

## Division of Emergency Medical Operations -- July 2009

- Office of Emergency Operations
- Office of Public Health Preparedness
- Office of Trauma
- Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Injury Prevention
- Bureau of Brain and Spinal Cord Injury

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DEMO participated in the Central Office Scorecard Pilot

#### Offices of Emergency Operations and Public Health Preparedness

- For 28 days, the Department of Health ESF8 Team responded to tropical events Fay, Gustav, Hannah, and Ike in support of our county partners throughout the state.
- As part of the state's H1N1 Influenza Response, core workgroup members have been identified and an action plan has been developed to assist in planning and preparing for implementation of the fall 2009 Mass Vaccination Campaign. Identified staff has also continued to work with the SERT and DOH internal and external partners on the H1N1 After Action Review/Implementation Plan.
- The Florida Department of Health Disability Task Force sponsored and supported five Preparedness Conferences for People with Disabilities. These conferences provided opportunities for persons with disabilities and other vulnerable populations to learn from and interface with the local officials who have responsibility for emergency preparedness and response management in their communities.
- Presented Florida Public Health and Medical Strategic Plan at the 2009 National Preparedness Summit
- FEMA Region IV ESF8 Unified Planning Coalition
- Finalized the following plans:
  - Pandemic Influenza Annex to the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP)
  - Radiological Response Annex to the CEMP
  - State ESF8 Ambulance Deployment Plan
  - State ESF8 Alternate Medical Treatment Site Plan
  - Florida Department of Health Emergency Operations Plan (DOH EOP)
  - Florida Department of Health Continuity of Operations Annex to the DOH EOP
- Enhanced Florida volunteer responder credentialing system (ServFlorida) by integrating the Florida Department of Health Emergency Notification System (FDENS) notification functionality.
- Created State Medical Response System and regional teams.
- Selected statewide communications and patient tracking solution to be implemented over a three-year period.
- Acquired three portable Hospital Systems, each capable of supporting 50 patients as well as providing lodging for a team of 35 health care staff and support personnel.
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) conducted Florida's annual Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) program assessment; Florida received a score of 98%.
- 2009-2010 project requests were developed and entered into electronic project management tool.
- Completed State Public Health Ready Criteria.
- Launched 2009 County Health Department Public Health Ready project and website.

- Held statewide Disaster Behavioral Health Function Exercise.
- Held five Formidable Footprint Exercises across seven Florida regions, Georgia and Alabama.
- Coordinated three Public Information Officer interdisciplinary planning workshops.
- Completed Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Evacuation Toolkits.
- Completed draft of State Suspicious Substance Protocol.
- Partnered with Argonne National Labs to train our logistics teams in modeling software to address materials and patient movement in a catastrophic event.
- Developed DEMO Continuity of Operations (COOP) Standard Operating Procedures and completed After-Action Report and Improvement Plan from exercise.
- Participated in the Governor's Hurricane Exercise.
- Participated in the annual Governor's Executive Table Top Exercise.

### **Office of Trauma**

- "Burn Center" Video Gaming Project won two awards at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual – Serious Games Showcase & Challenge Competition (Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation & Education Conference (I/ITSEC)). The "Burn Center" Video game is a medically accurate, web-based continuing education series for trauma surgeons and nurses that simulate surgical procedures specific to injuries received from bombs, burns and blasts.
- Dr. Jennifer Bencie represented the State Surgeon General at two American Telemedicine Association conferences. She presented Florida's Trauma Telemedicine Pilot Project, linking trauma centers to community hospitals.
- Tallahassee Memorial Hospital was verified as a Level II trauma center and Lawnwood Regional Medical Center and Heart Institute was verified as a provisional Level II trauma center.
- Eight interim, one renewal and one provisional Trauma Center Verification Site Surveys have been completed.
- The Diaphragmatic Pacing Program was implemented with successful completion of five diaphragm-pacing surgeries in Florida to wean traumatically injured patients from ventilator dependency.
- Preventive Ulcer Program standards were approved and implementation began in all trauma centers in 2008.
- A Pediatric Rehabilitation Retrospective Study was completed, which confirmed an association between delay to rehab and diminished recovery.
- 220 Injury Prevention Outreach programs were conducted statewide, including "Walksafe" and "Prom Night."
- Quarterly distribution of red light running and other court-related and traffic fines to trauma centers was completed. A total of \$18.7 million has been distributed since the implementation of the legislation.
- On April 6, 2009, a Trauma Awareness Educational Press Conference Event was held at the Capitol to educate legislators and the public.
- Together with the University of Florida, Shands-Gainesville Trauma Center, the Office of Trauma developed and produced the "Hand Emergencies" Triage Training Program DVD. Copies were distributed to Florida's trauma centers, acute care hospitals and emergency medical service providers.
- The Office of Trauma implemented *Traumacomm*, a weekly report the Florida trauma system top news, to enhance our community with Florida's residents, visitors, stakeholders and partners. *Traumacomm* is similar to the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services' *Flemscomm* communication tool.

