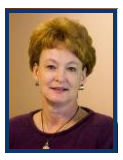
PREPAREDNESS CAPSTONE PROJECTS

CORE ACTIVITIES		PROJECT OUTPUT	PROJECT OUTCOMES/IMPACT	LONG-TERM OUTCOMES/IMPACT
Policy capstone projects		Development of statewide clinical laboratory response plan	• Equipment and training needs survey of potential member labs • Creation of info database, lab map, and public health/lab listserv • Policy development team established	10 successful lab equipment grant applications; increased resource sharing and collaboration
		Development and dissemination of isolation and quarantine legislation	• Passage of legislation clarifying LHD roles during quarantine (HB 2264) • Development and distribution of training handbook and presentation	Training of hundreds of local-level workers. Improved response to quarantine
		Survey of urban safety net clinics' role in local preparedness	• Structured interviews conducted with large and small urban safety net clinics • Preparedness training interests, barriers, and needs identified	Increased awareness of preparedness needs; improved collaboration between public health and safety net clinics
		Risk communication needs assessment and preparedness message mapping workshop	• Focus groups to gather state's risk communication needs • Workshop taught crisis responses to these needs. Significant knowledge increases following workshop	Epidemiology coursework for Pittsburg State. Published in Journal of Allied Health
Assessment capstone projects		Inventory of preparedness training materials for vulnerable populations	• National web inventory of SOG-based communication materials • Development of research-based workbook for health professionals assisting vulnerable populations	Resources catalogued, recommendations developed for community-based participatory research with vulnerable populations
		Identification and assessment of special needs populations for crisis planning	• County GIS mapping of special needs facils. • Multiple agencies informed development of assessment/informational toolkit for agencies and household to indicate special preparedness needs	Improved collaboration between preparedness agencies; statewide availability of bilingual toolkit
		Public Health Investigation exercise to assess local disease preparedness practices	• Month-long web-based infectious disease simulation conducted • Qualitative data collected from 6 LHDs on preparedness and response activities	New collaborative partnerships developed for infectious disease preparedness and response; improved ability to respond
		Survey of local-level barriers and motivators for preparedness training	• Survey results stratified by occupation • Results used to develop local preparedness training	Expansion into trainings across state for hundreds of workers
		Multi-county focus groups on public's preparedness training needs	• County-specific responses collected • Profile of training needs developed for urban and rural communities	Crisis planners able to target population info/training needs. Published in Biosecurity and Bioterrorism
		Implementation of county fit-testing for respiratory protection	• Fit-testing equipment procured and LHD staff trained • County EMTs successfully fit-tested	Improved ability to respond to BT event; strategies in progress for fit-testing addl responder groups
		Point of Dispensing exercise for LHD workers and volunteers	• Collaborative advisory group identified training needs of rural/frontier counties • Training content based on federal Incident Command System (ICS)	Improved understanding of ICS process and response by participants. First ICS training for a frontier LHD
		Survey of preparedness needs, interests, and barriers for three underserved groups	• Culturally competent interviews conducted with African American, non-English speaking, and Native American populations • Needs and effective message content, information distribution methods identified	Underserved communities engaged in preparedness planning; recommendations for applied training
		Development of preparedness media workshop and tabletop exercise for media professionals	• Training content developed to address basic preparedness topics • Training for over 100 participants from around state in media roles during disaster/crisis	Expansion of city-level media training. Project replicated throughout FEMA Region VIII
Assurance capstone projects		Preparedness training for environmental health workers	• Community-based participatory research methods gathered wide pool of participant environmental health workers • 12-agency collaborative organized • Regional preparedness funding received to develop and pilot evidence-based training	Statewide implementation of training. KS is only the 4th state to train environmental health workers in disaster response