



# The Missing Links

Building Partnerships with CHCs for Emergency Preparedness

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# Background

- EM Needs Assessment in 2002
- CPCA received funding in 2003
  - Connecticut Department of Public Health
  - University of Massachusetts - Lowell



# CPCA's Approach

- Secured buy-in from CEO's of the health centers:
  - All Hazards Approach
  - Minimize impact
  - Purchased equipment
  - Ongoing personal contact with each CHC regarding Emergency Preparedness
- Identified two representatives from each health center:
  - Emergency Preparedness "Experts"
  - Preparedness Champions
  - Emergency Preparedness Plan
  - Coordinate trainings
  - Drill/Exercise Point Person
  - Guide CPCA



# Linking the CHCs

- Developed Community Health Emergency Response Network (CHERN)
  - Quarterly meetings of CHC representatives
  - Education and Training sub-committee
  - Share staff and resources in major events
  - Seat on Connecticut Department of Public Health Emergency Operations Center
  - Conduit for advertising State-Based Trainings, Meetings and Resources



# Linking Partners

- Understand preparedness activities in state
- Develop the relationships
  - Start at the top
- Examples of CT Linkages
  - Education and Training
    - EM 102
    - Emergency Plan Workshop
  - Exercises and Drills
  - Site Visits
  - Facilitated Planning Meetings



# Education and Training

- **Emergency Management 102**
  - Yale Office of Emergency Preparedness
  - CT AHECs
  - Southern Tier of Excellence
  - Northern Tier of Excellence
- **Emergency Preparedness Plan Workshop**
  - Connecticut Association of Directors of Health
  - DPH Hospital Preparedness Coordinator
- **CHERN**
  - Yale Office of Emergency Preparedness
  - CT AHECs
  - Both Centers of Excellence
  - DPH Hospital Preparedness Coordinator
  - DPH Regional Planners
  - CDC SNS Coordinator
  - DPH Exercises and Drills Coordinator
  - CADH
  - DPH Emergency Preparedness Training Coordinator
  - DMHAS – Mental Health Network



# Exercises and Drills

- TOPOFF 3
  - Three CHCs in CT participated in national play
  - Many lessons learned about community partnerships
  - Propelled integration as result of play, not planning



# Site Visits

- Who
  - State Planner and Regional Hospital Planner
- Where
  - All CHCs
    - Start with large centers with multiple sites
    - Focused on centers in densely populated areas
- Why
  - Show capacity first hand
  - Educate planners on CHC expertise and patient base
  - Make connections on CHC level



# Facilitated Planning Meetings

- CPCA is bringing key players to CHCs to discuss integration
  - State Health Department Planners
  - Local Health Department Planners
  - CT Association of Directors of Health
  - Regional and local Hospital Planners



# Questions?

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