### **Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)**

- In June, the bureau announced the award of nearly \$2.8 million for 54 matching grants to improve and expand emergency medical services in Florida.
- Through joint efforts with the EMS Advisory Council's Data Committee, the EMS Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS) went live with the official start-up in July 2008.
- Successfully uploaded over 723,000 EMSTARS records to the national database (National EMS Information System).
- Over 140 of Florida's EMS providers have committed to submitting data to EMSTARS.
- 100% of scheduled EMS provider inspections were completed (announced and unannounced).
- Expanding on existing partnerships with the Florida Department of Transportation by providing EMS representation on the Motorcycle Safety Coalition.
- Approved 15 new EMS training programs, totaling 168 in the state, and well over 350 continuing education programs.
- The bureau facilitated an EMS Air Safety Summit.
- Developed the first Florida Air Medical Strategic initiative, believed to be the first of its kind in the country. The goal, "to maintain an accident-free environment and promote a culture of safe and appropriate utilization of Florida air assets" has been added to the current EMS Strategic Plan.
- Established a certification process for 911 emergency dispatchers. The bureau has certified over five hundred 911 emergency dispatchers since inception.

### **Office of Injury Prevention**

- Applied for and received a 2008-2009 Bicycle Helmet Promotion continuation grant from the Florida Department of Transportation to increase helmet use among low-income children.
- Awarded the State and Territorial Directors' Association's (STIPDA) Injury Prevention Program Achievement award.
- Held the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Injury Prevention 101 Course, a one-day extensive training for Florida's Injury Prevention Workforce.
- Held the 2009 Water Safety and Drowning Prevention Marketing Symposium.
- The Office of Injury Prevention, Children's Medical Services, the Department of Children and Families, and the Florida Office of Drug Control/Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention jointly sponsored a distance learning training focusing on self-injuries. The training: "Self-Injury: Testimony, Insight and Critical Issues," aired via satellite broadcast, is the largest broadcast the Department of Health has ever conducted (based on registrations).
- Safe Kids Florida has formed a new chapter in Bay County. Panama City Fire Rescue is the lead agency for this new chapter called "Safe Kids Emerald Coast."

### **Bureau of Brain and Spinal Cord Injury**

- The BSCIP Medicaid Home and Community-Based Waiver successfully reviewed and reduced services and expenditures on client care plans to meet the mandatory revenue reductions. This was accomplished by utilizing other federal, state and community resources, assistive technology, and modifications to the environment without placing any BSCIP clients at risk.
- The BSCIP continued efforts to enhance the Rehabilitation Information Management System to enable the program to more efficiently and effectively manage, monitor and evaluate the program. The RIMS team created a new electronic tool to track

assignments, provides a timely reminder of due dates, and maintains a record for future reference. This has proven to assist all staff in the daily performance of their duties and responsibilities.

- The BSCIP, in coordination with the Brain Injury Association of Florida and WellFlorida Council, completed the Five Year Strategic Plan for individuals with traumatic brain injuries. The process was culminated with a reception on February 16, 2009 and press conference on February 17, 2009 at the state Capitol. The event was well represented by state agencies, community partners, individuals, and families of survivors of traumatic brain injury. Keynote speakers included the State Surgeon General, David Moore, Frank Toral, Jennifer Bencie, and Thom DeLilla.

