

*NATIONAL HEALTHCARE PREPAREDNESS EVALUATION PRESENTATION SUMMARY*

**Mr. Torrance Brown**

**Progress of Healthcare Preparedness Evaluation Program Evaluation Section (PES)**

**Tuesday, July 21, 2009**

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**About The Speaker-**Torrance Brown, MPH. Brown is a member of the State and Local Team, Program Evaluation Section with the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). Brown currently serves as the Acting Section Chief for Program Evaluation. The Program Evaluation Section (PES) provides evaluation technical support and assistance to the National Healthcare Preparedness Programs through timely and objective evaluative methods, consultation, and assessment of the Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) cooperative agreement program. In addition, Brown provides recommendations and strategies to inform future directions for National Healthcare Preparedness Programs.

A) Discussion Topics/Presentation Points: Brown:

- The PES has been in existence at HRSA for about 2 years.
- We have had staff changes and changes in infrastructure in order to better accomplish our goals and objectives
- At PES we seek to discover what the data information system driver is so that we can maintain the integrity of the data.
- Data evaluation-is it replicable?
- Program evaluation – for whom, why and for what purpose?
- We have six goals and objectives at PES:
  1. Define hospital preparedness. We use logic models to conceptualize some requirements and activities of the program; we look at historical data; we evaluate mathematical modeling and we use all of this information to learn what it takes to run and maintain a hospital. This in turn allows us to define healthcare preparedness and to establish actions, capabilities and resources that are vital to a hospital.
  2. Improve data reporting. We want to make sure everyone is reporting in the same way so that we can better make inferences from the data. We have utilized key systems.
  3. Identify key areas for management and assessment. We worked with the CDC and its program management branch. We are also working with ARC to improve the liability of the data. We are proposing new measures that better capture the outcomes.
  4. Improve the transparency about reporting, to better share our data. We have Federal accountability provisions that we have to adhere to and we have been able to demonstrate the efficiencies of that.
  5. Technical assistance. We want to be responsive to your needs.
  6. We are working to develop state profiles.

B) Results/Key Findings/Conclusions: Brown

- We know that the healthcare environment is continuing to change.
- Data are not enough.
- Performance measures must be realistic.
- We need to work towards transparency.
- There needs to be more consistency in our measures so that we are not struggling to gather the data.
- There needs to be transparency about the data collection measures to make it as easy as possible for you to provide that information so that PES can use it and get it back to you as needed.

C) Questions and Answer Session: Open to all participants:

1. Q: Will the reporting template change for the end of the reporting year 2008? R: the web- based format may change, for the fiscal year 2009. We are working on getting something in the FY 09 guidance about supplemental measures. Knebel-It's hard to do this because we need to have clearance from Office of Management and Budget (OMB) so that slows us down.
2. Q: Will there be more talk more about the definition of preparedness? R: Yes.
3. Q: I have a question about the surge model-we use that model for pandemic influenza in Texas and I just do not understand that model. How are we in Texas going to get to 180 beds? Is there a way to look at that model and figure out what our surge needs are and what to do with that at the state level? R: We have not finished figuring out and collecting data, we will deal with the issue of supplemental funds at that time.
4. Q: It would be beneficial in our state reporting if there was a general comment session. It may make your job at the Federal level a little harder, but we cannot always pigeon hole the information into your specific sections. R: If there were specific things that you would like to provide to us in specific categories that will allow us to have that national picture we would welcome those suggestions.