



Bay Area Community Health Resilience Forum Recap, Identified Actions by Presenters and Participants, and Potential Next Steps

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Forum Purpose and Focus

- To lay the groundwork for a sustainable **Bay Area Health Resilience Coalition and ongoing Community Health Resilience Initiative** to address disaster resilience needs through:
 - Bringing together “whole community” stakeholders with key Bay Area, State, and Federal leaders
 - Highlighting some of the significant activities and collaborations across the Bay Area, as well as areas that require attention
 - Identifying actions that can complement and build on current preparedness and resilience improvement activities to systematically improve health resilience for individuals, families, organizations, and communities in the Bay Area



Forum Participants

- Significant broad stakeholder representation
 - Public health and emergency services from Operational Areas across the region and from State agencies
 - Eight hospitals and healthcare centers
 - Police departments and the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC)
 - Two national laboratories and three universities
 - Lifelines representatives (energy, water, communications, transportation)
 - Faith-based and other non-profits and social service groups
 - Six federal agencies, including DOD
 - Various business and other entities, including information security firms, financial institutions, and foundations
- Major pharmaceutical company, Walgreens, helped sponsor the Forum



Agenda Designed to Meet Forum Purpose

- **Overview of Community Health Resilience** and it's importance
- **State and Regional Opening Remarks** (Dr. Howard Backer, Director, CA Emergency Medical Services Authority & Janell Myhre for the Bay Area UASI)
- **Local and State Activities:** Bay Area Health Officials (ABAHO), Regional Disaster Medical and Health Specialist (RDMHS) & Medical and Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC), UASI's Medical Surge Project and Regional Mass Fatality Exercise, CA Children's Medical Surge CONOPS Project and a potential Alameda County Community Emergency Preparedness Project
- **Healthcare systems:** Presentations from Dignity Health, Sutter Health, Kaiser Permanente, and Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland
- Briefings on the **Pandemic Influenza threat and Walgreens resilience activities**
- **Key Federal programs** (DHS Office of Health Affairs, Health and Human Services ASPR, CDC, and Veteran's Affairs)
- **Social Service, Human Care, and Other Activities** (American Red Cross, San Francisco Community Resilience Programs and Initiatives, and CARD)



Needs and Suggested Actions (Speakers and Participants)

■ Planning

- Resiliency for those with chronic healthcare needs and “fragile” individuals
 - Pharmaceuticals and drug dependency
 - Dialysis
 - Geriatric individuals
 - Children and pregnant women
 - Broader at-risk populations
- Disaster mental health plan
- Crisis standards of care
- Support and protection for medical assets
- State-wide Unintentional Injury Prevention Strategic Planning
- Comprehensive medical surge capabilities



Needs and Suggested Actions, cont.

- **Community Engagement and Education for Preparedness and Resilience**
 - Develop and undertake with community stakeholders a Family & Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Planning Project
 - Education for public on risks and what to do about them
 - Full inclusion of nonprofits and faith-based organizations in resilience activities
 - Make health and wellness an organizing framework for community engagement
 - Build partnerships and further develop processes for broad stakeholder communication and information sharing
 - Engage in outreach programs in collaboration with community partners to promote resiliency activities.



Needs and Suggested Actions, cont.

- Contribute to the Whole Community concept: community engagement, empowerment, strengthen what works
- Develop an initiative to promote disaster preparedness and resiliency *within* organizations
- Encourage the development of home preparedness plans
- Assist in planning for vulnerable populations (volunteer organizations, neighborhood programs, schools)
- Develop ways to encourage community participation in drills and exercises
- Foster recognition that Public Health and Health Care includes EMS, long term care, urgent care, clinics, emergency management, military etc.
- Build and maintain a community health resilience coalition that includes local, state, and federal partners and whole community stakeholders



Needs and Suggested Actions, cont.

■ Exercises and Training

- Need regional exercises that include all key stakeholders with multiple scenarios (*many presenters and participants recommended this*)
- Hospital drills and planning for mass casualty and disasters
- Statewide Medical Health Exercise
- Local targeted exercises

■ Patient Movement and Tracking

- Need to develop and exercise a plan that includes a standardized process for tracking patients
- Develop common definitions and terminology



Needs and Suggested Actions, cont.

