

Progress and Hurdles

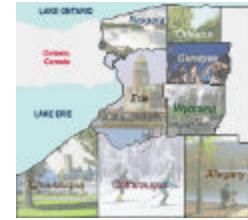
Western New York Regional Emergency Preparedness

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T²B² Broadcast
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Western New York

- 8 counties
- 1,581,686 population*
- 6,447 square miles



*2001 estimated US Census Bureau

Western New York

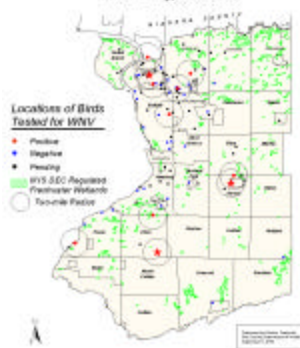


- Urban, suburban and rural communities
- Buffalo – 2nd largest city
- Niagara Falls
- ¼ power generation NYS & Ontario
- 2 Great Lakes
- Canadian and Pennsylvanian borders
- Agriculture

Western New York Public Health Alliance (WNY PHA)

- Informal sharing best practices since 1994
- 8 public health directors and commissioner
- Co-chairs from Erie & small county
- Actual “products” and “offshoots”
 - Regional Health Risk Assessment by SUNYAB Family Medicine
 - Regional asthma, diabetes, HIV/AIDS coalitions and Community Health Network
 - Physician’s Guide to Public Health: Partners in Keeping People Well, second edition
 - WNY & Niagara Region of Ontario WNV Adulticiding Guidelines

West Nile Virus Surveillance Erie County, New York



Our Current Focus

- 9/11
- Anthrax
- Smallpox
- Al-Quada
- Iraq
- West Nile Virus



What We Should Have Always Been Addressing

- Cardiovascular disease
- Cancer
- Injuries
- HIV
- Pandemic flu outbreak
- Bioterrorism
- Other emerging public health threats

HHS Announces \$1.1 Billion BT Preparedness Funding Jan 31, 2002

- "...strengthen capacity to respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies..."
- \$5 million + per capita to states
- Funding US territories & 4 largest cities
- \$29.4 million to NYS
- \$22.8 million to NYC

Who's In Charge of These Moving Targets

- A – Preparedness Planning and Readiness Assessment 30%
- B – Surveillance and Epidemiology Capacity 30%
- C – Laboratory Capacity Biologic Agents 0%
- D – Laboratory Capacity Chemical Agents 0%
- E – HAN/Communications and Information Technology 20%
- F – Risk Communication and Health Information Dissemination 5%
- G – Education and Training 15%



Western New York Public Health Funding

- Allegany - \$75,000
- Cattaraugus - \$98,955
- Chautauqua - \$154,750
- Erie - \$950,265
- Genesee - \$85,000
- Niagara - \$219,846
- Orleans - \$75,000
- Wyoming - \$75,000

WNY PHA Funding Plan

| COUNTY | NYS Funding | 1/3 Regional Contribution | Remaining Funds |
|----------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Allegany | 75,000 | 25,000 | 50,000 |
| Cattaraugus | 98,955 | 32,985 | 65,970 |
| Chautauqua | 154,750 | 51,583 | 103,167 |
| Erie | 950,265 | 316,755 | 633,510 |
| Genesee | 85,000 | 28,333 | 56,667 |
| Niagara | 219,846 | 73,282 | 146,564 |
| Orleans | 75,000 | 25,000 | 50,000 |
| Wyoming | 75,000 | 25,000 | 50,000 |
| WNY PHA | 1,733,816 | 577,939 | |

Why A Regional Plan?

- Disease knows no political border
- Smaller counties face overwhelming challenge given their limited funding
- Cost-effective approach
- WNY better positioned for future competitive funding

Regionalism Is Already Happening!

