


# Creating a Community of Resilience: Emergency Preparedness for Child Care Providers and Those that Serve Them

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# Our Program

- ▶ Funding from LA Co. Dept of Public Health in fall of 2012
  - ▶ Development of **Toolkit** and **Quick Guide** for child care programs
  - ▶ Development of videos
  - ▶ Trainings for child care providers
  - ▶ Collaborative county-wide meetings with R&Rs
  - ▶ Partnership with Save the Children – R&R trainings and Toolkit
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# Why Focus on Emergency Preparedness of Child Care

- ▶ Help keep children safe
  - ▶ Providers learn about hazards and risks in their community
  - ▶ Reduce the impact (incl. trauma) of the emergency/disaster to children and adults
  - ▶ Child care programs resume business faster
  - ▶ Help R&Rs/APs resume business faster
  - ▶ Help child care programs be more self reliant
  - ▶ Help reunify children with parents faster
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# Why should R&Rs help providers be prepared for emergencies and disasters?


- ▶ R&Rs existing relationships with providers
  - ▶ Offer other trainings to providers
  - ▶ Minimize the trauma and injuries to children and staff
  - ▶ Help families reunify faster
  - ▶ Providers assume R&R will help them after a disaster
  - ▶ What can/will your R&R do and not do to help providers
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# How can R&Rs educate providers about emergency preparedness?


## ▶ Training

- Group Workshops
- Visits
- Coaching Sessions

## ▶ Communication


- Social Media
  - Emails/newsletters
  - Robo Calls
  - Provide information in native language
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# Training Providers


- ▶ Practice Drills
  - ▶ Emergency Comfort Kits for Children
  - ▶ Emergency Supplies
  - ▶ Site Diagram
  - ▶ Your Neighborhood Site Diagram
  - ▶ Assign Roles and Responsibilities of Staff
  - ▶ Update Child Emergency Card periodically
  - ▶ Emotional Support and Recovery of Children and Adults
  - ▶ Business Continuity
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# Other Roles of R&Rs:

## Responding to an Emergency


- ▶ Notify providers of emergencies
  - ▶ Temporary Respite Care
  - ▶ Finding Child Care for First Responders
  - ▶ Offer Training to Providers on Disaster Recovery including Social Emotional Recovery
  - ▶ Participate in Child Care Response and Recovery Working Group
  - ▶ Damage Assessment
  - ▶ Help reunification process by contacting parents if you have their information
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# Lessons from other R&Rs

- ▶ Social Emotional Comfort Kits
  - ▶ Staffing of temporary respite care / Child Friendly Spaces
  - ▶ Donation Management
  - ▶ Grants
  - ▶ They think about what more they COULD HAVE done *if they were prepared*
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# How can your R&R be prepared?

- ▶ Conduct drills – include staff, volunteers, clients
  - ▶ Have an Emergency Team
  - ▶ Identify roles and responsibilities
  - ▶ Review and Update Business Continuity Plan
  - ▶ Review and Update Emergency Plan
  - ▶ Update Staff Contact Lists
  - ▶ Off-site Data Storage
  - ▶ Establish community partners
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# Key Activities & Accomplishments

- ▶ Our partnership began as a joint venture between local DPH and R&R as a pilot project to improve pandemic and emergency preparedness of child care networks in Los Angeles county :
    - 1,850 Influenza vaccinations (68% were not vaccinated the prior year).
    - 1,650 Pertussis vaccinations.
    - 336 child care providers attended workshops to educate them on vaccinations and pandemics.
    - Flyers and informational materials were distributed to over 30,000 parents and 18,000 child care workers in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, and Korean.
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# Key Activities & Accomplishments

- ▶ **Trainings and Workshops (Disaster Preparedness)**
    - Over 685 child care providers have been trained on how to prepare, respond, and recover in an emergency or disaster event.
    - “Train the Trainer” workshops allow R&R staff from agencies across the county to facilitate our disaster preparedness and emergency response training for their providers and staff.
    - A series of “working sessions” between DPH, CCALA representatives, and county R&R and AP agencies have laid the ground work for greater collaborations.
    - From October 2015 – June 2016 an estimated 280 child care providers will be trained across eight participating R&R and AP agencies.
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# Key Activities & Accomplishments


## ▶ Focus Groups

- Refinement of training modules and materials
  - To meet the unique needs of child care centers, family child care homes, and R&R/AP agencies.
- R&R agencies
  - Managerial level staff participants.
- Child care providers
  - Center based and home based participants.

