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Successful Campus and Public Health Collaborations for Mass H1N1 Vaccination

Toby Osburn

McNeese State University

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Thursday, February 17, 2011

Workshop Session II

Time of Session: 1:30-3:00pm

Session Title: University Collaborations

Speakers: **John Kiefer**, UNO- CHART

Toby Osburn, McNeese State University

Room: 257

Head Count: 11

Note Taker: K. Brad Ott

Notes:

“Collaborations for Effective Disaster Resistant Universities”

John Kiefer, UNO-CHART

Development of collaboratives ... First UNO DRU grant ... we were one of the first to have a plan (2004) have a test (2005 – Hurricane Katrina) and have an assessment afterwards. ... Dr. Kiefer reflected on his military and graduate preparation in advance – shift focus to natural disasters (why New Orleans? – A Disaster waiting to happen)

Building Disaster Resilience at UNO Pre-Katrina

- DRU 2004
- formed interdisciplinary team from campus

Building Disaster Resilience at UNO Pre-Katrina (continued)

- Obtained buy in
- completed plan August 2005 – but no time to implement before Katrina

What Hurricane Katrina did

- 1/3 of university flooded
- civil unrest – significant looting
 - extensive damage to dorms (flooding)
 - water damage to all buildings (wind, roof)
- Mold problems all buildings

- adversely impacted – communications (Dr. Kiefer relates retrieval of back-up tapes from University Computer Center – email communications disappeared)

What we Think We Did Right

- Made herculean effort to re-establish communications with university community
- Established an off-site HQ
- [see PowerPoint for complete list]
- Focused on business continuity (research, teaching and outreach)
 - classes conducted 6 weeks from storm
- housing in FEMA trailers
 - Created some degree of financial independence by reopening revenue producing activities (arena, University Center)

What we could have done better

- implementation of mitigation plan – moved students (pre-Katrina was a lot like rest of the city!)
 - personal plans / what to do with pets—people with pets who wouldn't leave without them / ...
 - Had alternative communications networks (email addresses / servers)
 - Mold impact
 - Adopt a broader definition of “off-site” – collaborative partnerships
 - Better understanding of our community's dependence on each other
 - personal disaster plans required
- Lessons re-learned ...

Emerging Issues

- Utility of an all-hazards based mitigation plan when based on event probability?
- Role of the PUBLIC university for the wider public interest

“Successful Campus and Public Health Collaborations for Mass H1N1 Vaccination

Toby Osburn, McNeese State University

Self Introduction – Higher-Ed student affairs / counselor

Hurricanes Katrina/Rita changed his academic and professional world

Cited Midwest Power Failure – 2003 --- as a formative experience: was in metropolitan Detroit at the time – out of electric power for five days

H1N1 – April 2009 – initial detection and spread

World Health Organization 30-day period documenting spread ...

By August 10, 2010 – H1N1 is declared “over”

background of cooperation – 2005 Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH)

Hurricane Katrina – need to open a special medical needs shelter at McNeese State U

Hurricane Rita – September 24, 2005 – special needs shelter closed – had to evacuate in advance of storm

Had major damage from wind and water intrusion from Hurricane Rita

2006 – set groundwork to work collaboratively with DHH – planning for Avian “Bird flu”

Genesis of McNeese/DHH collaborative –

Allied health training and professional training

Agreement to become “an open POD site” with DHH – 2006 – initial plans for mass vaccination of the community / parish / SW Louisiana

August-October 2010 final plans resulted in establishment of closed POD for high risk University groups with capacity to expand

collaboration with local / parish / state partners – health authorities

Calcasieu Parish Health Unit – weekly in School of Nursing for immunizations – utilizing a facility already designed for purpose

Incident command system at McNeese POD –
(operations/planning/logistics/financing/relations/liaison/ Toby Osburn – Incident Commander) – first time accomplished for a non-threatening non-weather event

It is easier to scale down than to ramp up operations

Aside – problem with controlling temperature of vaccine

Dr. Osburn consulted with spouse – Chemical engineer provided proper thermometer

Operational Assessment – go where the students were / specific groups (i.e.: basketball team)

Exceedingly optimistic for number of participants – (foolishly optimistic – send back 1,500 unused vaccinations

They were unprepared for rank and file non-campus community seeking immunizations (screening mitigated problems)

Collaborations with public health professionals

LESSONS LEARNED –

Calibrate better expected numbers needed downward

Partner with public health and media to clearly identify vulnerable populations

Reverse Strike teams served campaign way

Activation of changes to facilities set up for other purposes (i.e., making men/women bathrooms unisex, etc)

Future Directions –

Higher Ed and Healthcare funding is discretionary –requiring us to collaborate more

Questions / observations – Taken after respective presentations from both presenters

Unidentified male comment/question of John Kiefer / It was good that UNO didn't cut itself off from the community – but wonders whether UNO would work more with other city agencies to develop disaster plans

John Kiefer's response: cyber-terrorism taskforce (private sector/public sector – some tensions but possibilities ... also critical infrastructure protection ... more than 100 different agencies ... recommendations developed – but not implemented)

John Kiefer's additional response: issues that arose – responsibilities for infrastructure / services ... questions ... importance of collaboration – university can play special role (apolitical) ... referenced example of pre-Katrina exercise with area parishes meeting together – Mayor Nagin deferred to Kiefer to lead off collaboration

The UNO-CHART sponsored Elder-care exercise – made significant innovations in the Hurricane Gustav evacuation

Brad's question about wider health care impact in Lake Charles with much talked about closure of LSU-run W.O. Moss Charity Hospital / impact on interruption of school mission? – Toby Osburn said no – and said the hospital will likely remain open despite cuts

Dr. Kiefer reflected on the BP Oil Disaster – a whole new agency is in charge (instead of FEMA) – referenced John Barry's *The Great Influenza* – peril of new agency learning curves – lack of declared disaster (because there was a culpable party: BP)

Unidentified male observation of Florida's resilience after four hurricanes in one year; had rolling infrastructure ready to move