Pediatric Preparedness:
Lessons from Texas Public Health Emergency Response

Bruce Clements, M.P.H.
Texas Public Health Preparedness Director
Texas Health Response Since 2007

- West, TX Explosion
- Central American Unaccompanied Minors
- West Nile Virus Outbreak
- Bastrop, TX Wildfires
- Hurricane Alex
- Hurricane Dolly
- Hurricane Gustav
- Hurricane Ike
- Tropical Storm Edouard
- H1N1 Pandemic Response
- San Angelo: Yearning for Zion Ranch
- TB/Mumps/Measles Outbreaks
- Foodborne Outbreaks
- Mercury in Skin Cream
Overview

- Regional Pediatric Preparedness Initiatives
- Infection Prevention
- Sheltering Planning Challenges (General Population and Medical)
- Tracking
Local and Regional Pediatric Preparedness Initiatives
Houston Regional Healthcare Pediatric Preparedness

- Regional Pediatric Disaster Planning
- Prophylaxis Dispensing Form with weight conversion chart
- Pre-identified Pediatric response teams to assist with NDMS reception sites
- Pediatric patient inclusion in exercises
- Preparedness guides for families from Children’s Hospitals
Houston Regional Healthcare Pediatric Preparedness

- www.togetheragainsttheweather.com
- How to prepare for a hurricane whether evacuating or sheltering-in-place
- Includes information for:
  - Persons with access and functional needs and their caregivers
  - Public service materials for emergency management personnel, social service organizations and the media
Expand pediatric preparedness training and education to ALL healthcare providers

Quick reference pediatric cards
  • Medications
  • Doses
  • Equipment
  • e.g. Broselow Pediatric Tape
Infection Prevention and Pediatric Preparedness
Concurrent Disaster Threats

- H1N1 and Hurricanes
- April 24, 2009, Texas confirmed human transmission of pandemic (H1N1)
  - Children at increased risk
- June 1, 2009, Start of Hurricane Season
  - Children at increased risk

= Heightened Infection Prevention Planning
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bus Infection Control Kits</th>
<th>Shelter Infection Control Kits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Surgical Masks</td>
<td>• N95 Respirators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hand Sanitizer</td>
<td>• Surgical Masks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Trash Bags</td>
<td>• Exam Gowns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Non-latex Gloves</td>
<td>• Non-latex Gloves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Disinfectant Wipes</td>
<td>• Disinfectant Wipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Disinfectant Spray</td>
<td>• Disinfectant Spray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Alcohol Wipes</td>
<td>• Alcohol Wipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Tissues</td>
<td>• Tissues</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Evacuation and Sheltering Infection Prevention

[Image of masks and supplies]
Pediatric Sheltering Planning Challenges
(General Population and Medical)
Pediatric Planning Considerations

- Full Range of Pediatric Vulnerability
  - Medical
  - Behavioral Health
  - Social

- Quality of Preparedness Plans
  - Schools
  - Childcare Facilities
  - Foster Families

- State Laws and Definitions
One Example: States defining “Age of Childhood”

- **48 jurisdictions** = Under age 18;
- **2 jurisdictions** = Under age 17;
- **1 jurisdiction** = Under age 16;
- **12 jurisdictions** include a definition of the term “youth”;
- **7 jurisdictions** establish the age of childhood or youth as encompassing persons older than 18 (excluding special conditions)

---

Pediatric Sheltering Plans

• Multidisciplinary team with unique expertise
• Include Child Life Specialists
  • Masters prepared
  • Developmental and psychological focus
  • Assist with coping and normalization in hospitals
  • May assist with Play Therapy
• Include Child Protective Services
  • Conservatorship Specialists; Not just Investigators
  • Essential to emergency orders for medical consent

NOTE: All need at least ICS-100 Training
Pediatric Sheltering Plans

- Include crisis counseling skills for responders
  - Psychological First Aid Field Guide
  - Emphasis on children in disasters
  - Developed by
    - National Center for PTSD
    - National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN)
  - Adapted for other disciplines
    - Community religious professionals
    - Medical Reserve Corps
    - Schools
    - Staff at homeless facilities

http://www.nctsn.org/content/psychological-first-aid
Pediatric Tracking
Tracking During Evacuation and Sheltering
Tracking During Evacuation and Sheltering

These children are looking for their parents. If you recognize any of these children, please contact the Louisiana Clearinghouse at 1-225-342-0631. If you are unable to contact the Louisiana Clearinghouse, please call the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at 1-800-THE LOST (1-800-843-5678).

Click on the photo below for information on the child.
Tracking During Evacuation and Sheltering

- Evacuees scanned into shelter manually or via RFID portal
- Includes People, Pets, Assets
- Requirements
  - PC’s & Web-based Program
  - Barcode Scanners
  - Wristbands
  - Pet & Medical Asset Tags
  - Hand-Held Devices
  - Printers (for manifests)
Tracking During Evacuation and Sheltering
Special Thanks

- Lori Upton RN, BSN, MS, CEM, Director of Preparedness, Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council (SETRAC)
- Eric Epley, Executive Director, Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council for Trauma (STRAC)
- Rick Bays, Jeff Hoogheem, Mike Czepiel, Texas Department of State Health Services
- Randy Templeton, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- Kari Tatro, BCFS