

An Analysis of the Programs of the Office of Emergency and Public Health Preparedness, Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness

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Office of Emergency and Public Health Preparedness

- The Louisville Metro Health Department is located at 400 E. Gray Street
- The original Jefferson county Health Department was established in 1908
- The mission of LMPHW is “To promote health and wellness; prevent disease, illness, and injury and protect the health and safety of metro Louisville residents and visitors”
- The OEPHP is responsible for assisting the general public in being adequately prepared in the case of a natural disaster or emergency event
- Services provided by the OEPHP include: hospital preparedness, flu planning, special medical needs planning, continuity of operations and a cities readiness initiative



Methods

- Construct a database with existing information from LMPHW to construct COOP
- The use of Microsoft Excel to enter the data
- Transference of finalized data into Microsoft Access to run reports on the information desired
- Use of an electronic or paper form for individuals to complete to be put into the Medical Needs Registry
- Data is collected, entered and analyzed by the OEPHP
- Information entered using surveymoney.com for analysis of the results

Purpose

- The purpose was to implement new emergency preparedness programs for Louisvillians and at LMPHW

Continuity of Operations Plan

- Created in response to the events that followed Hurricane Katrina, there was a need for uniformity and structure
- COOP is a system created to establish a chain of command of personnel and resources in the event of a disaster or natural event
- COOP allows for the efficient coordination and location of personnel and resources that would be needed
- Lists who would be in charge of what department and the equipment, or databases they would need access to
- Difficult to create due to the multidimensionality of the in practice and conceptually it was more simple
- Contact information was difficult to obtain for many individuals, many were promoted, quit or left inaccurate contact numbers

Incident Command System Training

- It is a type of hazard preparedness tool developed by FEMA for an all-hazards uniform on the scene approach for incidence management
- Allows for more efficient coordination of personnel, equipment, communications and procedures in the event of a man-made or natural disaster
- Can be used by all levels of government (federal, state, local and tribal)
- Uses real life situations to certify train individuals on how to respond



Louisville Medical Needs Registry

- Development of a pilot program that would assist people with medical needs
- Person with Medical needs is a person who has a high risk health condition that is either temporary or chronic who are unable to manage for themselves in a shelter or evacuation center and will require assistance in performing the activities of daily living and/or will require care for and the monitoring of a health condition.
- Examples: people with mobility impairment; people with condition which make them dependent on electricity; people with medical conditions that will require additional support during emergencies
- Attempts to give people appropriate accommodations in a shelter or access to medical equipment that they may require
- Website and brochure Tells people what the registry is, why it is needed, contact information for emergency services in the event that a disaster occurs



Conclusion and Recommendations for OEPHP

- Good first-hand experience for those wanting to work in the public sector
- Combine the job functions of people to expedite the approval process
- Have an alternate location for supplies
- Focus more on community outreach at more places than churches or community centers, perhaps at take-care clinics
- Develop incentives for people to practice preparedness
- Talk with doctors offices or geriatrics specialists/divisions to advertise the program to those in the community
- Get more up to date technology
- Utilize social media more

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