



Eastern Great Lakes Pediatric Consortium for Disaster Response



Pediatric Disaster Preparedness Quality Collaborative

Module 4: Regional Healthcare Coalition Building

August 26 – September 9, 2020

Module 4: Regional Coalition Building

Objectives

- 4.1: Gain an understanding of structure and function of existing health care coalitions in your region.
- 4.2: Identify how your hospital participates in the health care coalition (HCC) in your region
- 4.3: Describe how pediatric needs are represented in the HCC and how your community hospital can help build connect with regional pediatric experts

Introduction

History: The Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP)

The [Hospital Preparedness Program \(HPP\)](#) was established by Congress in 2002 in response to the deficiencies in our national disaster response abilities laid bare by the September 11th attacks and subsequent anthrax mailings. The program—formerly named the National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program—was designed to support individual hospital bioterrorism preparedness efforts by enabling the purchasing of equipment and providing resources. However, following subsequent events such as Hurricane Katrina (2005), the H1N1 Pandemic (2009) and the Boston Marathon Bombing (2013), HPP broadened its hazard focus and shifted support from individual hospitals to developing and sustaining health care coalitions—which emerged from these events as an essential component of disaster response and recovery.

Every state and territory receives HPP funding (a total of nearly \$6 billion since 2002). The funding consists of a fixed amount plus an additional allowance based on state/territory population. HPP programs within each state provide leadership and incentivize health care organizations to work together to prepare for, respond to, and recover from all types of disasters through the establishment of health care coalitions. To learn more about the HPP program and find your state contact, visit their website at: <https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/hpp/Pages/default.aspx>

Health Care Coalitions (HCCs)

HCCs work to implement a systems-based approach to local, regional and state disaster preparedness and response. HCCs are intended to augment—and not replace—individual hospital preparedness efforts by facilitating public-private partnerships for a coordinated response in a disaster. HCC membership is varied and diverse. Core members include hospitals, EMS agencies, local public health departments and emergency management organizations (e.g. CDC, FEMA, American Red Cross). Many HCCs also include other point of care organizations such as freestanding emergency departments, long-term care facilities, surgical centers, pharmacies and even medical equipment providers. The makeup of an HCC is largely determined by existing relationships, hazards, geography and daily referral patterns rather than jurisdictional or political boundaries which can sometimes hamper response efforts. Regardless of composition, strong leadership has consistently been shown to drive success, whether based within the local health department, the dominant regional hospital system or existing as an entirely independent body.

Similar to the diverse composition of HCCs across the nation, many support a range of different functions within their region. However, common functions include 1) conducting a regional Hazard

Vulnerability Analysis, 2) emergency operations planning, training and exercising, 3) resource allocation and 4) streamlining communications. Of all the functions of an HCC, coordinating the exchange of information is probably the most valuable. This includes collating and tracking patient volumes, asset bed availability and needs of all coalition members as well as working with local public health authorities to craft public messaging and providing medical advice. For a more complete description of the functions of an HCC, please see ASPR TRACIE's Health Care Coalition Preparedness Plan (<https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/aspr-tracie-hcc-preparedness-plan-508.pdf>).

Incorporating Pediatric Needs: The Pediatric Annex

According to the results of our environmental scan, the majority (77.8%) of hospitals participating in this collaborative actively participate in an HCC. However, nearly 37% were unsure if pediatrics was represented and less than half were aware if their coalition had determined pediatric surge capacities or developed a pediatric annex to their existing response plans.

Development of a pediatric annex to base medical surge, trauma, mass casualty response plans is a requirement of the 2019-2023 HPP funding. In order to improve the capacity and capabilities of member organizations to manage a large number of children HCCs are working to foster new relationships and drive initiatives within emergency departments that enhance their ability to stabilize and/or manage pediatric medical emergencies.

In response to this mandate, a number of organizations have stepped forth to offer subject matter expertise and specialized resources. This includes the two ASPR-funded Pediatric Disaster Care Centers of Excellence: our [Eastern Great Lakes Pediatric Consortium for Disaster Response \(EGLPCDR\)](#) and the [Western Regional Alliance for Emergency Management \(WRAP-EM\)](#) as well as the newly formed [Council on Disaster Preparedness and Recovery within the American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#).

The contribution of individual member healthcare organizations to the HCC's pediatric annex differ considerably based on individual capabilities. This is where children's hospitals and other high-pediatric volume centers can offer significant contributions including educational opportunities, reinforcement of transfer plans / agreements and offering telehealth/tele-support services. For instance, local children's hospitals can lead pediatric-focused exercises or educate coalition members on skills such as pediatric triage. The primary contribution that community or rural hospitals who see a medium or low volume of pediatric patients can make to a pediatric annex is to truly understand their own level of pediatric readiness. This includes not only ensuring pediatric-specific supplies, equipment and medications are available but also developing a clear understanding of what type of pediatric patient can reasonably be managed on site and at what point/how more critical cases will be transferred to the regional pediatric center.

