

8. PREPARING NURSES TO RESPOND TO DISASTERS AND PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

8.1 CDC should fund a National Center for Disaster Nursing and Public Health Emergency Response, along with additional strategically placed regional centers, to serve as the “hub” for providing leadership in education, training, and career development that will ensure a national nursing workforce prepared to respond to such events. CDC, in collaboration with the proposed National Center for Disaster Nursing and Public Health Emergency Response, should rapidly articulate a national action plan for addressing gaps in nursing education, support, and protection that have contributed to the lack of nurse preparedness and disparities during such events.

1. Key Strategic Stakeholders

Nursing Organizations

American Academy of Nursing; American Association of Colleges of Nursing; American Nurses Association; International Council of Nurses; National League for Nursing, Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, State Nursing Workforce Centers

Health Care

Insurance Companies

Non-profit

AARP; Non-Governmental Organizations (ex. Red Cross), Pacific ADA Center; World Health Organization,

Federal government

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Centers for Public Health Preparedness;; Federal Emergency Management Agency; Federal Nursing Service Council; ; Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response; Legislators, Medical Reserve Corps; US Public Health Service

Other

Disability community stakeholder groups; National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters; Private sector – Home Depot, Amazon, Microsoft

2. Top 3-5 Actions for 2021

- A. Development of talking points to approach legislators; two-page brief; work closely with nurses in states that have key legislative stakeholders
- B. Approach with American Association of Colleges of Nursing on bringing back certification on disaster preparedness
- C. Two-page policy brief from American Academy of Nursing and special interest groups on public health emergencies and disasters
- D. The US Department of Health and Human Services should examine existing federal preparedness and response strategies to identify the roles and responsibilities of nurses during disasters (eg, medical countermeasure dispensing) and work with experts in nursing response to develop a plan for ways that nurses can train to execute these roles during emergencies
- E. Key stakeholder groups and program staff should identify each federal agency’s capacity for advancing the emergency preparedness and response knowledge base in the nursing workforce and integrate this information into their subsequent strategic plans
- F. Reach out to state workforce centers with a survey on where gaps are in disaster preparedness – need to make a case for why gaps need to be addressed

3. Top 3-5 Actions for 2022

- A. Develop a renewed certification on disaster preparedness
- B. Get disaster preparedness into academic curriculum – NCLEX should include on exam; disaster preparedness critical thinking questions – disaster preparedness certificate programs

4. Success Indicators

- X amount of questions on application/critical thinking of disaster preparedness on NCLEX exam
- Have action plan and talking points mapped out with the right stakeholders
- More nurses getting board certification (NHDP-BC) – and a review of the board certification with continuance
- Standardized curriculum at the community level