# Key Activities & Accomplishments

## ▶ Material Development

### ◦ *The Emergency Preparedness Toolkit for Child Care Providers*

- Preparing ECE providers for emergencies.
  - Mitigating the impact of emergencies on children in child care.
  - Empowering ECE providers by increasing their ability to respond and recover from emergencies.
  - Raising the awareness of community and neighborhood level hazards.
  - Promoting reunification between children in care and their families after an emergency.
  - Improving ECE providers' ability to maintain business continuity following an emergency or disaster event.
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# Key Activities & Accomplishments

## ▶ Material Development

- *The Emergency Preparedness Quick-Guide for Child Care*

- Supplementary stand-alone series of bound and laminated flip-cards.
- Concept derived from information gathered during focus group sessions.
- Consolidates rapid assessment and response guidance for:
  - Fire, Utility Disruption , Threats of Violence, Psychological First Aid (emotional recovery), Hazardous Materials , Earthquakes/Tsunamis , Extreme Weather Conditions, and Contagious Diseases.

# Key Findings

- 9 out of 10 workshop attendees demonstrated an increase in their knowledge and awareness as a result of participation. (n = 311)
- Over three-years of Focus group feedback and evaluation findings incorporated into tangible materials (Toolkit & Quick Guide) have resulted in 9 out of 10 ECE professionals rating them as “high” or “Very High”. (n = 94)
- Glaring need to improve and build upon relationships between child care providers and community entities which would be of great importance to them during an emergency.
  - (i.e. Emergency Responders, Community Based Organizations, and Neighbors)
    - Next Slide



# Key Findings

(n = 45)

Current Practices Employed by ECE Attendees	English is Primary Language	English is Second Language	All Attendees
I Keep a stock of supplies for emergency purposes (Yes)	100.0%	77.3%	83.3%
I keep an evacuation plan for children and adults at my child care setting (Yes)*	91.7%	95.5%	97.1%
I practice our evacuation plan at my child care setting (2 or more times per-year)*	66.7%	75.0%	72.7%
I keep up to date emergency contact information for children at my child care setting (current)	81.8%	90.5%	87.9%
I keep a reunification plan at my child care setting to reunite children with parents/guardians (Yes)	58.3%	80.0%	72.7%
I share information regarding evacuation and reunification plans with parents and guardians of the children at my child care setting (Yes)	81.8%	55.0%	65.6%
<b>I have discussed plans to assist me during an emergency with the following people/organizations</b>			
Fire Department	54.5%	47.1%	51.7%
Police Department	54.5%	37.5%	46.4%
Family/Friends/Neighbors	81.8%	63.2%	71.0%
Local Medical Facilities	57.1%	40.0%	47.8%
Schools	66.7%	37.5%	50.0%
Volunteer organizations that provide relief and support during an emergency such as Red Cross, Salvation Army, or any other voluntary organization	42.9%	5.9%	20.0%
Community based organizations such as a local Resource and Referral agency or Church	42.9%	31.6%	33.3%

# Key Findings

- Strengths

- R&R and AP agencies have extensive reach across all of Los Angeles County
  - Local R&R agencies are the key points of contact for reaching our community's Providers and Care Centers.
  - Child Care Providers extend this reach to the children and families which they serve.
- R&R agencies have a long-standing and trusted relationship with providers (including license-exempt providers).
- R&R's maintain strong networks and ties to the community:
  - They have the capacity to take on key roles in a communities recovery and rebuilding in the aftermath of a disaster.
- The ECE sector has been shown to have a profound impact on local economies
  - ECE sector can impact regional economics as much or more than traditionally respected layers of social infrastructure such as public transit services, hospitals, and K-12 education (Warner & Liu 2005; 2006)
  - A resilient ECE sector capable of maintaining business continuity can greatly improve the speed at which an impacted community is able to recover.

