



# CBAP CHRONICLE



Helping Health Professionals Meet All-Hazards Preparedness Goals

Volume 1, Number 1 • Winter 2007



## Welcome to the *CBAP Chronicle!*

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the *CBAP Chronicle*. This is the first in a quarterly series of newsletters that will highlight the program, resources, services, and relevant information on current topics available on all-hazards preparedness in the United States for interested health care professionals and those involved in the health and safety of their communities, state, and nation.

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The center is funded, in part, by a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

# Reaching Out to Vulnerable Populations



“Vulnerable and hard-to-reach” populations represent a major target for public health to improve communication and services to at the time of a major disaster. A September 2004 report developed for the Florida Department of Health by NSU-COM faculty members Jean Malecki, M.D., M.P.H., and Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., identified the need for health professionals, in the time of an emergency, to be able to know

- how to properly recognize and treat special needs groups
- how to work within a team
- how to alert the system to the need for appropriate assistance

In 2005, the National Council on Disability published a paper calling for “immediate changes in emergency planning for people with disabilities.” The paper indicates that the legitimate concerns of people with disabilities are often overlooked or swept aside in emergency situations. Major concerns include accessibility of emergency information in the evacuation plans for high-rise buildings (a very real concern in Florida) and responding to the worries and unique needs of people with disabilities in all planning, preparedness, response, recover, and mitigation activities.

These concerns are currently being addressed by the Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness HRSA-funded continuing education project that is coordinated at NSU-COM’s CBAP. The Basic Awareness level course includes a full contact hour of information on reaching out to vulnerable populations before, during, and after a disaster occurs. Nationwide, it is estimated that these vulnerable and often hard-to-reach populations represent 134 million individuals.

In Florida, these individuals account for more than 63 percent of the total population. The Basic Awareness level course identifies and

addresses the needs of 13 hard-to-reach or vulnerable populations, including

- the frail elderly
- children
- rural populations
- persons who abuse substances
- non-English speaking residents
- individuals with
- cognitive impairments
- mental illness
- developmental delays
- physical handicaps
- sensory impairments
- homeless
- migrant and seasonal farm workers
- seasonal residents and tourists/visitors

*For more information and to access fact sheets on each population listed, visit [www.nova.edu/allhazards](http://www.nova.edu/allhazards).*

## Did You Know?

- Over 40 million Americans are 65 years of age and older. Of these, 1.6 million reside in nursing homes.
- 55 million Americans have at least one sensory disability.
- 31.7 million adults have difficulty functioning physically.
- There are over 72 million children in the United States.
- More than 600,000 men, women, and children are homeless every night in this country, and the number of homeless families increases each year.
- More than 20 million persons visit the United States from overseas each year.
- Nationally, 19 percent of persons speak a language other than English at home.
- Over 3 million migrant farm workers are employed in the United States; almost 80 percent are from Mexico.

*(Sources: CDC, National Center for Health Statistics • U.S. Census Bureau, 2001 • U.S. Department of Health and Human Services • U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Travel and Tourism Industries • New England Journal of Medicine, July 20, 2006 • U.S. Department of Agriculture)*

# Florida: Uniquely Positioned for Preparedness

**F**lorida, the third most populated state in the United States, consists of seven regional disaster districts and is uniquely positioned for developing preparedness programs for disasters. The state has a history of natural disasters (hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, tornadoes) and has faced potential bioterrorist events threatening public health. At least some of the perpetrators of 9/11 received flight training in South Florida, and the first criminal incident of anthrax (and the first death) occurred in Palm Beach County. Other realities that make Florida an “at risk area” for major disasters include:

- **A large agriculture industry** – Agriculture is the second-largest industry in the state, and Florida is number two nationally in the production of fresh vegetables, with cash receipts of more than \$1.2 billion. Florida fruits, vegetables, and flowers/plants find their way into nearly every household in the United States, as well as homes in more than 100 countries around the world. (*Florida-Agriculture.com, State of Florida.com*)
- **A high percentage of tourists, visitors, and part-time residents** – Florida is the top travel destination in the world. At any one time, visitors, tourists, and part-time residents make up over 30 percent of Florida’s population. (*State of Florida.com*)
- **Major ports on both coasts** – Florida ports handle over \$51 billion of imports and exports each year, and it is estimated that container transfers will exceed three million in the next few years. Additionally, the ports receive over 15 million cruise passengers annually – a number that is expected to double by the end of this decade. Approximately 40 percent of all U.S. exports to Latin and South America pass through Florida. (*Florida Ports of Council Statistics, State of Florida.com*)

Based on these and other facts, Florida Governor Jeb Bush established a state initiative this past year that he described as a “Culture of Preparedness.” The goal is to improve the awareness of, preparedness for, and response to potential disaster events for every citizen.