To support hospitals in better preparing to receive and treat children—and as was the focus of [Module 1](#) of this collaborative—the [National Pediatric Readiness Project](#) has developed a checklist, toolkit, assessment and network of pediatric emergency care coordinators (PECCs) / Pediatric Champions to accelerate improvement in the quality of pediatric emergency care across the nation.

Going Beyond the HCC: Important Relationships to Establish

HCCs are fully invested in disaster preparedness and response. Engaging with your HCC ahead of an event will lead to enhanced response. The following contacts may or may not already be part of your

HCC but establishing a relationship with these organizations will help increase awareness of the current efforts to enhance pediatric disaster preparedness within your region.

1. Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) Coordinator

As mentioned above, the HPP program within every state is mandated to develop a pediatric annex. Your local HPP coordinator will be the best source for understanding ongoing pediatric disaster preparedness efforts within your region. To find your state HPP contact visit:

<https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/hpp/Pages/find-hc-coalition.aspx>

2. Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) State Partnership Program

Every U.S. state and territory receives funding from the federal Emergency Medical Services for Children program to drive the integration of pediatric-specific considerations at the state/policy level as well as at the local level including hospital-based providers, EMS agencies and patients/families. The majority of EMSC State Partnership programs are based in state EMS offices; however, a small number of programs are housed within an accredited school of medicine or other state governmental office.

Your state EMSC program manager will be aware of pediatric preparedness efforts within your region. S/he will also be able to fully support your efforts to enhance pediatric readiness at your hospital including helping to establish/strengthen relationships with pediatric centers in your region. To find you EMSC State Partnership manager, search our database at <https://emscimprovement.center/programs/grants/> and filter the grant type by State Partnership. Meredith Rodriguez (Meredith.rodriguez@austin.utexas.edu) can also facilitate an introduction.

3. Local AAP Chapter

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has been intimately involved in pediatric disaster preparedness since 2005 and has chapters in most US states, territories and parts of Canada. Your local APP chapter will be heavily involved in pediatric preparedness efforts. To find your local AAP chapter contact visit:

<https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Children-and-Disasters/Pages/AAP-Chapter-Contacts-for-Disaster-Preparedness.aspx>. As above, Meredith Rodriguez ((Meredith.rodriguez@austin.utexas.edu)) can help facilitate an introduction to your local chapter contact.

The AAP also maintains a list of disaster coalitions by state: <https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Children-and-Disasters/Pages/Disaster-Networks-Survey-Project.aspx>

4. National Pediatric Disaster Coalition

The NPDC was established in 2015 and supports local and regional pediatric disaster readiness by connecting novice to expert. Visit <https://npdcoalition.org>. to learn more and join their listserv email nationalpedicoalition@gmail.com.

5. Child Life Disaster Relief

The mission of the Child Life Disaster Relief network is to develop a coordinated and global network to ensure that children in disasters and crises have the tools and support needed to promote positive coping and resilience. This national network of volunteer child life specialists who are available to respond in a disaster to help “mitigate stress and trauma for children and maximize positive coping through age appropriate support and interventions in the midst of the chaos.” To find out more visit <https://cldisasterrelief.org/> or email (info@cldisasterrelief.org) to establish a connection with a program coordinator in your region.

6. Family Voices

Family Voices is a national organization and grassroots network of families and friends of children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) and disabilities that promotes partnership with families to improve healthcare services and policies for children. Through Family-to-Family Health Information Centers in 59 states, territories, and tribal areas, Family Voices connects families of CYSHCN with critical resources to improve healthcare access and delivery. In particular, their Family Professional Partnerships (<https://familyvoices.org/lfpp/>) provides resources on emergency preparedness for CYSHCN, To find your Family-to-Family Health Information Center or Family Voices Affiliate Organization in your state visit: <https://familyvoices.org/affiliates/>.

