Abigail Matos-Pagan, DNP, MS, ANPC, RN
Founder & Director
Coalition of Nurses for Communities in Disaster
Associate Professor
University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez
FIVE YEAR OUTCOMES:
COALITION OF NURSES FOR COMMUNITIES IN DISASTER
Objective

- Present the experiences, lessons learned and outcomes of the Coalition of Nurses for Communities in Disaster (CONCID)
After September 11th many organizations took measures to prepare key personnel in preparedness / mitigation and response in order to diminish the devastating outcomes of man-made and natural disasters.
Background

- CONCID began in 2003 with the objective to train nurses and allied professionals to address the unique requirements of awareness, preparedness and response, as to assist with the needs of disaster victims and relief workers.
Mission

- Our mission is to:
  - Promote a strong public health preparedness infrastructure
  - Increase inter-operability between first responders, government, civil and private agencies
  - Disseminate communication standards to improve disaster response
  - Minimize morbidity and mortality in vulnerable or at risk communities in disaster
Organizational Structure
Membership profile
Membership profile

- Multidisciplinary membership
  - Nurses
  - Psychologists
  - Hospital security staff
  - EMT
  - Administrators / Directors of private and governmental agencies
  - Engineers
  - Firemen
  - Law enforcement groups
  - others
Course of actions

- Continuing education activities
  - From simple to complex information
  - Research and Evidence Based Practice
  - Lessons learned
- Practice of multiple simulated scenarios
  - Active drills
  - Inter-operability response
Course of actions

- Activities are based on the local and national priorities
  - Response to natural disasters
  - Terrorism
  - Mass casualty response
  - Security issues
    - Bomb threat
    - Active shooter
    - Self defense
Course of actions

- Inter-operability response
  - First responders
  - Local agencies response
  - Multiple agencies and group response
    - COMMUNICATION
    - COORDINATION
Course of actions

- Promote research in students and young scientists in the Science of Disaster
  - Nurses in Tsunami Zone Project
    - Nursing students
  - Young Scientist Award
    - Science Fair Projects in the Science of Disaster
Course of actions

- Encourage, promote and recognize voluntarism
- Official Certifying Organization
  - President’s volunteer service awards
CONCID Activities

- **FY1:**
  - Community Emergency Response Teams
    - 20 CEU
  - Disaster Simulation Drill:
    - earthquake
    - mass casualties
CONCID Activities

- FY2:
- First Congress In Disaster Nursing
- 8 CEU

- Research In Disaster:
  - Pathophysiology of Disasters
    - Trauma assessment
    - PTSD
    - Earthquake / Tsunami
    - Hurricanes
CONCID Activities

- FY3:
- Second Congress In Disaster Nursing
- 16 CEU
- Faces of Terrorism
- Hospital Incident Command System
- Disaster Simulation Drill:
  - Suspected Terrorist Attack
  - Violence In Disaster
  - Self-defense for Nurses
  - Hospital Response In Mass Casualties
CONCID Activities

- FY4:
- Third Congress In Disaster Nursing
- 20 CEU
- At The Area Of Disaster: Network of Responders
- Disaster Simulation Drill:
  - Flooding
  - Bomb Threat / Violence In Disaster
  - Self-defense for nurses
  - Hospital Transport of Acute Care Victims
CONCID Activities

- FY5
- Fourth Congress in Disaster Nursing
- Health and Security in Mega-Sports Events
- 7 CEU
- Disaster Simulation Drill (multi-casualty scene)
  - Bomb threat
  - Hostage situation
  - Mass casualty
  - Inter-operability activities
Outcomes

- Multidisciplinary membership growth
- Collaboration and integration of multidisciplinary personnel
- Integration of Nursing leadership in activities of disaster preparedness and response for communities, private and governmental agencies
Outcomes

✓ Establishment of Command Center and CONCID HQ’s at the University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez – Department of Nursing
✓ Integration of disaster preparedness and response in the curriculum of nursing
✓ Local, national and international presentations of the CONCID concept to neighboring countries and mainland US
Outcomes

✓ Integration of undergraduate students (BSN) in community and public health projects
  - Tsunami Zone
  - Disaster response
Outcomes

- Collaboration of multi-agencies (civil, private and governmental) during annual congress and simulation drills
- Inclusion of Hospital Preparedness and response exercise activities (Mass casualties, chemical explosion, multiple trauma, terrorism and HEICS)
Outcomes

☑ Development of a strong Security Section
  o Integration of military personnel as consultant in areas of terrorism and security as well as command and staff functions
  o Sponsorship of training events by Subject Matter Experts in areas of great importance for the academic community (Bomb threat, Terrorism, Active Shooter’s Incidents, Self-defense and Incident Command System)
Outcomes

✓ Contribution in the area of exercise simulation evaluation
  o Quantitative evaluation tool that is being used by the Emergency Management Regional Office
  o Evaluation form provided to Hospitals and Agencies
Outcomes

- Recognition given to volunteers; members and non-members across the disciplines who contribute to community disaster preparedness and response
OUTCOMES

✓ Professionals and lay community education
  o Conferences
  o Workshops
  o Newsletter publishing
  o Website (http://www.endesastres.org)
Outcomes

- Integration of CONCID members in organizations active in disaster
  - DMAT –PR1 (Disaster Medical Assistance Team)
  - MRC (Medical Reserve Corps)
  - Citizen Corps -CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams)
  - OVAD (Organization of volunteers active in Disasters)
  - FEMA- Long Term Recovery Volunteer Team
Outcomes

- Recognition, acceptance and relevance of the organization by local and state government, private agencies and professional groups

- Sponsorships received by:
  - Mayagüez Mayor’s Office
  - University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez
  - Sigma Theta Tau International – Epsilon Lambda
  - Hewlett Packard
  - Emergency & Disaster Management Agency of PR
Summary

- If it seems a lot of work …
  - It truly is, but collaboration can take care of many of the hardship
- If it seems like a lot of passion investment…
  - It truly is, but passion is the only drive to move people to do things
- If this is something you want to do…
  - Then don’t hesitate to start a CONCID
A thousand words in images
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION.
QUESTIONS?