

ESAR-VHP

Volunteers in Indiana

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Presentation Objectives

- Present audience with
 - a background of ESAR-VHP
 - the steps we are taking at ISDH to implement Indiana's ESAR-VHP,
 - and the issues we are currently facing



Enough with the Acronyms!

- ESAR-VHP: Emergency System for the Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals
- ISDH: the Indiana State Department of Health
- PLA: Professional Licensing Agency



ESAR-VHP Objectives

An ESAR-VHP System must provide for (1) registration of health volunteers, (2) designation of resource types and (3) the emergency verification of the identity, credentials and qualifications of volunteers.



Federal Requirements

- System is due to be up and running by August 8, 2008
- Appendix B Guidance
 - Outlines requirements and deliverables for System
 - Outlines Operational requirements and deliverables
 - Outlines Evaluating & Reporting expectations



Steps in the Planning Process

1. REGISTRATION



2. VOLUNTEER CONFIRMATION



3. LOCAL COORDINATION



4. EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION



STEP ONE: REGISTRATION

- Is already a part of the license renewal process of the Professional Licensing Agency (PLA)
- Once registry is up, it will have the capability to query the electronic license renewals and surveys through PLA



Professional Licensing Agency



Volunteer Opportunity

- In 2003, PLA allowed ISDH to attach a survey to the electronic license renewal process and add the following question:

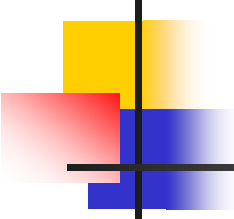
“Would you be willing to provide services in case of a bioterrorism event or other public health emergency?”

If you answer “yes”, ISDH staff may contact you using your PLA contact information.



Step One Outcomes

- One-step renewal and volunteer opportunity.
- Can ensure the volunteer is licensed and is currently employed in health care delivery.
- Will update active license list regularly and update all information every six months.



STEP TWO: VOLUNTEER CONFIRMATION & TRAINING

- If a practitioner expresses an interest in volunteering and has a current phone & email...
- ISDH will email that individual and encourage them to visit the ESAR-VHP website to verify willingness to volunteer and provide further demographic and contact information.

ESAR-VHP Website: In Progress

At the website, volunteers can:



- (a) Enter a unique password and update their own information.
- (b) Inform ISDH of time & distance limitations, as well as other volunteer affiliations.
- (c) Confirm that, in case of immediate deployment request, they will contact their employer!!!

ESAR-VHP Website: In Progress

At the website, the volunteer can:



(d) Review guidance on 'what to bring' and other Frequently Asked Questions.


(e) Link to medical emergency preparedness courses.



ISDH Training Website

- **Learning Management System**
(www.inlms.com/Public/) offers the following:
 - “What is Public Health Preparedness and Response”
 - “Incident Command Systems for Health Care”
 - “Risk Communication in Public Health Emergencies”
 - “Medical Center Assessment”

Credential Verification Levels (Registered Nurses)



Credential Element	1	2	3	4
Unencumbered license or equivalent State authorization to practice	X	X	X	
Certification/registration				
Specialty certification/registration				
Hospital-active	X			
Clinically active		X		
Record of adverse actions				
Inspector General Status	X	X	X	X
DEA registration				
Education or Experience				X



Step Two Outcomes

- Potential for greater participation in volunteer organizations.
- Enhanced emergency coordination, communication with each volunteer.
- Ensures the volunteer is more fully integrated into emergency planning.
- Increases the number of volunteers who will actually activate.

STEP THREE: LOCAL COORDINATION

			
LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS	ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	MEDICAL RESERVE CORP

- Another objective of the ESAR-VHP program is to coordinate with local and state emergency preparedness officials and local emergency preparedness coalitions and networks.



ESAR-VHP/MRC Integration

- ESAR-VHP and the MRC each represent key national initiatives of the U.S. Health and Human Services to improve the nation's ability to prepare and respond to public health and medical emergencies.
- Integration will allow for the maximum use of volunteers' skills, will minimize duplication of efforts, and will strengthen local community response.



Hospital Role

- Encourage staff to renew licenses electronically, provide computer access for staff to visit LMS, ESAR-VHP registry
- Discuss with staff the actions they should take before accepting an ESAR-VHP request for deployment
- Assist ISDH staff with verification of credentials (i.e. hospital privileges)



Health Professional's Role

- Register with ESAR-VHP when registry becomes available, provide additional information on deployment preferences, other volunteer affiliations, etc.
- Participate at your own level in the training/education opportunities and other volunteer organizations
- If an emergency does occur, you will have the chance to accept/decline volunteer request



MRC Unit Role

- Utilize Indiana ESAR-VHP for credential verification.
- Training and preparing of volunteers for activation at the local level.
- Work with ESAR-VHP on the development of coordinated notification, activation, mobilization and demobilization procedures.



Step Three Outcomes

- Learn of local recruitment efforts and unique emergency management procedures.
- Emphasize that local officials are responsible for identification of the # of volunteers needed, roles they will assume, and training needs for volunteers.
- Development of the state registry will be only one tool that the local leaders can use or choose not to use.



STEP FOUR: EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION

- The purpose of the registry is to create a system to notify the trained and properly verified volunteer; and supply them to where they are needed to respond in a medical emergency.



Activation & Deployment

- When we receive a request for volunteers, we will query our system for the appropriate number and type of volunteer needed and contact them to see if they are willing to serve in the emergency response. It is completely up to the volunteer to accept or decline the request.
- We are currently working to develop written protocols for notification and deployment of volunteers.



Progress Summary To Date

- Online Registry System:
 - We are developing our website and registry database in-house at the ISDH with our State Information Technology staff. Currently, there are 3 IT staff members dedicated to the development of the ESAR-VHP system. Estimates are that the website and registry are 80% complete.



Progress Summary To Date

- Operational Development
 - In the process of developing a Program Advisory Group for ESAR-VHP to include representatives from LHDs, hospitals, MRCs, Citizen Corps, EMA, DHS, etc.
 - Current recruitment through PLA. We would like to expand recruitment efforts.
 - Working to coordinate with other volunteer health professional/emergency preparedness entities such as Citizen Corps, MRC, ARC, etc.



Future Steps to Be Accomplished

- Completion of online registry and database
- Deployment/Mobilization Procedures
- Liability and other legal issues
- Access Rights and Procedures
- Plan for Testing of ESAR-VHP activation and operation systems through drills and exercises



Steps You Can Take Now

- Encourage all health professionals to use the electronic license renewal process and complete the e-survey.
- Review plans in your local community and participate in workplace medical emergency preparation.
- Discuss the importance of volunteering and the impact of staffing at your health facility.
- Share your ideas of how this program should be improved.



QUESTIONS?

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