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Capability and Capacity Assessment

- CHC Preparedness and Response Capacity, i.e. physical space, staff, stuff
 - CHC access to alternate or extended care sites
 - Medical and non-medical emergency supplies
 - # of CHC FTE trained on internal emergency policies
 - Organizational ability to handle a patient surge

Capability and Capacity Assessment

- CHC Preparedness and Response Capability, i.e., EP trained staff, previous response exp.
 - CHC has a updated preparedness and response plan
 - Previous disaster response
 - Participation in internal/external drills and exercises
 - Implemented an Incident Command System
 - Current MOUs with community partners

MOU Mutual Aid Model

- Mutual aid agreements support the exchange of resources, staff, and supplies during an emergency and/or disaster for better response coordination
- MOUs signed between your CHC and public health, local hospital, emergency medical services, etc clarifies each partner's preparedness and response roles

MOU Mutual Aid Model

- CHC Mutual Aid Model language can be used for both local jurisdictional partners or fellow CHCs
- Intent to provide a framework for response discussion between CHC and local disaster planners
- The CHC Model document was adapted from the Hospital Surge Capacity Toolkit created by NACCHO's Advanced Practice Center. To view the complete toolkit, please visit: [Hospital Surge Capacity Toolkit](#).

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Questions?

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