



COHERENT STRATEGY

News from The H.E.L.P. Center

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Wright State University • Boonshoft School of Medicine • Department of Emergency Medicine

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Message from the Director

As winter winds down and we happily look forward to spring, being prepared for all-hazards and its impact to our communities continues to be an important theme. Every aspect of preparation on how events affect the places we live, work, and play occupy the time and energy of a wide variety of people. Those working in the related fields of preparedness must continue to be aware of how their combined efforts are added toward maintaining the disaster resilient community. These communities are further capable of returning to normal more effectively and efficiently, and with a substantially decreased adverse economic burden. Citizens stay safer, the places we live endure fewer hardships, the businesses we work in remain economically viable, and the community infrastructure is preserved when local, state, federal, and non-governmental organizations partner with the people for maintaining a disaster resilient community.



The disaster resilient community should be no new term to the preparedness world, however, a recent gap analysis performed by The HELP Center and the Department of Emergency Medicine took a critical look at a number of NIH roundtable reports dating back several years. It remains clear that lessons learned are not often learned, they are repeated. During the remainder of 2008, The HELP Center will focus much attention on the disaster resilient community. Our core project areas will each focus attention on this theme as it relates to each program. The Modular Emergency Medical Systems program is contributing significantly to this theme by substantially investing and augmenting Ohio's surge bed capability. Approximately \$6 is saved for every \$1 invested in a project like this offering Ohioans a substantial return on investment. The challenge will now be to incorporate groups such as the Ohio Medical Reserve Corps, the Ohio Citizens Corps, local CERT teams and other organizations into the system. A first step was taken with a highly successful pandemic influenza drill several weeks ago.

The Human Access Care and Evacuation programs are hard at work and have added the talents of retired Brigadier General William Germann, MD, USAF to the team. Dr. Germann served as Surgeon General, Air Force Materiel Command and was the senior medical officer for one of the major commands in the US Air Force. We are pleased to add his talent and expertise in a number of disciplines to our team. Calamityville will be the "flagship" of our civil medical readiness programs, enhancing the disaster resilient theme in a very substantial way.

Our scholarly activity continues and several papers have been submitted or are in progress. The Center is exploring international aspects of medical readiness and has just launched a research project with International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), operating out of the Department of State and the United Nations. The Center will report on these and other projects on our web site. I invite each of you to go to www.emhelpcenter.org to see firsthand what areas we are working on.

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Mark E. Gebhart, M.D.
Director

Human Access, Care, and Evacuation Program Update

The last couple of months have been a true growth process for the Human Access, Care and Evacuation (HACE) program at the HELP Center. The Ohio Research Scholars Program (ORSP) submission for the Calamityville™ Fusion Center was a time of discovery and development for the HELP Center. The ORSP infused a new sense of excitement that has already led to new ideas and plans.

The Calamityville™ Tactical Laboratory remains the keystone of the project and is now in the final phases of selecting a site. Pinnacle Architects, an engineering and architectural firm in Dayton, Ohio, submitted a report which further evaluated three potential sites that were identified through the “Site Seeker” process of the Dayton Development Coalition. Once final documents are received, the HELP Center will be ready to make an announcement of the Tactical Lab’s future home.

A proposal to the Boonshoft School of Medicine’s Boonshoft Innovation Fund was recently submitted. The funding from this unique source will be directed to launch the Calamityville™ Virtual Laboratory. The Virtual Lab will offer many interesting learning and simulation capabilities for the first provider. We are also looking forward to assembling several of our ORSP academic, military and commercial partners together to develop this important, parallel resource.

Dr. William Germann, recently retired Brigadier General and Command Surgeon of the United States Air Force Materiel Command, will be working with the Calamityville™ staff in securing its future. His passion for the project and his extensive history of leadership and project development will infuse even more energy into Calamityville’s growing momentum. We are engaging in dialogue with Columbia University’s Mailman College of Public Health in New York City and Owens Community College in Toledo, Ohio, for more opportunities of collaboration and joint projects. 2008 will be a great year of growth and discovery. We hope you will follow along as we grow and join us when Calamityville™ opens for business.

The HELP Center Welcomes New Staff Member



The HELP Center is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. William J. Germann, USAF, (Ret). Dr. Germann joins the HELP Center as a consultant to the Calamityville project.

Dr. Germann recently retired as a brigadier general from the United States Air Force as the Command Surgeon, Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC), Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. In this capacity he was responsible for advising the AFMC commander on all medical matters, including the health and physical well-being of 78,000 AFMC military and civilian personnel. He was the controlling manager for AFMC's eight community-based medical treatment facilities, ranging from outpatient clinics to major teaching hospitals. He ensured the wartime readiness and combat support capability for more than 7,000 medical personnel, and supervised and monitored peacetime healthcare to more than 435,000 beneficiaries.

