Continuity Planning & Preparedness: An assessment of mental health provider agencies

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Purpose

- Focus: Levels of agency preparedness, planning, plan dissemination, training
- Goal: Assessment of needs for training, planning resources, and guidance

Methods

- Survey
- Qualitative discussion
- Key informant
- •Response Rate: 63%
- No identifiers

Continuity Planning

Why is long term planning so important?

The Importance of Planning

Of companies that had a major loss of business data, 43% never reopen, 51% close within two years, and only 6% will survive long-term.

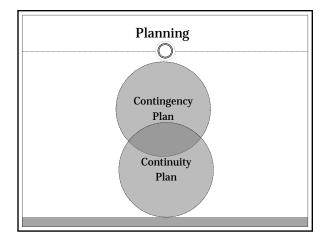
Hoffer, Jim. "Backing Up Business - Industry Trend or Event." Health Management Technology, Jan 2001

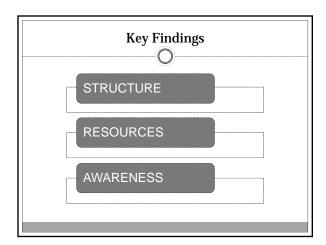
The Importance of Planning

Open and Operating? An Assessment of Louisiana Nonprofit Health and Human Services after Hurricanes
Katrina and Rita The Urban Institute February 2006

Background

- System requirements
- oCounty (Philadelphia)
- OState (Pennsylvania)
- Client Population
- Agency Structure
- Resources
- Awareness



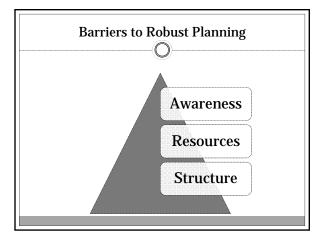


Data



- 42% (n=15) were aware of an agency Continuity Plan
- 22% (n=8) annually update their Continuity Plan
- Only 11% (n=4) practice their continuity plan on a regular basis

- Personal and Family Preparedness Training offered in 33% (n=12) agencies
- General preparedness guidelines provided to staff in 61% (n=22) agencies
- Most agencies (61%) do not require staff to have a personal and family preparedness plan in place



Significance



- Agencies see the need for further planning
- Desire for further resources and training
- Need for more awareness about importance of this planning @ executive levels
- Need for executive management buy-in
- Desire for local and regional "mandates" and requirements
- Regional interoperability



Conclusions

- MH/IDS Agencies are (in general) not well-
- Agencies need education about Contingency & Continuity planning
- Agencies may need additional resources and training to support this activity
- Agencies may need mandates from the government agency in order to prioritize planning efforts

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