



POSITION PAPER

YNH-CEPDR and Presidential Policy Directive 8 – Working Together to Increase Our Nation’s Preparedness

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Introduction

On March 30, 2011, President Barack Obama issued Presidential Policy Directive 8 (PPD 8) on National Preparedness. This directive mandated the creation of a National Preparedness Goal “that identifies the core capabilities necessary for preparedness and a national preparedness system to guide activities that will enable the Nation to achieve the goal.”¹ In September of 2011 the Department of Homeland Security released the National Preparedness Goal (NPG) and the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF). It is anticipated that PPD 8, the NPG, NDRF and other related documents, will transform the existing emergency management and disaster response field. The NPG and NDRF are just the beginning of several new systems and approaches anticipated to be implemented in the next three to five years including a National Preparedness System, National Frameworks, a Federal Interagency Operational Plan and the creation of a National Preparedness Report. As we strive to improve national security and become increasingly capable to respond to large-scale emergencies, it is important that the subject matter experts be engaged in planning for, training, exercising and evaluation of these new systems. The Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response

(YNH-CEPDR) organization and staff has the expertise, qualifications and experience to assist in implementation of these strategies.

About the Yale New Haven Center for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (YNH-CEPDR)

Developed as a result of the September 11, 2011 terrorist attacks, the Yale New Haven Center for

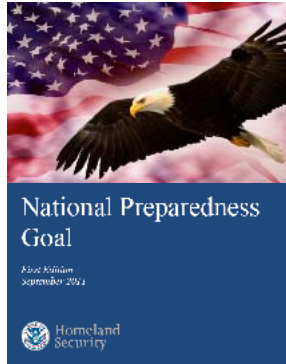


Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Response (YNH-CEPDR) mission is to reduce loss of life, injury and illness by developing and delivering services across the nation and around the world that advance healthcare planning, preparedness, response and recovery. YNH-CEPDR has partnered with private sector businesses, the non-profit sector, local, state, and Federal governments, as well as nongovernmental organizations to develop standards or services for healthcare emergency preparedness and disaster response, including the American Medical Association, The Joint Commission, US Department of Health and Human Services, US Department of Homeland Security, US Department of Defense and the Pan American Health Organization.

¹ Presidential Policy Directive 8, March 30, 2011

How We Can Help

Developing the frameworks, implementing the systems and plans and achieving the goals associated with PPD 8 and the National Preparedness Goal will necessitate subject matter expertise from numerous disciplines and organizations. YNH-CEPDR is ready to assist in meeting this challenge by providing health and medical expertise. Some examples of areas where YNH-CEPDR can be a partner in meeting the goals of PPD 8 include:



- Development of assessments, measurements, and metrics associated with public health and medical community
- Intelligence, investigation and information sharing and integration of public health and medical partners into local fusion centers
- Disaster recovery for the health and social services sector

Development of Assessments, Measurements, and Metrics Associated with the Capabilities of the Healthcare and Public Health Community

Emergency planning and operations begin with a basic assessment to understand current capabilities, capacities and risks. This step is critical to ensuring a coordinated and effective response to a disaster. YNH-CEPDR is skilled at designing capabilities and risk assessment tools to capture all of the information necessary to identify, prioritize and plan for risks.

Following assessment of risk; an evaluation of existing organization, community or state preparedness steps, plans, and resources is required to determine capability to respond and recover to an emergency event. YNH-CEPDR has developed tools, complete with identifiable

and achievable metrics to conduct these evaluations. Evaluation tools of this type can assist in determining the percent of achievement toward target preparedness levels, cost-benefit analysis of investment toward preparedness measures, or assigning a numerical score to existing levels capabilities. The resulting data provides a benchmark for future evaluation and assistance in determining prioritization of limited resources. Additionally, evaluation provides justification for funding and resources as well as quantifiable evidence of effective improvements. Under PPD 8, “the national preparedness system shall include a comprehensive approach to assess national preparedness that uses consistent methodology to measure the operational readiness of national capabilities at the time of assessment, with clear, objective, and quantifiable performance measures, against the target capability levels identified in the national preparedness goal.”² To view additional information about YNH-CEPDR assessment and evaluation capabilities, please visit www.ynhhs.org/emergency/progserv/assessments.html. Information about our planning services can be found at www.ynhhs.org/emergency/planning.