## **GOALS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR**

### **Offices of Emergency Operations and Public Health Preparedness**

- Closeout and evaluation of 2008-2009 preparedness projects (\$57 million).
- Implementation, management, oversight, and evaluation of 2009-2010 preparedness projects (\$56 million).
- Development of a Public Health and Medical Preparedness (PHMP) performance measure system.
- Development and publication of the 2010-2013 PHMP Strategic Plan.

### **Office of Trauma**

- Complete the remainder of the objective of the current Trauma System Five-Year Strategic Plan (December 2005-December 2010) and begin the development of the next Trauma System Strategic Plan (January 2011-December 2015).
- Begin development of business requirements and plan for the next generation web-based Florida Trauma Registry.
- Complete scheduled site surveys: two interim, four renewals, three focus, and one provisional.
- Continue to encourage acute care hospitals to seek trauma center verification, particularly in underserved trauma service areas and provide technical assistance to hospitals that submit a letter of intent to become a trauma center.
- Expand the existing Florida Trauma Telemedicine System Network to additional rural hospital and develop two additional networks with Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola and Orlando Regional Medical Center to link to rural hospitals in those respective trauma service areas.

### **Bureau of Emergency Medical Services**

- Improve and expand prehospital care through revision of rules (current and upcoming packages), including EMS training requirements, EMS delivery of patient care, EMS quality improvement, and EMS compliance.
- Using EMSTARS data, identify and share best practices in EMS through the Emergency Medical Review Committee.
- Increase EMS community surge capabilities through the distribution of personal protective equipment, training, and development of statewide protocols through federal grant funds (ASPR and CDC grants).
- Development of the 2010-2012 Florida Emergency Medical Services Strategic Plan with the EMS Advisory Council, EMS constituency groups, and other stakeholders.
- Pilot Data Warehouse - The Bureau of EMS, Data Unit will be submitting a governance project in joint collaboration with DOH Information Technology (IT) to pilot a data

warehouse technology solution for the decision support and business intelligence needs of the prehospital data collection program and for the Department of Health. The pilot is expected to be conducted over the next six months and at its successful completion, the Bureau of EMS, Data Unit will have a workable solution for its decision support needs and future linkage with Trauma Registry and AHCA (Hospital Discharge Data) and the Department will have the infrastructure confirmed to implement and respond to other departmental needs for data warehousing.

### **Office of Injury Prevention**

- Develop the 2010 Action Plan for the 2009-2013 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan.
- Work more closely with the Department of Elder Affairs and other agencies/ organizations to decrease falls among seniors.
- Expand our use of the satellite broadcast network to provide injury prevention education.

### **Bureau of Brain and Spinal Cord Injury**

- The bureau received continuation funding from the CDC for the purpose of purchasing video conferencing equipment. During this fiscal year, the equipment will be placed in each of the regional offices throughout the state. The equipment will be fully utilized to provide a more cost effective method to provide continuing education to staff and community partners. The bureau hopes to conduct home assessments using rehabilitation engineers located in other areas of the state and obtain more timely professional consultations and technical assistance for clients and staff.
- Over the next 12 months, the brain spinal cord injury program will be developing a strategic plan for individuals with spinal cord injuries. The strategic plan will be parallel to the strategic plan completed last fiscal year for individuals with traumatic brain injuries. The information obtained from the regional focus groups will help us to clearly identify the current and future needs of this population and allow us to focus resources to address these issues.
- Continue our efforts to collaborate with the Veterans Administration, organizations, and community partners that serve disabled veterans to ensure that returning disabled veterans are provided opportunities to access all federal, state and community resources available in the community.
- Collaborate with the Agency for Health Care Administration/Medicaid services to implement and identify appropriate residents currently living in nursing homes to be transitioned back into the community utilizing waiver services.
- Continue efforts to collaborate with the Agency for Health Care administration for funding to provide a supplemental payment to skilled nursing facilities that meet specific standards and criteria to serve individuals on ventilators or to be weaned utilizing the diaphragm pacing system.