



## South Central Public Health Partnership

### TRAINING PROFESSIONALS TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC

<http://lms.southcentralpartnership.org/scphp>

## Alternative Standards of Care in Disaster

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### Course Description

Emergency events and disasters require the affected population to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances including an often abruptly limited scope of public health services. Optimization of outcome requires all available resources to be preserved, coordinated and focused so as to optimize community response in dealing with the normal ongoing needs of the stricken and spared populations, the special disaster-related needs of the population at risk and the special needs encountered by populations with special vulnerability.

Alternative standards of care will allow a community adapting to the hierarchy of needs of the population at risk to streamline and simplify the support process during arduous circumstances so as to maximally preserve life. The development of rational “fall-back” positions preserves a rational process with accepted outcomes. This permits effective prevention to drive resiliency into a preparation for emergency action which defines personnel, logistics and communications requirements enabling the most effective consequence management and leading to early, effective and coordinated recovery. Guiding the integration of alternative standards into the public health system as a component of preparedness involves articulating the best amalgam of current technology and available resources capable of a robust and reliable outcome.

Prevention based management, broad based community planning driving integration of interests and resources across the broad range of interests and potentially responding agencies, is a critical step in advancing beyond the existing operational inadequacies, stovepiping and ineffective coordination of recovery based management.

### Learning Objectives

- Describe the systemized optimization of alternatives and compromises during disaster as well as preparation of a resilient and sustainable infrastructure.
- Explain how metrics are the core logic in providing guidelines & standards needed to define measurable, acceptable and approved pathways & outcomes for individuals and agencies to pursue during a time of scarce resources.
- Describe operational models as a tool to clearly articulate the best amalgam of current technology and available resources capable of a robust and reliable outcome.
- Explain alternative standards of care as “fall-back” positions preserving a rational process with accepted outcomes.
- Discuss alternative standards of care in the context of the 5 phases/venues where such treatment is sought and provided.

- State the modification of process involved in the definition and provision of alternative standards of care.
- Discuss the process of evaluation in defining the shortfall of necessary functional capabilities for outcome, efficiency and coordination during disaster response.
- Describe the changes in care delivery which modification of standards of process may eventuate.
- List the requirements and implications of developing and integrating alternative standards of care into the existing system.
- Describe solutions and priorities which present experience and evolving practice pose for some of the challenges in existing public health practice which have been exposed.
- Explain how the technological complexity and resource requirements of modern medicine require an expert and effective system for medical command & control.

### **Competencies**

- Describe the public health role in emergency response in a range of emergencies that might arise.

\* *Bioterrorism and Emergency Readiness*

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