



Local emergency preparedness strengthened on August 7



Caught with pleasant thoughts are many of the participants of the Emergency Preparedness meeting on August 7, 2009.

The coordinated efforts of Cathy Sakansky, Director Quality Management for the Coalition, and Dorothy Hendrickson, of the OC Health Care Agency, brought the community clinics and local stakeholders together for a meeting on August 7th around local emergency preparedness at the Health Emergency Operations Center in Santa Ana.

The meeting was well represented. A few of the attendees included Isabel Becerra CEO and staff, several clinic member leadership, and key County staff. Participants spoke about their specialized roles and how they could collaborate in disaster preparedness.

The meeting included a tour of the Health Strategic Operation Center (HSOC). The HSOC is the location where the health department will coordinate their response activities in the event of a public health crisis or natural disasters, such as wild fires and earthquakes. The HSOC is color-coded to quickly identify the functions that take place within, including Command, Operations, Logistics, Planning and Finance/Administration. Each location has a computer, phone, vest and other equipment individuals will need to function during an event.

The COCCC could have a staff member located in the HSOC to coordinate the Coalition's clinic response, as needed during a local emergency.

Hearing the health disaster management division (HDM) speak about their specialized roles and on practical ways for local community clinics could collaborate in disaster preparedness was strategic.

The group discussion focused on multiple topics, including preparation for the next influenza season and H1N1, gap analysis reports of the clinics emergency capabilities, distribution of emergency supplies to community clinics, and the need to conduct table top exercises and training opportunities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Conversation with Pres. Obama

Wednesday, August 19, 2PM

Call 347-996-5501 to join the conversation on health reform. Or listen on the web at www.fairforhealth.org.

Sup. Janet Nguyen to visit VNCOC and Nhan Hoa

Thursday, August 20, 9:30AM-12PM

Community Health Centers on the Frontlines:

Orange County Health in a Growing Crisis

A Community Forum by The Coalition

Saturday, August 22, 2009, 2:00-4:30PM

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Hall

1100 S Center Street, Santa Ana, CA

Member Mtg Rescheduled: Thu, August 27, 11am -1pm

HIT/HIE Task Force: Thu, August 27, 1:00pm -2:30pm

CCPro Users Meeting: Thu, August 27th 2:45 - 3:30pm

To keep up with demands on community clinics, IHA/FOC holds innovative MA training

On August 8, the Institute for Healthcare Advancement/Friends of Children (IHA/FOC), presented an advanced medical assistant (MA) training class that was attended by approximately 30 MA's from 5 Coalition member organizations.

The training was led by Donna McKenzie who is a Nurse Practitioner with IHA/FOC; she kept her audience captivated with lessons on anatomy, updated information, learning tools, skill reviews, charting, communication and efficient ways for MA's to provide quality care for their patients.

The participants took an MA certification practice exam to test their knowledge base, and were also given testing tips to increase successful exam outcome results.

Nurse educators and observers (Donna McKenzie, Gloria Mayer & Cathy Sakansky) assessed their MA skills and knowledge, while providing necessary corrective changes. David Lee assisted with practical computer knowledge.

Overall the training was well received by the medical assistants who thought the day was value added. IHA/FOC plans to offer more trainings for MAs in the future.