

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE PREPAREDNESS EVALUATION PRESENTATION SUMMARY

CAPT Melissa Sanders

Field Test: Assessment from Real Life Events

Thursday, July 23, 2009

About The Speaker- CAPT Melissa Sanders led the HPP program for years and she is now the lead for emergency preparedness.

A) Discussion Topics/Presentation Points: Field Tested – Assessment from Real Life Events

- What I hope to show is the linkage around what we asked you to do in the HPP and the hospitals and the data.
- We examined how the information and data from Hurricane Augusto has made up better prepared.
- HHS is the lead in terms of emergency preparedness and in 2007 they were given money from FEMA, through a grant, to conduct a medical gap analysis plan that focused on hurricane events:
 1. Shelter in place (SIP)
 2. Evacuation capabilities of vulnerable hospitals and nursing homes
 3. Federal medical shelters (FMS)
 4. National disaster medical system (NDMS)
 5. Cache pre-staged in Puerto Rico
 6. National and regional contract ambulance deployment plans.
- The second one we just got from FEMA is for all catastrophic events so it includes floods, flu etc.
- To do gap analysis we asked, "What are the public health concerns states are worried about?"
- Results of this gap analysis planning:
 1. Specifically in Texas and Louisiana-There was clear need for Federal and medical stations (FMS) to be ready to be deployed. We've been able to preposition many of these FMS around the country, they are ready and available and can be easily moved around the country.
 2. Ambulance contracts in place-3500 seats available for ground transportation. Serves in place and ambulance services are ready to go.
 3. South Carolina has broken their state down into conglomerates and it tells us how many hospitals are in each area, how many beds are available and the status of nursing homes.
 4. From such Hurricanes as Gustav, we learned that both Texas and Louisiana would require more services this year than in the past. This helps them better prepare before the storm and locate those tools that they need ahead of time.
 5. We develop charts for each state that documents:
 - i. The state need (NICU evacuation).
 - ii. What the state capacity is.
 - iii. What the Federal capacity to help is and where the government can provide services.
 - iiii. What the state gap is and where they need services or the most help.
 - v. Summary slide that we go through which documents medical staffing shortfalls, needs and other important facts for each state.

B) Question and Answer Session: CAPT Sanders

1. Q: When we are talking about moving patients we are talking about moving one at a time because the seat in the ambulance is full of supplies (self sufficiency-water, medical supplies, food etc.), right?

2. Q: Do you have any human outcomes data? Were there any mortalities that resulted from the evacuation? R (Sanders): There were a few deaths but that was a result of the patient's state, not because of being moved.
3. Q: For those of us getting ready to launch the gap analysis, is that tool available to us yet? R (Sanders): The only one available now is hurricane specific, but we are currently compiling a generic one that builds on what is already out there. It will take at least a month to get boots on the ground to do the gap analysis. We get it to you ahead of time as a web tool and then we come in once the data is collected to talk about the results that the data yielded and what that tells us.
4. Q: What is the lead-time you need to stand up? R (Knebel): The first ambulances wouldn't start arriving for 24 hours. If you know those specific details, like we need ambulances now, that is when you have to tell us so that we can go to FEMA and get that ambulance contract activated ASAP.
5. Q: Rather than states relying on the government, is there a way for states to rely on other states to fill that gap? R (Saunders): We know that you are going to exhaust those state resources and we want you to be self-sufficient, but we want to make sure that you have all that you need and that often requires Federal intervention and assistance. The Federal resources are the absolute last resort after all others have been exhausted.