Federal Agency Perspectives: Community Health Resilience

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ASPR brings together Science, Policy and Operations
Mission:
Provide subject matter expertise, education, and coordination to internal and external partners to ensure that the functional needs of at-risk individuals and behavioral health issues are integrated in the public health and medical emergency preparedness, response, and recovery activities of the nation to facilitate and promote community resilience and national health security.  http://www.phe.gov/abc

Key Responsibilities:
- Policy guidance
- Providing expertise & technical assistance
- Interagency coordination

Regarding:
- At-risk Individuals
- Behavioral Health
- Community Resilience

What Are the Challenges?

• "Resilience" is Ubiquitous
• Many Definitions
• Many Activities
• Identifying Mission Space
• Measurement
• Others
Resilience is Prevalent in National Policy and Plans

NHSS Implementation Plan

PH Capabilities / Grant Alignment: PHEP & HPP

Community Resilience

ASPR Strategic Plan

National Preparedness Goal
First Edition
September 2011

FEMA Strategic Plan; FY 2011-2014

Resilience: Many Sectors & Many Definitions

Different sectors define resilience through their professional points of view

Physics: the capacity of a material or system to return to equilibrium after a displacement

Psychology: psychological resilience is an individual's tendency to cope with stress and adversity

Ecology: resilience is the capacity of an ecosystem to respond to a perturbation or disturbance by resisting damage and recovering quickly

Manufacturing: ability of a product or system to absorb the impact of the failure of one or more components or a significant disturbance in its environment, and to still continue to provide an acceptable level of service

National Health Security: the sustained ability of communities to withstand and recover from adversity
Community Resilience one of two goals of the NHSS and is defined as the sustained ability of communities to withstand and recover—in both the short and long term—from adversity.

“…refocus the patchwork of public health and medical preparedness, response, and recovery strategies in order to ensure that the nation is prepared for, protected from, and resilient in the face of health threats or incidents with potentially negative health consequences.”

“Resilient communities have robust social networks and health systems that support preparedness, response, and recovery.”

Community resilience is a Public Health Capability domain in CDC guidance. 

Community Health Resilience is a subset of overall resilience that helps us to focus on the variables that health and social services can best influence:

• The pre-event status of health and social services in a community can predict resilience
• Involves *human* resilience and *infrastructure* resilience
• Social connectedness (or social capital) has the potential to significantly reinforce resilience
• Public health, health care, and social services are deeply interwoven with other sectors and in most communities are important nodes of social connectedness and community infrastructure
• *Infrastructure resilience* includes healthcare system and public health infrastructure
Health resilience focuses on factors that improve the trajectories of the middle 2 groups (Bonanno, 2008)
Levers of Community Resilience (RAND)

Levers and Core Components of Community Resilience

- **Wellness**: Promote pre and post-incident population health, including behavioral health.
- **Access**: Ensure access to high-quality health, behavioral health, and social services.
- **Education**: Ensure ongoing information to the public about preparedness, risks, and resources before, during, and after a disaster.
- **Engagement**: Promote participatory decision-making in planning, response and recovery activities.
- **Self-Sufficiency**: Enable and support individuals and communities to assume responsibility for their preparedness.
- **Partnership**: Develop strong partnerships within and between government and nongovernmental organizations.

Core components of community resilience:

- Social and economic well-being of the community.
- Physical and psychological health of population.
- Effective risk communication information for all populations.
- Social connectedness for resource exchange, cohesion, response, and recovery.
- Integration and involvement of organizations (govt/NGO) in planning, response, and recovery.

Ongoing activities:

- Quality: Collect, analyze, and utilize data on building community resilience.
- Efficiency: Leverage resources for multiple use and maximum effectiveness.

Community context

Ongoing development of community resilience

Ongoing disaster experience
Social Capital & Connectedness

1) Studies have shown that people who are actively engaged in groups (social connectedness) have better health and access to healthcare than those who are not engaged.

2) Social capital and cohesion are linked to higher levels of subjective health, better mental health, lower cardiovascular and cancer mortality, lower suicide rates, and lower levels of violent crime.

3) In addition to quickly disseminating information and financial and physical assistance, communities with an abundance of social capital were able to minimize the migration of people and valuable resources out of the area (Aldrich, Building Resilience).

ASPR Community Resilience Projects

- Disaster Behavioral Health & Community Resilience Forum (ASPR/SAMHSA)
- Community Health Resilience Listening Session: Addressing Social Capital, Behavioral Health, & Functional Needs (ASPR/ASTHO/NACCHO)
- National Health Security Strategy Working Group: Objective 1; Promoting Informed and Empowered Individuals and Communities (ASPR)
- ASPR Community Resilience Strategy Group
- Federal Community Health Resilience Coalition
- ASPR Strategic Plan Goal 1 Implementation: Promote Resilient Communities
Partner Community Resilience Projects

- Community Resilience Pilot Projects: LA County & DC (RAND)
- Community Health Resilience Initiative (DHS-OHA)
- Community Resilience System Initiative (CARRI/FEMA)
- Composite of Post-Event Well Being Project [CoPE WELL] (Johns Hopkins/CDC)
  - Identifying data regularly collected at the national, state, and local levels that could compose a viable index to predict peri- and post-event functioning
  - The composite will be computed at the county level for all U.S. counties.