



@PREPSUMMIT

#PREP19

PREPAREDNESSSUMMIT.ORG

**PREPAREDNESS**  
SUMMIT

March 26-29 | St. Louis, MO  
2019

THE  
Evolving Threat  
Environment

**Workforce Protection:**  
Disaster Behavioral Health Interventions  
Supporting Boston's "Responders"

## Our Vision:

A resilient Boston through healthy, informed, and connected communities that are supported every day and during emergencies by strong, integrated public health and healthcare systems.

- Community fares better after an emergency
- Equitable access to health and human services during and after emergencies



# About Us

- Local public health authority
- Sponsoring organization for healthcare coalition
- ESF #8 lead for the City of Boston



**Boston Healthcare  
Preparedness  
Coalition**

# RSF: Health and Social Services



Local Lead Coordinating Agency

- Restoration of essential health and social services
- Disaster behavioral health
- Protection of resident's long term health
- Environmental health cleanup
- On-going public health messaging

# Workforce Protection Activity

**What Significant  
Events Have Impacted  
Your Area and/or  
Staff?**

# Workforce Protection Challenge

## City Of Boston

- Population ~600k
- 1M+ including commuters and visitors
- Dense diverse populations
- Residency requirement
- ~1100 public health employees
- 900+ Medical Reserve Corps volunteers
- 1500+ community based responders

# Workforce Protection Challenge

## **Significant Events That Impacted Area/Staff**

- Wardman Road Explosion
- South Boston Broadway Station Jumper
- Haiti Earthquake
- Boston Marathon Bombing
- Morrissey Boulevard Triple-fatal Crash
- Harlem Street Triple Homicide
- Client Suicide On-Premise

# Workforce Protection Challenge

## Part 1 Crimes In Area

- 50 Homicides
- 500 Non-incidents
- 5000 Impacted
- 22000 Trauma-inducting crimes

# Workforce Protection Approach

## More Than Self-Care

- Staff as clients
  - Ready Safe Healthy
  - Psychological First Aid
  - Workforce Resilience Workgroup – Social Services
  - Local Resilience Teams
  - Community Advisory Committee
- Community Response and Recovery

# Workforce Protection Activity

## Scenario

- **Unexpected Explosion**

- Shock to this facility
- You may be anywhere in the building

- **Question 1**

- What are the typical reactions within in the ***first 3 seconds?***

- **Question 2**

- What changes are the typical issues remaining ***3 weeks afterwards?***

# Workforce Protection Approach

## Disaster Behavioral Health for Staff

### ■ Psychological First Aid

- 1:1 Intervention for individuals
- Adapted for various ethnocultural populations and settings
- Promotes resilience-building

### ■ Post Traumatic Stress Management

- Derived from ***Critical Incident Stress Management - Debriefings***
- Adapted for civilian deployment after 9/11
- Several phased group interventions

### ■ Maximum Capacity

- 1500+ employees, partners, MRC Volunteers and community members

# Workforce Protection Justification

## **Mission Fulfillment**

- Protect against
  - Attrition
  - Reduced performance
  - Error and harm

# Thank you for participating!

For further questions or comments, please contact:

**Stacey Kokaram**

**Director**

**Office of Public Health Preparedness**

[skokaram@bphc.org](mailto:skokaram@bphc.org)

**Courtney Grey**

**Director, Disaster Behavioral Health**

**Office of Public Health Preparedness**

[cgrey@bphc.org](mailto:cgrey@bphc.org)

**Office of Public Health Preparedness**

[preparedness@bphc.org](mailto:preparedness@bphc.org)

[www.bphc.org/preparedness](http://www.bphc.org/preparedness)

**DelValle Institute for Emergency  
Preparedness**

[delvalle@bphc.org](mailto:delvalle@bphc.org)

<https://delvalle.bphc.org>

