

2006 ASTDN STATE REPORT

State: Louisiana

Contact: Clair Millet

Phone: (225) 763-3965

Date: April 14, 2006

Email: cpmillet@dhhs.la.gov

Fax: (225) 765-2794

Projects/Issues addressed this year:

- Role of public health nurses in emergency preparedness and response
- Workforce Development issues
- Public Health Nursing Competencies to include Advanced Practice Public Health Nurses
- Expansion of Special Need Sheltering Plans post Hurricane Katrina and Rita
- Establishment of a statewide nurse consultant for emergency preparedness and response.
- Institution of a continuing education web-based course (Strategic National Stockpile Awareness Course)
- Continuation of Public Health services post Hurricane Katrina and Rita.
- Continued collaboration with parish correctional facilities regarding tuberculosis and sexually transmitted disease screening programs
- Disease Surveillance Exercise targeting sexually transmitted diseases in two of the highest risk regions of the state
- Development of culturally appropriate consent forms for contraceptive methods in Family Planning
- Participation in the development of the Family Planning 1115 Waiver Demonstration Project; application submitted to CMS
- Interagency Collaborative Agreement between the Office of Public Health, Office of Community Services and Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana to provide appropriate intervention in cases of suspected child abuse/neglect. Public Health Nurses assist in investigations by providing home health assessment of children from 0-5 years of age.
- Louisiana Prenatal and Infant Risk Assessments implemented in targeted public health clinics
- Implementation of an annual Safe Haven Training
- Implementation of the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) to address:
 - Access to health care and medical homes
 - Mental health and social-emotional development
 - Early care and education/child care
 - Parenting education
 - Family support
- Revision of current Nursing Management Tool to a web-based application to include patients seen, services provided and nurse efficiency.

Projects/Issues Pending:

- Testing of statewide web-based applications in progress:
 - electronic tuberculosis medical record system for patient management, and
 - revised nurse management tool
- Continuing Education website
- Coordination of a comprehensive continuous quality improvement plan for public health programs, primarily, family planning, maternal-child health, and sexually transmitted diseases
- Coordination of public health programs to have a seamless effort between them, particularly family planning and maternal-child health efforts
- Integration of the assessment tool for nurse home visits into a computer-based program, thus allowing nurses to work more efficiently by decreasing the time frame for the generation of summaries and referrals
- Development of common objectives for all of Chronic Disease Programs
- Development of a plan for community worksite wellness activities with major employers
- 100% trained public health nursing workforce in the National Incident Management System, Incident Command Structure, and the National Response Plan by September 9, 2006.

Issues/Special Concerns for Public Health Nursing:

- Recruitment and retention issues; aging of the public health workforce
- Lack of Master's and Baccalaureate prepared public health nurses in Louisiana to assume greater leadership roles and positions, especially as the PHN workforce ages and reaches retirement age/status
- Lower salaries (particularly entry-level) of Louisiana Public Health Nurses in comparison with other nursing specialties.
- Additional emergency preparedness education and training for public health nurses, and the public health workforce to address the emerging roles
- The need for increased collaboration of public health and primary health care entities for care of Louisiana citizens
- Provision of more autonomous services to clients utilizing public health nursing foundational skills
- Maintaining a visible role in the community and education and marketing of public health nursing
- Participation in policy development of emergency preparedness plans and health legislation is critical
- Challenge of meeting the needs of public health nursing's ever-evolving roles
- Public health funding for public health nursing and public health as a whole
- Skilled PHN workforce as it relates to information technology systems
- Strategic plan needed for public health nurses on a national basis

- Additional credentialing/certifications necessary for public health nurses as they become proficient in bioterrorism, community wellness, etc.
- Connecting with academic nursing institutions as well as the private sector
- Mechanisms to increase efficiency of service delivery