■ Mass Fatality Management

- Need training on transition from day-to-day operations to EOC-coordinated response and on regional information exchange requirements
- Develop a regional capability to deploy a Portable Field Morgue
- Develop regional and/or local Family Assistance Center plans

■ Coordination and Collaboration

- Provide structure through which the Bay Area can coordinate multi-agency, regional OES exercises that assess regional catastrophic plans
- Develop a JIC/JIS capability within the region
- Share training resources through advertising opportunities to the broad stakeholder community



Needs and Suggested Actions, cont.

■ Pediatric Medical Surge

- Develop and build a sustainable statewide CONOPS
- Plan and conduct regional and statewide medical surge pediatric exercises
- Strengthen coalition regional emergency response via a googlist serve - information sharing portal
- Developing regional mobile children's disaster response teams and technical expert group
- Promote Bay Area Emergency Services and Management – include schools
- Develop process for coordination of resources and transportation for pediatrics, including pre-arranged agreements for transport, evacuation and overflow assistance among pediatric centers
- Develop State standards for pediatric trauma care at trauma centers
- Improved minimum capabilities in referring centers for pediatric trauma care



Needs and Suggested Actions, cont.

- **Communications and Information Sharing**
 - Develop interoperable communications and situational awareness for medical surge and patient tracking
 - Promote sharing of capabilities and limitations – identify gaps and share lessons learned

- **Healthcare**
 - Plans and procedures for sustaining critical operations
 - Assure all health care providers see preparedness as a core responsibility
 - Additional trained healthcare volunteers
 - Increased Hospital Preparedness Program funding



Needs and Suggested Actions, cont.

■ Threat Awareness and Assessment

- Develop improved capabilities for chemical releases, including plume projection and chemical identification
- Develop greater understanding of climate change extreme events, consequences and resilience challenges

■ Infrastructure Interdependencies

- Need additional information on threats and impacts on critical infrastructures that support healthcare and broader community resilience
- Identification of critical healthcare and other supply chain nodes and of critical cyber infrastructure
- Raise awareness and develop capabilities to address cyber security and resilience for healthcare and other critical support systems
- Develop enhanced information sharing processes that includes agreed sharing of information on critical assets
- Address staffing requirements at state and local levels dedicated to countermeasure dispensing planning



Initial Post-Forum Action Outcomes

- **Connections made** leading to meetings between Forum attendees to further mutual interests
- **Pediatric medical surge national dialogue**— facilitation by DHS/OHA of conference call to link different regional projects across the nation and Federal partners at HHS and CDC
- **Potential Bay Area Geriatric Health Resilience workshop**—discussions with Stanford University’s School of Medicine’s Geriatric Education Center, BACRDR, and DHS/OHA
- **Potential CA Department of Public Health-sponsored Community Health Resilience Exercise Series and Action-Planning Project**



CHR Exercise Series and Action Planning Project

- Envisioned Project Focus and Scope
 - Means to undertake a Bay Area Community Health Resilience Initiative and build and sustain the CHR Coalition brought together at the Forum
 - Two year project with six tabletop exercises, each with an Action Plan of activities derived from the AAR
 - Each exercise would be developed by an Exercise Design Team of core stakeholders
 - Scenarios selected to meet or further explore specific needs and address evolving threat areas such as climate change extreme events
 - Respective Action Plans would be incorporated with recommended actions from other exercises, workshops, and post-incident assessments into an ongoing, Integrated Action Plan of improvement activities with lead organizations identified, milestones, and resource needs
 - Would serve as a model for other regions in California and the nation



Post Forum Next Steps to Build and Sustain Bay Area Community Health Resilience Coalition

- Presentations have been provided to participants via Google Drive
- The Forum Summary Report will be coordinated with presenters and provided to the 130-plus individuals who registered to attend or have requested them
 - The Summary will include an announcement of upcoming first CHR Coalition Tabletop Exercise in July and note that an Exercise Design Team will be created
 - *Question is whether, to keep momentum going, to convene the CHR Coalition in April with an educational seminar on a particular health resilience issue of concern or a half-day workshop to address, expand, and prioritize actions in the Forum Summary*
- BACRDR will produce a White paper on the proposed Bay Area CHR Exercise Series and Action Planning Project to be coordinated with State and “core stakeholders” and will undertake outreach for support from Federal and Healthcare partners, private sector, and other organizations
- A suggested action is that the Bay Area UASI Medical-Public Health Work Group could act as the mechanism to prioritize, guide, and integrate Bay Area CHR Initiative activities into broader regional resilience activities



For Further Information



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