**QUESTIONS?  
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(954) 262-1688 or  
[www.nova.edu/allhazards](http://www.nova.edu/allhazards)**



## Did You Know?

- Florida has the nation’s largest proportion of people over 65 years old: 18.3 percent vs. the national average of 12 percent.
- By 2025, 25 percent of Florida’s population will be 65 years of age and over.
- Of Florida’s “over-65” population, 19.3 percent have 2 or more disabilities, 18.6 percent are unable to go outside of their home, and 14.3 percent have Alzheimer’s disease.
- Florida has over two million individuals with diagnosed mental or physical disabilities.
- Estimates indicate that over 83,000 homeless persons live in Florida, while temporary housing is available for approximately 25 percent of those individuals. However, it is important to note that these estimates are based on health clinic data and are probably lower than actual figures.
- Between 1999 and 2002, the number of homeless/displaced persons in Florida grew by 23 percent.
- Tourists/visitors and part-time residents, from both the United States and abroad, make up over 30 percent of Florida’s population at any one time.
- Seasonal residents reach over one million in January of each year.
- More than half-a-million people in Florida do not speak English; even more speak and understand English with difficulty.

These groups provide special challenges when planning for and responding to a disaster event. To learn more about these and other hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations in Florida, visit [www.nova.edu/allhazards](http://www.nova.edu/allhazards).

(**Sources:** Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Census 2000 • Florida Department of Elder Affairs • Florida Coalition for the Homeless • Visit Florida.org • University of Florida Bureau of Economic and Business Research, 2004)

# Getting to Know...



**Leonard A. Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., CBAP Director**

Dr. Levy is associate dean for education, planning, and research at NSU-COM and a professor of both family medicine and public health. He has served as NSU-COM's CBAP director since its inception in 2001.

He was the senior author of the first article on bioterrorism and weapons of mass destruction that appeared in the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association* in 2002 and prepared the study on accessing hard-to-reach/vulnerable populations in an emergency for the Florida Department of Health.

Dr. Levy also introduced the Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) to NSU-COM and is currently working with team members to develop a new evaluation tool specific for disaster preparedness training: the Casualty Objective Structured Clinical Examination (COSCE, which will be highlighted in a future issue of the *CBAP Chronicle*). Dr. Levy also serves on the faculty for the Florida Department of Health in its Bioterrorism and School Readiness Program, which presents lectures to schools throughout the state.



**James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., CBAP Project Director**

Dr. Howell is chair of the Department of Rural Medicine at NSU-COM and a professor of public health. He has been involved with CBAP since its inception and served as Florida's secretary of health in the

late Governor Lawton Chiles' administration prior to joining the faculty of NSU-COM.

During his tenure as director of health planning and cost containment for the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration, Dr. Howell had a major leadership role in response to Hurricane Andrew in 1992. Dr. Howell currently serves on the Florida University Alliance on Bioterrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction and on the faculty for the Florida Department of Health in its Bioterrorism and School Readiness Program, which presents lectures to schools throughout the state.

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# NSU-COM Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness Goes National

It's been a rapid rise to preeminence for NSU-COM's Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness (CBAP), which began as a South Florida taskforce in 2001 and has evolved into an entity charged with providing all-hazards education and training to the health care workforce and various populations throughout the United States.

When the center was officially established on August 23, 2002, plans were already underway to solicit grant funding that would allow the CBAP to expand its educational scope into an array of areas. However, no one could have predicted how rapidly the nascent center would emerge as a statewide and national player on the bioterrorism and all-hazards preparedness front.

The acquisition of a \$400,000 supplemental grant in September 2006 from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to expand CBAP programming to a national echelon was just the latest in a series of significant accomplishments that have been achieved by the center in its short yet rich existence. In 2005, the CBAP received two HRSA grants totaling \$4.8 million that targeted interdisciplinary all-hazards preparedness curriculum development and continuing education. The three-year, \$4.2 million continuing education grant is helping NSU-COM train practicing health professionals that are located throughout South Florida and represent a variety of health care disciplines. To accomplish this important task, NSU-COM partnered with neighboring Broward Community College (BCC) to provide additional training to health professionals in health discipline areas not offered at NSU-HPD.

“With this important community partnership, we became major players in the provision of education for health professionals in training and health professionals in practice,” said Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., who serves as director of the college's CBAP and associate dean for education, planning, and research. “As a result, we are helping health professionals to better prepare to react to acts of bioterrorism and other catastrophes such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters. This is a major responsibility, and we don't accept it lightly.”

Before September 11, 2001, the possibility of a terrorist attack on United States soil was of concern primarily to such agencies as the FBI and the CIA. Before that date, the last major foreign attack on the mainland United States occurred when the British burned Washington, D.C., during the war of 1812. Between then and 9/11, terrorist attacks were isolated and rare incidents conducted by one or few individuals (e.g., Oklahoma City and the Atlanta Olympics).



