



About the California Association of Health Facilities' Disaster Preparedness Program

In September 2006, the California Association of Health Facilities received funding through the California Department of Health Services under the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program to support the integration of long term care into disaster planning and response efforts throughout the state of California. As a critical component of the healthcare delivery system, it has become increasingly clear that long term care has an important role to play in disaster preparedness. CAHF's Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) takes an all hazards approach, and has several aspects: education, facilitation of planning efforts, development of resources and tools, and state-level advocacy for long term care. CAHF's Disaster Preparedness Program provides its services to all long term care in California, including and beyond its own membership.

EDUCATION

Through CAHF's Disaster Preparedness Program, groups of member and non-member providers can access in-person training on several topics specifically for LTC including an *Overview of Disaster Preparedness*, *Pandemic Influenza Planning*, *Disaster Regulatory Information*, *Working Together: Building Partnerships Between LTC and Community Response Partners*—other topics are available on request.

CAHF also hosted our first ever disaster preparedness conference, *Really Ready: Disaster Preparedness for Long Term Care*, Sept. 5 & 6, 2007. Over 300 people attended this successful conference, which provided unique interaction and educational opportunities for care providers and state and local emergency planning officials and stakeholders.

COORDINATION

CAHF's Disaster Preparedness Program helps to facilitate interactions between long term care facilities and their local disaster planning communities. Understanding the mechanisms for disaster response and how to work with the local government, and critical infrastructure are key components to building a viable disaster plan.

Staff also provide outreach and education to local and regional area emergency coordinators to help them better coordinate with long term care.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

One of the Disaster Preparedness Program's key projects in 2006-2007 was the *Pandemic Workbook for Long Term Care*. It is the first of its kind written specifically for long term care, and includes highly useful worksheets and specific recommendations that providers can put into practice immediately. This is a collaborative project that draws on the expertise of CAHF's DPP staff, UCSF's Integrating Medicine and Public Health Program, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. Extrapolating from currently available guidance, and based on the expertise of the authors in pandemic flu and long term care needs, the *Workbook* was the backbone of one of our key sessions at *Really Ready*.

CAHF's Disaster Preparedness Program has developed, and will continue to expand, a comprehensive and informative website. The website seeks to house the most useful of the many disaster preparedness resources and best practices currently in existence, as well as tools that we have developed. The website also provides an opportunity for LTC providers to share their own best practices, and can be found at www.cahf.org/public/dpp.

STATE LEVEL ADVOCACY

Staff from the Program sit on the key invitational state-level workgroups handling disaster preparedness issues in California. This provides CAHF the opportunity to represent the unique and important needs of long term care.

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