- Buffalo-Niagara International Airport serves WNY
- EMS and trauma systems already “regionalized”
- Tertiary care hospitals already “regionalized”
- Western New York Poison Control Center (WNYPCC) already “regionalized”
- Erie County Public Health Lab (ECPHL) already serves region
- Erie County Medical Examiner already serves 3 other counties
- WNY PHA has done it already!
- We can hang together or hang individually

WNY PHA Emergency Preparedness Plan Objectives

- Contractual arrangement
- Erie County lead county
- All counties and public health commissioner/directors maintain complete autonomy and authority
- Enhance public health infrastructure
- Leverage previous, current and future dollars
- Partnerships with other regional resources (e.g., academic institutions, vendors, private industry)
- Integrate with all other disciplines (e.g., fire, hazmat, law enforcement)
- Include response capability

Preparedness Planning and Readiness Assessment (A)

- Regional Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness (ROPHEP)
 - Regional Medical Director
 - Regional Coordinator
 - Safety Coordinator
 - Senior Clerk Typist
- Specialized Medical Assistance Response Team (SMART)



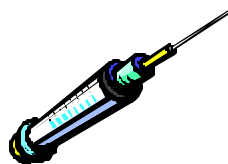
SMART

- SUNY Buffalo/Erie County Medical Center Creation
- “Adopted” by Erie County
- Addition of citizen medical corp
- Expanded for BT
 - Command and Control
 - NPS
 - Casualty Collection
 - Mass vaccination/prophylaxis
 - Mass Fatality
 - Mental Health



CDC Estimates for Staffing Erie County Smallpox Clinics

- 25 clinics
- 10 days
- 16 hours/day
- 800 immunizers
- 4,500 support staff
- 450 RNs
- 100 physicians



Surveillance and Epidemiology Capacity (B)



- 911, EMS & ED syndromic surveillance
- Web enabled emergency department (ED) triage data collection system development by Calspan University Buffalo Research Center (CUBRC)
- Analysis of surveillance data by SUNY Buffalo, Department of Social and Preventative Medicine
- Partner with regional EMS program agency developing web enabled ED status tracking system

Laboratory Capacity Chemical Agents (D)

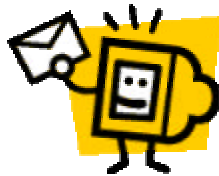
- Not currently funded
- Emergency services available from CUBRC chem/bio experts
- Chemical agent RDT&E test facility
- 700-acre parcel of land in rural WNY
- Certified by U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical/Biological Center to handle and use chemical warfare agents
- Unblemished safety record since chemical operations began in 1983

HAN/Communications and Information Technology (E)

- IT equipment and services provided directly to each county by NYS DOH
- DisasterLAN
 - Mobile wireless local area network including laptops in trailer
 - Internet capability including satellite access
 - Online and offline reference center
 - Resource tracking
 - Chat and email capability
 - Status board including weather maps and remote web cams
 - Smallpox vaccination recording module to be added

Risk Communication and Health Information Dissemination (F)

- Niagara County lead county via subcontract



Education and Training (G)

- Occurring at many levels
 - SMART
 - MSSNY
 - NYSNA
 - NYSACHO
 - Etc.
- Need for coordination

Future Challenges

- Sustained funding & maintenance of BT and other public health efforts especially given looming budget crises
- Transition from 9 – 5 to 24/7 capacity
- NYS DOH approval of WNY PHA plans
- Mutual aid enabling legislation
- Create WNY PHA governance structure

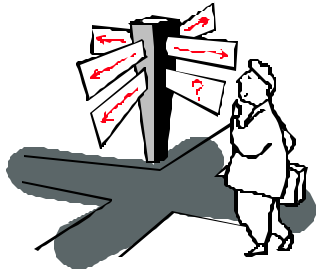


Future Challenges

- Seamless horizontal and vertical integration with other public health, health care and public safety providers (e.g., fire, hazmat, police)
- Communicate with higher authorities especially CDC before public release of plans
- Build the factory before we rush to produce a product
- Don't forget about the rest of public health!



Questions?



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