Additional Resources

Personnel and Family Preparedness

1. AAP Family Readiness checklist
https://www.aap.org/en-us/documents/disasters_family_readiness_kit.pdf
2. FEMA Family Readiness Plan
<https://www.ready.gov/plan>
3. CDC Family Emergency Kit Checklist
https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hemophilia/documents/FamilyEmergencyKitChecklist.pdf?s_cid=cs_766
4. Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN)
<http://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/Children-and-Disasters/Pages/CYWSN.aspx>
5. Complex Child
<https://complexchild.org/>
6. Save the Children: Making Disaster Preparedness Fun
http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpI4E/b.9085951/k.B899/Get_Ready_Get_Safe_Community.htm#PepRally

Prehospital Emergency Medical Services

1. National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
<https://www.nremt.org/rwd/public>
2. Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP)
<https://www.peppsite.com/#>
3. Psychological Simple Treatment and Rapid Triage (PsySTART)
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Pages/PSYSTART.aspx>

4. 60 Seconds to Survival-Disaster Triage Game
<https://emscimprovement.center/domains/preparedness/disaster-triage-game/>

Tasks

The following set of questions are intended to help you evaluate the composition of your local HCC, become aware of the current pediatric preparedness efforts and establish foundational relationships to help drive improved pediatric disaster preparedness within your region.

Please answer the following questions in REDCap here:
<https://redcap.dellmed.utexas.edu/surveys/?s=HXDJH37FCF>

1. Does your hospital participate in a regional healthcare coalition? (Y/N)
2. If yes, which of the following organizations participate in the HCC? (check all that apply)
 - Community hospitals
 - Comprehensive or tertiary care referral center
 - EMS Agencies
 - Schools
 - Fire and First Responder Agencies
 - Law Enforcement
 - Public Health Entities
 - Municipal Services
 - Community Organizations
 - Hospital Preparedness Program
 - Primary Care Physician Groups
 - State EMS for Children (EMSC) Program Manager
 - State Hospital Association
 - Red Cross or Local Shelters
 - Faith-based Entities
 - Childcare facilities
3. Does the coalition have a pediatric committee, pediatric champion(s), or a subject matter expert (SME) with training in pediatrics? (Y/N)
4. If yes, please describe the actions/priorities of this person(s) and/or the committee.
5. If no, are there plans to include pediatric representation in the coalition or to establish a pediatric committee?
6. Has your HCC determined pediatric surge capacity strategies and/or completed development of a Pediatric Annex? (Y/N)

7. If yes, was your hospital involved in its development and/or what are some of the requirements of your hospital? Please describe.
8. If no, are there plans to complete the Pediatric Annex and how will your hospital be involved in its development?
9. The following worksheet (Appendix I) is intended to help guide you in establishing connections with pediatric preparedness efforts within your region. Please download and complete.

References and Further Reading

1. “Hospital Preparedness Program: 15 Years of Health Care Preparedness and Response” 2017. Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). <https://www.regionfcoalition.org/skins/userfiles/files/15%20Years%20of%20Healthcare%20Preparedness%20and%20Response.pdf>
2. Brooke C, Toner E, Waldhorn R et al. “Healthcare Coalitions: The New Foundation for National Healthcare Preparedness and Response for Catastrophic Health Emergencies.” *Biosecurity and Bioterrorism*. Volume 7, Number 2, 2009 © Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. Reprinted with permission. DOI: 10.1089/bsp.2009.0020. http://www.upmc-biosecurity.org/website/resources/publications/2009/2009-08-06-healthcare_coalitions.html
3. Medical Surge Capacity and Capability (MSCC): The Healthcare Coalition in Emergency Response and Recovery. Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) August 2010. <https://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/mscc/healthcarecoalition/Pages/default.aspx>
4. Dahl Grove, D. Pediatric Preparedness: Children’s Hospitals Preparation for Disasters. *Curr Treat Options Peds* 3, 246–253 (2017). <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40746-017-0090-z>
5. Kenningham MK, Koelemay K, King MA. Pediatric disaster triage education and skills assessment: a coalition approach. *J Emerg Manag*. 2014;12:141–51. <https://doi.org/10.5055%2Fjem.2014.0168>
6. Kelen GD, Sauer L, Clattenburg E, Lewis-Newby M, Fackler J. Pediatric disposition classification (reverse triage) system to create surge capacity. *Disaster Med Public Health Prep*. 2015;9:283–90. <https://doi.org/10.1017%2Fdmp.2015.27>
7. 6 Healthcare Coalition Pediatric Surge Annex Template. ASPR TRACIE. <https://files.asprtracie.hhs.gov/documents/aspr-tracie-hcc-pediatric-surge-annex-template-final-508.pdf>

Appendix I: Regional Coalition Building

Organization	Name	Title	Email / Phone	Contacted?	Notes
HCC Contact					
HPP Coordinator					
EMSC State Partnership Manager					
AAP Local Chapter Contact					
National Pediatric Disaster Coalition	Patricia Frost RN,PHN,MS,PNP	Vice Chair	nationalpedicoalition@gmail.com		https://www.npdcoalition.org