Dr. Germann also oversaw the environmental and occupational health support for AFMC's industrial, research, development, and testing and evaluation missions. Additionally, he oversaw medical research and development, education and training, and science and technology programs conducted at the 311th Human Systems Wing; U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine; U.S. Air Force Institute for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health Risk Analysis; and Air Force Research Laboratory.

His Air Force career included positions as: Chief of Professional Services at an AF regional hospital; four hospital commands, at hospitals overseas and in the continental US; Command Surgeon of Air Education and Training Command and AFMC; serving as an Assistant Surgeon General for Plans and Programs at HQ Air Force; and as the Surgeon General Chair to the Commandant, Air University.

The H.E.L.P. Center Operations Update

In February, the HELP Center participated in the Montgomery County Pandemic Flu exercise. During this exercise, a 250 bed Acute Care Center (ACC) was set-up to alleviate bed shortages in West Central Ohio as the “Armageddon Flu” spread. This drill was a complete success from every angle. The ACC was set-up by volunteers who had no knowledge of what an Acute Care Center is all about. Medical professionals from the region toured the set-up to get a better understanding of an ACC before a real disaster situation. The drill was a wonderful learning opportunity for everyone involved. Observations made and data gathered will be assessed so that program managers can refine the process even further. The activity was sponsored by the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association (GDAHA) and was approved by the Ohio Department of Health.

The HELP Center also welcomed Dr. Alvin Jackson, Director of the Ohio Department of Health, for a briefing on the Modular Emergency Medical Systems (MEMS) program. This was the first introduction of the MEMS program to Dr. Jackson who was truly pleased with the efforts of the HELP Center.

As this quarter came to a close, the HELP Center hosted a Cooperative Research Meeting with Delphi, Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and Wright State University. This meeting focused on future collaboration in areas of research, development, and sensors. All participants left the meeting with heightened enthusiasm to further develop these initiatives under the Calamityville program.

In March 2008 the HELP Center will be presenting at the National Disaster Medical Systems (NDMS) conference in Nashville, Tennessee and take part in the Disaster Response and Recovery EXPO. If you happen to be attending the conference, stop by our booth to say hello or to get an in-person update on the HELP Center programs.



Volunteers set-up the 250 bed ACC during the Pandemic Flu drill.

Workforce Development Program

The New Year started with a week of NDLS courses in January. The HELP Center staff trained local medical professionals, medical students, Wright State University Department of Emergency Medicine residents, faculty and staff in Basic Disaster Life Support (BDLS) and Advanced Disaster Life Support (ADLS). Several participants who completed the ADLS course attended the NDLS Instructor Workshop to become certified instructors. Classes on the DISASTER Paradigm, management of blast injuries, natural and man-made disasters along with advanced classes on medical decontamination, smallpox and advanced triage using the MASS model were taught. Members of the Fairborn Senior Citizen’s Center in Fairborn, Ohio volunteered to play moulage victims of an “explosion”. The victims were presented with burns, cuts and bruises, penetrating wounds, and a traumatic enucleation of the eyeball. Coincidentally, two of our volunteers had played victims in a city-wide disaster exercise in Fairborn during World War II while their husbands were stationed in England and the Pacific Theater.

An exciting schedule of courses is underway for the Workforce Development program. Through a grant sponsored and funded by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) with funding from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response in the Department of Health and Human Services (ASPR), Hospital Preparedness Program (HHP), the HELP Center will deliver courses to train licensed health care professionals in BDLS and ADLS. The grant will enable licensed health care professionals to gain vital skills, obtain continuing education credits and receive credentialing to volunteer for the Ohio Medical Reserve Corp (www.serveohio.org). Students currently enrolled in accredited programs that will lead them to become licensed health care professionals, are eligible to attend. They can also receive credentialing to become a volunteer with the Ohio Citizens Corp. Courses will begin in late-March and run through mid-June.

For information about BDLS and ADLS courses or other training provided by the HELP Center please visit our website at www.emhelpcenter.org.

Education and Training

BDLS and ADLS Course Schedule

COURSE	DATE	LOCATION
BDLS	March 25, 2008	University of Toledo
BDLS	March 26, 2008	University of Toledo
BDLS	April 10, 2008	Akron Children's Medical Center
ADLS	April 30-May 1, 2008	Owens Community College
BDLS	May 10, 2008	Mount Vernon Nazarene University
BDLS	May 17, 2008	Wright State University
BDLS	May 17, 2008	Cincinnati Department of Health
BDLS	June 9, 2008	Portsmouth, OH
ADLS	June 10-11, 2008	Portsmouth, OH
BDLS	June 3, 2008	Cleveland Clinic
BDLS	June 4, 2008	College of Mount St. Joseph

For more information on BDLS and ADLS courses go to www.emhelpcenter.org

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