Lessons from the Field: 2017-18 Disaster Response Deployments

Kristen Baird Romero, Washington Department of Health

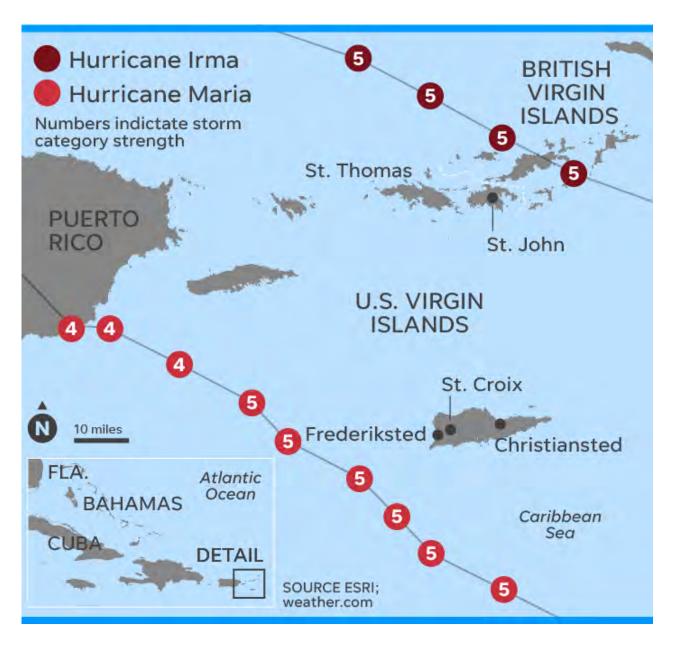
Jennifer Cockrill, US Department of Health and Human Services, ASPR Region X

Carina Elsenboss, Public Health – Seattle & King County

John Fulton, FEMA Region X

Greg McKnight, Washington Department of Health

2018 Tribal Public Health Emergency Preparedness Conference



Hurricane Irma – Sept 6 (8/30-9/11)

Category 5 strongest winds 185 mph

Hurricane Maria — Sept 20 (9-16-10/3)

Category 5 strongest winds 175 mph

Timeline

- Jan 11 Call from NYC about reloading their team
- Jan 12 Initial discussions with WA DOH about possible EMAC request
- Jan 15 18 Recruitment conversations
- Jan 19 Official EMAC request
- Jan 22 6 of 7-person team identified
- Jan 23 complete team roster
- Jan 24 Receive flight info
- Jan 25 Depart Seattle on a red-eye
- Jan 26 Arrive USVI ~4 PM
- Feb 15 Depart USVI



The mission

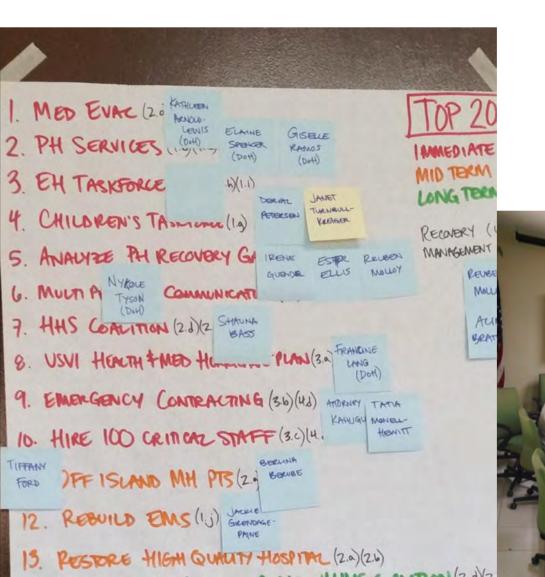
Support VI DOH with a recovery leadership team

The team

- Team Lead (PHSKC)
- Finance (DNRP)
- HR (PHSKC)
- EH (DOH)
- Health Systems (PHSKC)
- Mental Health (DOC)
 Hurricane Planning (DOH)



Day in the life...





Building relationships





Recovery is long



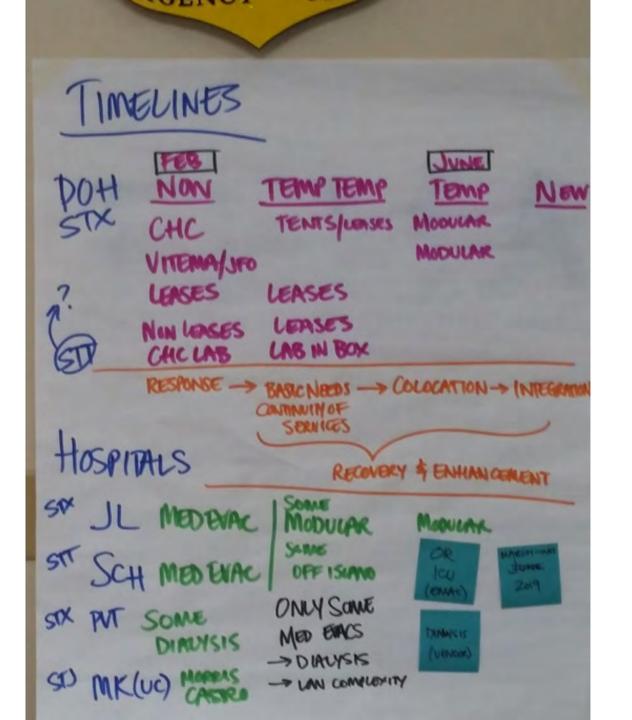












Lessons learned

Deployment

- Multi-disciplinary and multi-agency teams can be effective
- Flexibility is key
- Communication and team work is essential
- Meet people where they are at (responders and affected jurisdiction)

For local planning

- Continuity of operations planning is needed
- Strong existing systems and relationships need to be in place
- Nimble contracting and hiring systems are important
- Everyone will need training and a role
- Be ready to receive help
- Take care of your staff