Setting the Stage: Challenges and Emerging Issues

NIEHS WETP Awardees Meeting
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Where are we?
Where should we be going?

- Enduring Challenges
- Emerging Challenges
- New Opportunities
Enduring Challenges

- Shifts in the Job Market
- Changes in Workforce Composition
- Workplace Safety
- “The Gold Standard”
- Instructor Burnout
- Standards/Criteria for Evaluation/QA-QC
- Funding
Emerging Challenges

- Shifting Job Market
- Changes in the Workforce
- Standards/Criteria for Evaluations/QA-QC
- Funding
- CULTURE WARS: 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd}, AND 3\textsuperscript{rd} RESPONDERS
- “COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION”
- FEDERAL ROLES VS. NON-FEDERAL ROLES
New Opportunities

- Mold and Mildew
- Counter-terrorism
- Emergency Preparedness
- Public Health Preparedness
- Cross-cutting All: Forging New Partnerships
The Academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness (A-CPHP) program intends to serve as an integrated national system that provides a continuum of accessible learning opportunities for frontline workers throughout their careers (according to its creators).

However, not yet a functioning network, let alone a system.
A-CPHPs, continued…

- CDC funds administered by the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH)
- Since their inception in 2000, have grown from 7 to 20 Centers, involving 22 Schools of Public Health
- Base funding for each Center is approximately $1 million per year
WETP 2000-2005 Awardees
WETP 2000-2005 Awardees and Academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness
WETP 2000-2005 Awardees and Academic Centers for Public Health Preparedness
New Funding from US Department of Health and Human Services

- Broaden efforts to prepare the public health system, develop effective medical countermeasures and stand ready to respond if bioterrorism should strike
- $26 million per year
Division of Funding

- **Program Components**
  - **$22 million**: Continuing education for health professionals
  - **$4 million**: Curriculum development in health profession schools
- **Grantees in 23 states**
Bioterrorism Training and Curriculum FY 2003 Funding Distribution

Continuing Education
Curriculum Development
Follow the dollars—*all* of the dollars

1) $1 *Billion* from USDHHS to state health departments
2) $? from USDHS to states/cities
3) Terrorist incidents/accidents
4) Other incidents/accidents

Remember: an increasing recognition that HAZWOPER is essential!
Strength in diversity

- The NIEHS WETP awardees are diverse in size, skill sets, and talent—and offer their services all over the nation.
- It is possible that the long-term viability of the WETP program can be stabilized, and perhaps even increased, with the active support of old and new partners and colleagues.
- Just as was Pogo: we are confronted by insurmountable opportunities.
THE END

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