



CCCWN News

December 2021

Emergency Response Programs

Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties are perfectly situated for any number of disasters or crises: wildfires, wind-storms, ice storms, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, and, of course, pandemics. And while all of these are unpredictable and mostly non-preventable, how we respond is critical. A robust emergency response plan can save lives and money, and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) mandates that all health care organizations and facilities have one. At Samaritan Health Services, the Emergency Management team, helmed by Joe Hutchinson, Director of Security and Emergency Management, is committed to ensuring the safety of employees and patients, and not just in SHS hospitals and clinics but in their homes, on their commutes, and while they're pursuing leisure activities.

Emergency plans are slightly more complicated than a checklist on the fridge and a go-bag near the door—though any disaster preparedness professional will stress the importance of those measures for individuals. Rather, it's a constellation of regular safety and preparedness trainings, preventive measures like proper signage for fire exits, sustainability kits, and strong communication tools. These plans at SHS are developed system-wide and each year, the Emergency Management team conducts a complex, multifaceted Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA)—essentially a formula to determine our level of risk for any potential hazard—that informs the organizational emergency response plans. The HVA considers all manner of threats—these can include loss of power, active



shooter, phone outages, the Cascadia subduction, wildfires—then assesses the probability of occurrence, the potential number of times any particular event could occur, the severity or magnitude of an event (including human, property, and business impacts), and our capacity for mitigation. These scenarios are “graded” on a low-medium-high scale, and are used to determine the internal response, the external response, and the risk or relative threat. And within the overarching emergency operations plan are site-specific plans.

Fairly straightforward, right?

It's not. Each hospital has a 96-hour sustainability plan—96 hours' worth of water, food, power, and fuel—and an in-house Emergency Manager that is responsible for ensuring that all the necessary supplies and preventive measures are in place and current. They regularly test fuel, generators, and oxygen levels, and ensure that staff are prepared for an emergency through regular fire drills, hazmat and decontamination trainings, and evacuation routes are clearly signed.

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Emergency Management continued..

But most of emergency response plans don't include provisions for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities—those struggling with mental health, opioid use disorders (OUD), and substance use disorders (SUD), many of whom are unhoused. In an emergency, particularly a natural disaster, these individuals are often overlooked and are unable to access the emergency care and supports they need. The COVID-19 pandemic gave us a sobering glimpse into the negative effects that a lack of planning can have on a marginalized and vulnerable population: individuals in treatment and recovery who rely on peer support services and/or medically assisted treatment suffered significant disruptions in access to services, and subsequently, overdoses and overdose deaths soared. Isolation, too, is a key factor in driving up substance use, and without measures in place to ameliorate those impacts, individuals suffering from OUD/SUD have much worse health outcomes and more difficulty getting into treatment.

A new 18-month, \$200,000 Regional Assessment and Implementation Disaster planning grant funded by HRSA Rural Communities Opioid Response Program (RCORP) seeks to address this critical gap. The grant will develop an emergency response plan specific to the needs of individuals living in Lincoln, East Linn, and rural Benton counties who struggle with OUD/SUD and will be annex nested within Samaritan Health Services' overarching Emergency Operations Plan. The RAID annex is primarily address access to food, emergency shelter and transitional housing, peer support and treatment services, and transportation, as well as issues around lack of access to sanitation and communication devices. To effectively ensure that the needs of the target population are met, the grant is exploring existing and potential community partnerships with organizations that provide some of these critical services across the regions. For example, RAID is currently investigating the capacity for emergency centers and urgent care clinics to maintain a supply of MAT to minimize disruptions in treatment in the event that a person is not able to access their normal treatment center. The RAID planning grant is an important and innovative approach to emergency response and is a critical step in helping promote equitable access to health care.

Member Spotlight: Dr. Lesley Ogden

Dr. Lesley Ogden, chief executive officer for Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital and Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital, is a treasure. Her commitment to the health and wellbeing of Lincoln County is a driving force behind many collaborative partnerships and initiatives addressing a wide range of health improvement efforts. She is equally dedicated to ensuring that all members of the community have equitable access to high quality health care and good health outcomes and isn't afraid to champion innovative approaches to achieve these goals.