# Key Findings

Sector	Revenue Generated for Every Dollar Spent	Jobs Generated for Every Job Created
Child Care	\$0.91	1/2
Hospitals	\$0.79	2/3
K-12 Education	\$0.91	1/3
Local Passenger Transit	\$0.72	1/3
Water and Sewer	\$0.67	2 2/3

**Estimated Revenue and Labor Impact of Child Care and Four Major Service Sectors on their Regional Economies.** For each dollar spent in Child Care, an additional \$0.91 is generated in the regional economy. For each new job created in Child Care, an additional 1/2 job is generated in the broader economy. (Warner and Liu, 2005; 2006)


# Improving Your Emergency and Disaster Resilience




Tabletop Activity for Resource & Referral Agencies



# What is Disaster Resilience?

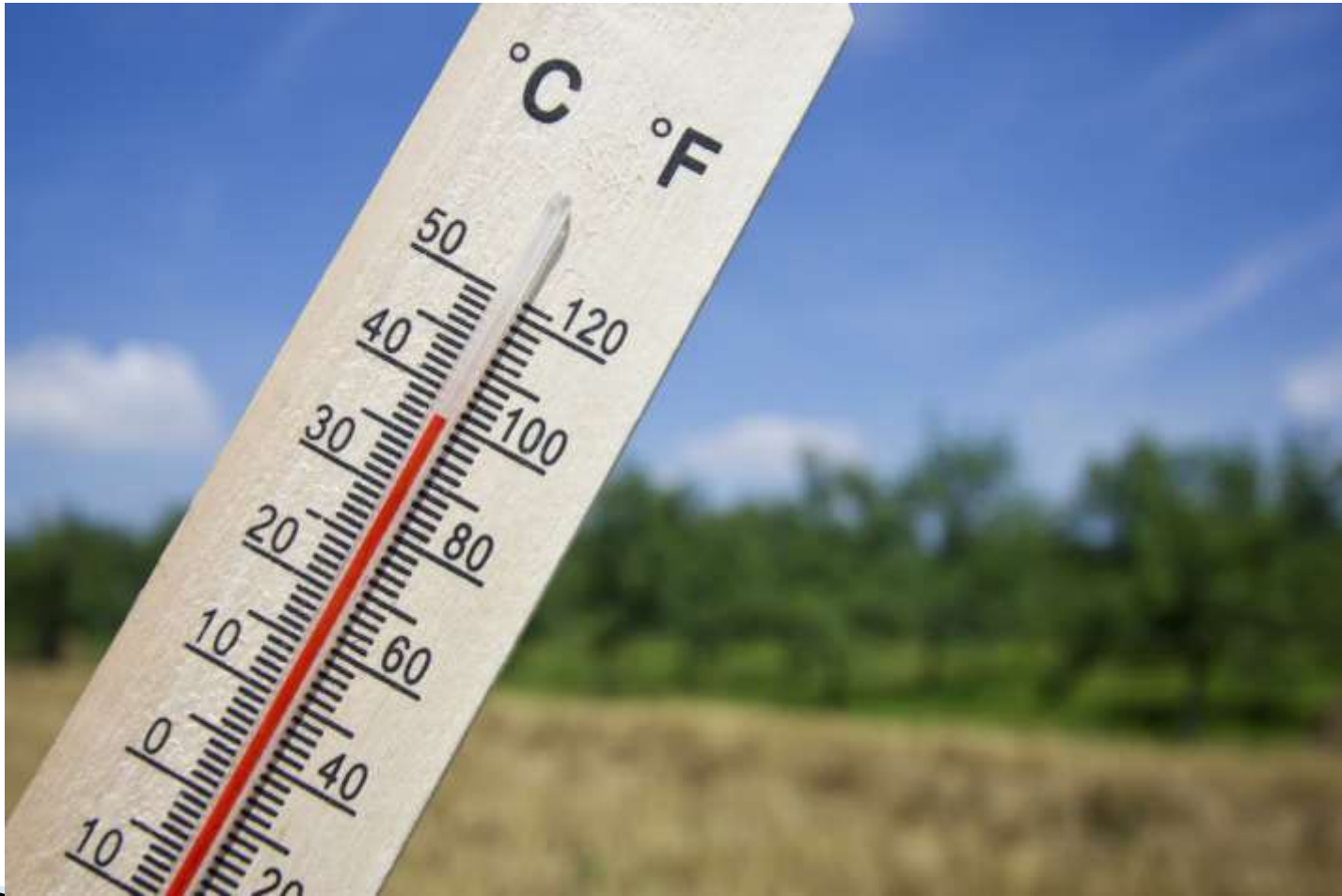
- ▶ Resilience is defined as the capacity to prepare, respond and recover from a disaster or emergency
    - Assess and address community vulnerabilities, gaps and needs
    - Develop community partnerships
    - Provide training, education, and engagement
    - Build on strength, resources and the support of others
    - Include a range of emergencies and disasters
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# What is a Tabletop Activity?

