EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF) - #8 *DOMESTIC RESPONSE*

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Summary

The response to hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma in 2005 demonstrated the impact the Federal public health and medical community can have in assisting State, local, Tribal and Territorial public health and medical officials in responding to the public health and medical needs of a disaster or emergency. ESF-8 has long served as the mechanism, with the National Response Framework (NRP), for this public health and medical support. This session began dialogue with stakeholders on the PAHPA ESF-8 initiatives.

Session Highlights

- The session addressed the PAHPA legislation and two Presidential Directives, Homeland Security (HSPD) 21 and HSPD-8 Annex, and how they related to the ESF-8 initiatives.
- Scenario playbooks were introduced. Currently, there is one defined, the hurricane book. A playbook is intended strictly for use by the Secretary and by Admiral Vanderwagen, within his operations center. The speaker stated that these playbooks are being posted in order to communicate what ESF-8 is thinking about for specific events. This will, in turn, give States and local communities an idea of the types of support available federally as they address their own State and local needs.
- Nine of the fifteen U.S. Department of Homeland Security scenario playbooks have been developed at the HHS senior leadership level. Six more playbooks are being developed within HHS at the strategic level.
- The National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) was addressed and the efforts by the Secretary to coordinate with its Federal partners, State, Territorial, Tribal and local governments.
- Collectively, the effort here are the mini-steps toward implementing PAHPA and incorporating the tenets of State and local support, State and local contribution, and what is done within HHS, specifically ASPR's Office of Preparedness and Emergency Operations.
- The key to success during an operation or an event is to call your Emergency Coordinator or call the Incident Response Coordination Team (when activated). Your regional coordinators are always going to be your primary point of contact.

Key Questions and Comments

- *Has PAHPA addressed the tracking for seasonal vaccines?* The FluFinder system tracks seasonable flu vaccine. PAHPA also addresses the requirements for procurement and manufacturing of additional pre-pandemic vaccine. CDC is working on projects to address these issues.
- *How will the government ensure that people with disabilities are adequately participating in planning so that all those additional needs have experts at the table?* ASPR's Office of At-Risk Individuals, Behavioral Health, and Human Services Coordination is responsible for integrating and coordinating the medical needs requirements of individuals with disabilities and incorporating those within the Human Services aspect. Lessons learned from Katrina on

this issue were discussed.

- Of great interest to participants was how surge capacity can be enhanced on the ESF-8 side.
- *A question was raised about the hierarchy and structure of Region 6*. This discussion emphasized that the key to success is to involve HHS' Regional Emergency Coordinators, which is part of the playbook scenario.
- The needs of Emergency Medical Services should be incorporated in ESF-8 planning.
- A question was raised about identifying what the surge capability is to meet the local, State and health requirements.
- *Was the Emergency Pharmaceutical Assistance Program activated during the California wildfires?* No, because the State of California advised us that they were able to meet the needs of all the individuals in the mass-care shelters.
- *Regarding the response to a playbook, how was this coordinated through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), so that we're not pulling resources from all over while ensuring it's coordinated through the State and lead agencies?* One of the objectives behind operationalizing our playbooks is to look at not only what the State is able to do for itself, but what arrangements can be made through EMAC to assist the State.
- *A question was raised about rapid deployment and what had been done to shore up the ability to get volunteers*. The process, while extremely complicated with respect to coordination between all of the various agencies, is being refined and improved.