Dr. Ogden is board certified in emergency medicine and has more than 15 years of clinical and leadership experience. She received her medical degree from Medical University of South Carolina and completed her emergency medicine residency at Oregon Health and Science University. In addition, she received a master's degree in business administration from The Citadel and a bachelor's degree in marketing from Troy State University. A Florida native, Dr. Ogden has lived on the Oregon coast since 2006 and has worked at Samaritan as an emergency and urgent care physician, as chief operations officer at Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital and as interim CEO at Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital, before officially taking the helm in 2017. Though her day job keeps her extremely busy, it's not unusual to see Dr. Ogden volunteering her free time at community events. She is an active Rotarian in Lincoln City and served as club president in 2016-2017. She is also on the board of directors of the Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County and the Oregon Coast Community College Foundation.



Her creativity, compassion, and collaborative nature make her guiding star for both Samaritan Health Services and the community at large. She's immensely approachable and is a beloved leader—employee wellbeing and happiness are critical to the success of SHS. When she's not crusading for a healthier Lincoln County, you can find her scouring beaches all over the country for the perfect new home for her pet hermit crab, Fred, and enjoying the golf courses and hiking trails of the Oregon coast with her husband, William.

Monthly Updates

Bridges to Recovery

Grant funding helped support the second annual CEDARR Harm Reduction conference. CTSI has hired replacements for both the Harm Reduction Specialist and the Peer Support Specialist; both positions began working in December. The project director met with Brink Communications, the OHA Safe+Strong campaign manager, and the RC-SWAY project director to discuss initial steps in rolling out the tri-county stigma reduction media campaign.

RAID

The SHS Director of Emergency Management and the project director conducted a table top event on December 6, 2021. It provides valuable information about what resources organizations need as well as what is being overlooked in the event of an emergency. Lessons learned from this table top even will help inform improvements to a second table top exercise planned for late winter/early spring. Once this is completed, the Annex can be finalized and submitted to HRSA to help conclude the grant.

Oral Health

The EPDH at SNLH has begun seeing patients. The voucher for referral to follow-up care is being finalized and vetted by SHS Legal. The EPDH and overseeing dentist for SPCH are in the middle of credentialing. Equipment and supplies for SNLH have been procured and are available for grant activities. The Assessment Plan was submitted to HRSA on 11/1/2021 and was well received. The first progress report is due Jan. 31, 2022

SWAY

Quarter 2 started in December. Christine Felt is the newest member of the Samaritan Treatment and Recovery Services, and will work closely with the maternity care coordinator to provide support to women who are in recovery. Family Tree Relief Nursery is developing parenting education materials for the hospital and clinics for women in recovery. They have identified a candidate for peer support specialist position who will also work on the RC-SWAY grant. Tony Howell will retire as program manager at Linn County Alcohol and Drug manager at the end of December; Justin Thomas will be stepping in to lead LCAD's efforts on the RC-SWAY grant.

Parenting Success Network

Winter 2022 Menu:

- Abriendo Puertas- *Spanish 0-12 yr*
- Nurturing Parenting: Special Needs & Health Challenges- *In partnership with Family Promise of Lincoln Co for families with 0-12 yrs*
- Nurturing Parenting Skills- *In partnership with Seashore Family Literacy Center for families w/ 0-8 yrs*

Ongoing supports include:

- Spanish Parenting Coaching
Llame a Luis (541) 220-9686
- Triple P Primary Care
Email Sommer smcleish@samhealth.org
- Triple P Online
Email Sommer smcleish@samhealth.org
or llame a Luis (541) 220-9686

Parenting classes are for *ALL* families!
ALL families can benefit from learning new skills and *ALL* families can benefit connecting with other parents!

Questions and Comments?

For questions and comments related to the monthly CCCWN Newsletter, please email Shelagh Baird at sbaird@samhealth.org

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