Intelligence, Investigation, and Information Sharing for the Medical Community and Integration of Health Partners into Local Fusion Centers

Effective and coordinated response to an emergency requires agencies and organizations to work outside of their individual silos. Sharing of information and intelligence across sectors in a timely and coordinated manner allows for a common operating picture. In this regard, intelligence and information sharing is a core capability under the National Preparedness Goal.

A critical element of intelligence gathering and analysis involves health and medical information sharing and situational awareness.

² Presidential Policy Directive 8, March 30, 2011, Page 4

Public health officials, such as epidemiologists and surveillance teams, are often the first to recognize that there is a potential for a health event, such as a pandemic or bioterrorism attack. Experts in this area must have the knowledge, systems and processes at hand to gather and analyze critical data from field sources.

To assist with this, YNH-CEPDR proposes to develop educational trainings, protocols and certification for local health personnel related to intelligence gathering and information sharing. Instruction and certification of these individuals will allow them to quickly integrate into current systems such as state and local fusion centers. YNH-CEPDR curriculum designers, educational specialists and subject matter experts are positioned to develop this curriculum, provide the training, evaluate the effectiveness and provide a certification process.

Disaster Recovery for the Health and Social Services Sector

Disaster recovery is an important step in our nation’s ability to return to a sense of normalcy following a disaster, yet this is often an overlooked planning area. Recovery is a mission area under the NPG and is further articulated under the NDRF. While FEMA disaster declarations and funding sources may provide some of the necessary resources to recover from a disaster, recent events have demonstrated that funding alone cannot fulfill this mission. The recently published NDRF states, “Experience with recent disaster recovery efforts highlights the need for additional guidance, structure and support to improve how we as a Nation address recovery challenges.”³ One of the core capabilities in the

recovery effort focuses on health and social services recovery.

The NPG recovery mission area capabilities related to health and social services target is defined as “restore and improve health and social services networks to promote the resilience, health, independence and well being of the whole community.”⁴ YNH-CEPDR is well positioned to promote state and local disaster recovery through planning, training, exercises, and assessments across the nation. Experience with development of training and exercise programs allows YNH-CEPDR to create robust

solutions for responders to gain and demonstrate the necessary knowledge and tools to create a more resilient community.

Comprehensive planning facilitates community resiliency. PPD 8 states that, “the national preparedness system shall include guidance for planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercises to build and maintain domestic capabilities.”⁵ Robust and effective health and medical disaster recovery plans will help communities quickly recover post- disaster and most successfully meet the health and medical needs of their community. YNH-CEPDR provides development, training and exercising of health and medical disaster plans including but not limited to medical surge, pandemic and mass fatality management. Following an

interactive planning process and engaging critical stakeholders, YNH-CEPDR can create a cohesive plan that ensures decision makers have addressed all aspects of health and social service recovery following an emergency.

“The National Preparedness system shall include a comprehensive approach to assess national preparedness that uses consistent methodology to measure the operational readiness of national capabilities at the time of the assessment with clear, objective, and quantifiable performance measures, against the target capability levels identified in the national preparedness goals.”
– PPD 8

³ National Disaster Recovery Framework, September 2011, Page 1

⁴ National Disaster Recovery Framework, September 2011, Page 52

⁵ Presidential Policy Directive 8, March 30, 2011, Page 2

Additional information on our training and exercise capabilities can be viewed at www.ynhhs.org/emergency/training and www.ynhhs.org/emergency/exercises.

Partnering with YNH-CEPDR



YNH-CEPDR has demonstrated the ability to assist the nation in furthering its preparedness goals. Through our collaboration, partnerships, and expertise, YNH-CEPDR offers a unique ability to effect change in the health and medical sector throughout the nation. YNH-CEPDR experience in training, exercises, planning, metrics and procedure development complements the nation’s efforts to strengthen the preparedness posture. As additional documents and guidance under PPD 8 are developed and released, YNH-CEPDR stands ready to assist in assessment, planning, training, exercises and evaluation. Our organization can be a strong partner with the federal government as PPD 8 and the National Preparedness Goal are instituted. Together we can enhance the preparedness of the United States of America.

For additional information about this please contact Jeffrey.Schlegelmich@ynhh.org, (203) 688-4485, www.ynhhs.org/cepdr.