

Title:

Nurses as Leaders in Disaster Preparedness and Response: A Call to Action

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Session Title:

Skills to Improve Communication

Slot:

O 04: Monday, 19 September 2016: 4:45 PM-5:30 PM

Scheduled Time:

5:05 PM

Purpose:

The purpose of this presentation is to present a vision for the future of disaster nursing, identify barriers and facilitators to achieving that vision, and recommendations in nursing practice, education, policy and research.

Keywords:

disaster nursing, leadership and decision-making and public health emergency preparedness

References:

Veenema, T. G., Griffin, A., Gable, A. R., MacIntyre, L., Simons, R. A. D. M., Couig, M. P., ... & Larson, E. (2016). Nurses as Leaders in Disaster Preparedness and Response—A Call to Action. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 48(2), 187-200. American Red Cross National Nursing Committee (ARC). (2012). *The Future of American Red Cross Nursing: A Blueprint for Action*. Retrieved from: http://www.redcross.org/images/MEDIA_CustomProductCatalog/m12940094_Blueprint_for_Nursing_9_2012.pdf. Baack, S., & Alfred, D. (2013). Nurses' preparedness and perceived competence in managing disasters. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 45(3), 281-287. Gebbie, K.M., Hutton, A., & Pulmmer, V. (2012). Update on competencies and education. *Annual review of Nursing Research*, 30(1), 169-192. Yan, Y. E., Turale, S., Stone, T., & Petrini, M. (2015). Disaster nursing skills, knowledge and attitudes

required in earthquake relief: implications for nursing education. *International nursing review*. Stanley, S & Bennecoff Wolanski, T.A., Editors. (2015). *Designing and integrating a disaster preparedness curriculum: Readyng nurses for the worst*. Indianapolis, IN: Nursing Knowledge International.

Abstract Summary:

Audience participants will have the opportunity to contribute to a national dialogue regarding how to enhance nurses' roles as leaders, responders, policymakers, and researchers in disaster preparedness and response.

Learning Activity:

LEARNING OBJECTIVES	EXPANDED CONTENT OUTLINE
The learner will have increased awareness of the national dialogue to enhance nurses' roles as leaders, responders, policymakers, and researchers in disaster preparedness and response.	Presenter will discuss history of disaster nursing, federal funding for emergency preparedness and response, and previous and on-going initiatives to enhance the role of nurses in disaster preparedness and response
The learner will be able to describe a vision and recommendations for the future of disaster nursing practice, education, policy, and research.	Presenter will review content from Veenema et al. (2016) that includes a consensus-based vision for the future of disaster nursing in the U.S., barriers to and opportunities for achieving that vision, and 12 recommendations in the areas of nursing practice, education, policy, and research.
The learner will be able to identify unique skills and abilities nurses can contribute to disaster preparedness and response.	Presenter will discuss how nurses are uniquely positioned to contribute to disaster preparedness and response given their multitude of roles/skills (e.g., as responders, receivers, critical care, triage, mental health, infection control, public health) and work in diverse settings (hospitals, outpatient clinics, schools, community settings, public health departments, etc.)
The learner will be able to articulate strategies for advancing national nurse readiness for disasters and public health emergency response.	Presenter will discuss various strategies to advance nurse readiness, for example: 1 - establishing a collective effort among nurse leaders to advance the practice of disaster nursing; 2 - developing a broad framework for expanding educational opportunities for disaster nursing across the continuum of nursing; 3 - developing policies that fully capitalize on the untapped potential of the nursing workforce; 4 - establishing a research agenda that addresses gaps in nurse readiness.
The learner will be able to reflect upon historical challenges and barriers to developing nursing education and	Presenter will review a compilation of disaster competencies published to date for nursing and other health disciplines, challenges in

competencies for emergency preparedness and response.	implementing competencies, and next steps to gain consensus and support for the use of these foundational competencies in curricular design.
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Abstract Text:

Abstract Summary: This project was an exploratory qualitative study to systematically identify relevant themes in the practice of disaster nursing. The aims of the project were to engage subject matter experts to develop a vision for the future of disaster nursing, to identify barriers to achieving that vision, and to synthesize their collective recommendations for nursing practice, education, policy, and research. The Call to Action includes a broad audience that includes nurses, employers, voluntary organizations, educators, policy makers, and researchers.

Abstract:

Introduction: A dramatic increase in the frequency and intensity of natural weather-related, technological, infectious disease, and human-caused disaster events have tested the capacity of our health care systems. Registered nurses (approximately 2.8 million in the United States) represent the largest segment of the US healthcare workforce and have the capacity to improve access to healthcare services during emergencies and disasters. Nurses play key roles as responders during disaster, using critical thinking skills to maintain quality care while prioritizing and allocating scarce resources. Employed across diverse settings, nurses collaborate daily with a broad range of healthcare professionals and are consistently ranked by the public as trusted sources of health information. Nurses have the potential to significantly improve the preparedness of their own household, neighbors, patients, families and ultimately, the nation.

Design and Methods: The Veterans Emergency Management Evaluation Center of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs convened a series of semi-structured focus groups via conference calls with fourteen national subject matter experts to generate relevant concepts regarding national nursing workforce preparedness, followed by an invitational daylong workshop in December 2014 to explore these concepts. Workshop participants included 70 nurses, emergency managers and public health leaders from academia, government, healthcare industry, professional organizations, and non-governmental organizations. Conference call notes and audiotapes from the workshop were transcribed and thematic analysis conducted.

Findings: The collective group described a vision for the future of disaster nursing “To create a national nursing workforce with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to respond to disasters and public health emergencies in a timely and effective manner.” Ideally, nurses would:

- possess a minimum knowledge base, skills and abilities regarding disaster response and public health emergency preparedness;
- respond directly or provide indirect support (e.g., shift coverage for deployed or data collection) during a disaster event or public health emergency.
- promote preparedness amongst individuals in their care, families and broader communities; and
- demonstrate a commitment to professional preparedness by participating in disaster planning, drills, and exercises.
- create a cohort of highly specialized nurses with advanced disaster skills and expertise.

Recommendations for nursing practice, education, policy, and research as well as barriers and challenges are summarized in this poster/presentation.

Conclusions: This project represents an important step toward enhancing nurses' roles as leaders, educators, responders and researchers in disaster preparedness and response. Academic, health and human services organizations that employ nurses, policy makers and researchers are encouraged to engage in an expansive national dialogue regarding how the vision and recommendations could be implemented within their organizations.