Populations with Access and Functional Needs: What are the Learning Gaps for Pediatrics

Learning in Disaster Health: A Continuing Education Workshop
National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health
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At the conclusion of this activity, the participant will be able to:

1. Describe important gaps in knowledge, skills, and attitudes affecting the ability of health professionals to support populations with access and functional needs (AFN) during disasters using the biopsychosocial model of health.

2. Discuss whether cross-cutting learning needs exist between two AFN populations.

3. State ways the identified learning gaps and cross-cutting issues could be addressed in their professional context.
Remember to use #LDH13 when Tweeting about today's session!
Setting the Context

The New Jersey Experience
Superstorm Sandy touched down in NJ on October 29, 2013

In NJ, the DHS has the lead for emergency preparedness and response – DCF is not a lead for the Federal ESF Framework

Lessons learned by the child welfare system after Katrina informed our preparation for Sandy
Established our child abuse hotline as the hub/central point of communication

Notification to all children’s service providers and women’s service providers

Notifications to all foster parents

Moved vehicles used to transport children to higher ground so could resume operations ASAP
Learning Gaps Identified Through Lessons Learned

Children and their families need more than food and shelter
Learning Gaps

- Preparation needs to consider extended power failures and their implications for well-being
- Emergency Management Professionals need better training on addressing the needs of children/families in shelters
- During mass care focus on basic needs is not sufficient
- Immediate response must include return to normalcy efforts
- Recognition of the stresses that parents are feeling and the potential impact on child/family functioning
- Recovery strategies need to include normal family and community activities
Preparation for those sheltering in place – more than food and water

* Back-up power sources do not have to be generators
  * Car chargers can be used for nebulizers and other medical and other equipment
* All families need “Go Bags”
* All families need a plan for medication refills and printed info on prescriptions and medical contacts
* All families need safe, supervised activities for children of all ages
Training for Emergency Management Professionals

Keep it focused on basic concepts

* Diapers in different sizes
* Safe infant and young child feeding
* Supervision of children
* Bathroom and sanitation
* Sleeping arrangement
* Safe and supervised play
Emergency shelters and mass care facilities for families during a disaster should be well-designed, well-stocked, and appropriately staffed to promote the safety and security of infants and children. This document offers general guidance, suggestions and ideas - it is not a comprehensive guide. It is not intended to replace the actual experience and training that sheltering children and families require. Please note there are links provided in this document for additional information and resources.

General Guidelines for Shelters Providing Care to Families with Children

- Establish a shelter central registration for all families with children to track numbers, age and status of children at the shelter. Instructions for Identifying and Protecting Displaced Children (CDC Health Advisory)
- Develop systems to ensure security for unattended/unsupervised adolescents in shelters and other facilities that care for children in emergencies. Standards and Indicators for Disaster Shelter Care for Children (Appendix E) (National Commission on Children and Disasters: 2010 Report)
- Provide information to shelter staff and volunteers on the special safety and security needs of infants and young children. http://www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/2012/fy12_hsgp_children.pdf (Standards and Indicators for Disaster Shelter Care for Children (Annex B))
During Mass Care Focus Tends to be on Basic Needs

- Food/Clothing/Shelter – take this for granted
- Privacy
- Sanitation
- Medication Access and Management
- Communication Access and Functionality
Immediate Response Must Include Return to Normalcy Efforts

- Return to School
- Return to child care
- Activities other than TV
- Some private space for adolescents
Recognize the stresses that parents are feeling and the potential impact

- Increased Risk for Child Abuse and Neglect – close quarters
- Increased Risk for Domestic Violence
- Increased Risk for Sexual Violence and Exploitation
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND DISASTERS

1. There are a small number of studies, supplemented by anecdotal evidence, that indicate increases in domestic violence and sexual assault following disasters.

   - A 45% increase in domestic violence reports to police occurred, following the Mount St. Helen’s volcanic eruption in 1980.
   - Following a 1989 earthquake in California, one shelter reported a 50% increase in request for restraining orders. Sexual assault was reported to have risen 300% according to a United Way study.
   - Florida’s Hurricane Andrew in 1992, was followed by a 50% increase in spousal abuse calls. In 2004, the state was hit by 4 hurricanes and 6 months later increases in calls and shelters were reported by dv agencies.
January 2013

A Focus on Long-Term Recovery

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FROM RESEARCH TO PRACTICE
The Implications of Natural Disasters
On Child Welfare Systems

Beth Sapiro, LCSW
Cassandra Simmel, MSW, Ph.D.

Vol. 1, No. 2
Recovery Strategies Need to Include Family and Community Activities

- Clinical supports are important
- Opportunities to help others are part of healing process
- Normal family activities – day off from insurance claims, federal forms, etc – very important to well-being
Next Steps in NJ

- After Assessment translated to action/preparation for next Superstorm
- Strengthening key alliances
- Continue focus on recovery and prevention
Welcome to READY, SET, PREPARE!

This is the first edition of READY, SET, PREPARE!, DCF’s newest internal newsletter. READY, SET, PREPARE! will provide DCF employees with important tips and information on disaster preparedness so that you and your family can be ready if an emergency strikes.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Atlantic Ocean’s hurricane season runs from June 1 to November 30. While there hasn’t been a single Atlantic Ocean hurricane so far this year, Hurricane Sandy has taught all New Jerseyans the importance of being prepared.

Today’s message is about having a go-bag ready if a disaster strikes. Future newsletters will cover other preparedness topics and provide access to useful resources to help you and your family be prepared and stay safe.

Get Your Go-Bag Ready

Do you have an emergency supply kit packed and ready if a hurricane strikes? If you need to evacuate, or if utilities are out of service, this kit, or go-bag, should be ready to grab and go with essential survival items for you and your family.
Thank You

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