- ▶ A tabletop activity is a simulated (not-real) crisis, disaster or emergency situation to help groups to assess their level of preparedness and discuss strategies for improvement.
  - ▶ During the activity a scenario is presented and participants discuss what the response would be.
  - ▶ The activity is intended to provide an informal and low-stress environment to review current plans, clarify emergency roles and responsibilities, and identify gaps in planning, response and recovery.
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# Heat Scenario: Phase One



# PARTNERSHIP



- ▶ What local partnerships should be put in place including local government, non-profit business, health and responder agencies to make sure you and the providers you serve are ready for this heat increase?
- ▶ Are there cooling centers you can refer providers or families to after hours or on weekends?



# ENGAGEMENT



- ▶ How will you identify how staff, providers, children and families are being impacted by heat?
- ▶ What strategies do you have for communication and sharing information?
- ▶ What can you do to accommodate staff who are challenged by the heat?

# EDUCATION



- ▶ Are there education materials available for staff and providers to help prevent heat related illness and exhaustion for themselves and children?
- ▶ Will families be provided with information?
- ▶ How will information be shared?
- ▶ Will you provide training?
- ▶ Do you and your providers have information and resources to keep indoor and outdoor areas cool?
- ▶ Do current documents about facility safety include this information?



# SELF-SUFFICIENCY



- ▶ How would periods of extreme heat effect any services you provide to clients?
- ▶ Are providers able to stay open during this heat wave? If providers are unable to stay open, how would you respond?
- ▶ Would you make changes on how you do business?

# Heat Scenario: Phase Two



# PARTNERSHIP



- ▶ Are there other partners that could help with the impact of the heat and power outages?
- ▶ Who is the R&R connected with to receive ongoing information and resources?

# ENGAGEMENT



- ▶ How will you know if children are being affected by the air quality, which providers lack refrigeration and have issues with food storage, and who might be located near any fires?
- ▶ Would you be able to provide updates to families regarding air quality and power outages?

# EDUCATION



- ▶ How would your agency convey information to providers about food safety, air quality and evacuation warnings related to the fires?
- ▶ Would you be able to provide training and resources?
- ▶ Do providers know how to respond to children who are affected by the air quality?



# SELF-SUFFICIENCY



- ▶ Are agencies and providers able to help each other with air conditioning or refrigeration?
- ▶ Are there other alternative locations for child care available if needed?



# Heat Scenario: Phase Three



# PARTNERSHIP



- ▶ Are your partners or others in your community who can, able to help R&R's and providers respond to and cope with the emotional stress from this tragedy?

# ENGAGEMENT



- ▶ Are you able to engage providers about the impact and needs expressed by families?
- ▶ Are there additional groups you are communicating with to provide information and seek resources?

# EDUCATION



- ▶ How would your agency respond to this tragedy?
- ▶ Are there any resources for mental health/emotional support and injury prevention for families and providers?
- ▶ Are there educational materials available for distribution that would provide information to help prevent similar deaths, injury and illness?

# SELF-SUFFICIENCY



- ▶ How would your agency respond to the stress and concern expressed by families in your community?
- ▶ Can your agency provide the needed training, education, and communications necessary to keep clients confident and secure?
- ▶ Can your agency respond to media inquiries?

# Heat Scenario: Phase Four



# PARTNERSHIP



- ▶ Are the partners or networks able to help with the implementation of this curriculum?



# ENGAGEMENT



- ▶ Are there additional groups you are communicating with to provide information and seek resources?



# EDUCATION



- ▶ What could your agency do to support this effort?

# SELF-SUFFICIENCY




- ▶ Can your agency and providers identify and build on the lessons learned from the heat event to prepare for the next season and for other emergencies or disasters?

# Agency Self-Assessment



# Next Steps

Review your scores and any discussion notes, ask:

- What are the strengths in your agency's emergency plans?
  - What are the biggest gaps or challenges?
  - What areas are the biggest priority?
  - What activities will your agency do first?
  - What, partnerships, resources and support does your agency need to improve its emergency planning?
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# Sample Strategies for Action





# Resources



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