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NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION

Integrating Access and Functional Needs into Hospital Emergency Management Planning - A Comprehensive Disaster Risk Assessment

Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Populations are defined as those whose members have additional needs before, during and after an incident for access in functional areas including, but not limited to, maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision and medical care. These populations include individuals with medical issues, such as chronic conditions, disabilities or disorders; dependence upon prescription medications, medical services and medical equipment; those with a significant injury or illness, and women who are pregnant.

AFN communities also include individuals with age-related requirements and limitations; specifically, all minors and most older adults. And AFN includes those with cultural, ethnic, religious and socioeconomic needs and restrictions. FEMA has reported that up to 40% of the U.S. population has one or more Access and Functional Needs, and that these needs may increase significantly during a disaster. In 2016 Steve Storbakken, Director of Emergency Preparedness at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (PVHMC), created a partnership with Vance Taylor, Chief of the AFN Division of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), with the goal of integrating AFN into hospital emergency management planning. A team of healthcare and AFN experts was quickly assembled, and within

a year a viable program was developed and shared with hospitals nationwide. This earned PVHMC and Cal OES the 2017 IAEM “Partners in Preparedness” award.

Our poster presentation illustrates the AFN Disaster Risk Assessment created by our task force. Any hospital can use this tool to determine its level of preparedness in meeting the needs of over 60 different AFN communities, in both short-term emergency events as well as longer-term declared disasters. Ten areas of hospital resource are evaluated; strengths and opportunities for improvement in meeting the respective needs of each AFN community are clearly identified.

Presentation Theme: Key to the presentation is a groundbreaking AFN hospital disaster risk assessment tool developed after lengthy research, and with the benefit of the extensive experience of our task force members.

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research:

Primary contributors:

L. Vance Taylor, Chief, Office of AFN, Cal OES; Steve Storbakken, Director of Emergency Preparedness, PVHMC; Kevin Muszynski, Project Manager, PVHMC
Lisa McAfee, DO, PVHMC; Kellie Lim, MD, UCLA; Vanessa Perez, PhD, Foothills Psychological Services; Daniel Bowers, Emergency Manager, City of Sacramento; Steve Hirsch, President, Steve Hirsch & Associates; Frances Weigand, Volunteer, PVHMC; And an acknowledgement extended to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health for the format adapted from their Health Hazard Assessment and Prioritization (hHAP) tool.

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