Following 9/11 and the anthrax attacks in 2001, health care organizations have been asked to partner with national, state, and local agencies to prepare first responders and a health care workforce that can act rapidly and appropriately to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from a catastrophic event.

Health care agencies and hospitals have been conducting preparedness training through funding from state health departments, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). However, deficiencies and gaps need to be addressed, such as the lack of standardized and ongoing training that deals with preparedness in a broad way. Assessing the effectiveness of current programs with regard to employee competencies and knowledge and skill retention also remains a challenge.

With its reputation clearly on the ascendancy, NSU-COM's proposal to be become a national CBAP was accepted by HRSA, which selected 5 from the pool of 19 existing centers to expand their scope to a national level. Other recipients of the \$400,000 supplemental grant were Columbia University School of Public Health, University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Yale-New Haven Medical Center, and Mather Lifeways in Chicago.

The national awardees will link together by sharing resources and training opportunities. These institutions have been awarded funds to develop, pilot test, and evaluate training programs for all health care providers in the nation to respond to a large-scale public health emergency or mass-casualty incident.

The supplemental national grant is being overseen by James Howell, M.D., M.P.H., chair of the Department of Rural Medicine, who is serving as the project's director, while Dr. Levy is responsible

# NSU-COM Center for Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness Goes National (continued from page 5)

for developing a template that will permit the CBAP preparedness programs to be implemented and utilized at sites throughout the United States.

“Our job is to develop a national template for all-hazards education preparedness for all health professionals,” said Cecilia Rokusek, Ed.D., who serves as executive director of education, planning, and research and CBAP project manager. “We’re actually a little bit ahead of the game in this regard because the focus in our grant was to develop an online curriculum that would be available for all health professionals and health care workers, ranging from the individual working in housekeeping to a hospital administrator.”

To accomplish this goal, the center is developing a four-tiered program that will include basic awareness, intermediate, advanced, and executive/hospital administration levels. The basic awareness-level program has already been developed and is currently available online for four continuing medical education credits to health care professionals everywhere at no cost. “Our program is unique because it’s free,” stated Dr. Rokusek. “Most companies are selling all-hazards continuing education credits for thousands of dollars to hospitals and businesses”.

The courses, which will be available in English and Spanish at the awareness and intermediate levels, can also be accessed in a



Attendees at a recent CBAP meeting included (from left): Jeffrey Larson, Ph.D., instructional designer, Broward Community College; Judith Farrar, Ph.D., CBAP coordinator of curriculum development and dissemination; Sharon Cohen, R.N., M.S.N., clinical nurse specialist for emergency preparedness, North Broward Hospital District; David Thomas, M.D., J.D., chair, Department of Surgery; Stephen Bowen, M.D., M.P.H., deputy director, Behavioral Health Promotion Program; Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., associate dean of education, planning, and research; and Sally Bragg, R.N., CBAP associate project manager.

## CBAP Mission Statement

**“A national center focused on interdisciplinary training, information dissemination, and technical assistance related to all-hazards preparedness in a global society.”**

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variety of formats, including online, face-to-face, on a CD, or in a blended approach. In addition, more than 45 health professions disciplines have received continuing education approval for these courses.

As the center evolves, Dr. Rokusek foresees a day when NSU-COM’s CBAP will be perceived as a multifaceted resource for all people looking to enhance their knowledge of all-hazards preparedness. “We want people to realize that this truly is a comprehensive center they can contact or visit to obtain important, no-cost information,” she said. “Our staff is also available to provide customized presentations to the community on preparedness issues ranging from pandemic flu and school safety to various manmade and natural disasters.”

“All-hazards preparedness is going to continue growing in need and importance in the future because our country will not take anything for granted anymore,” she concluded. “It puts Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine in a prime position to make a significant difference in the curriculum here in Florida and in the country. More importantly, it positions our CBAP to have a major role in prevention education to deal with all-hazards preparedness in the country—and perhaps the world.”

# Available Courses

**Courses: All courses provide NIMS compliant information and can be made available in speaker program format. Call (954) 262-1688 for more information.**

## Basic Awareness Course Modules and Lessons

(Currently available online. A Spanish version will be available in January 2007.)

### Module 1: Bioterrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness

*Lesson 1:* What is “all-hazards” preparedness?

*Lesson 2:* What is a disaster?

*Lesson 3:* Terrorism

*Lesson 4:* CBRNE

### Module 2: Responding to an Emergency Situation

*Lesson 1:* Understanding the system response to a disaster event

*Lesson 2:* Local emergency management and the National Incident Management System (NIMS)

*Lesson 3:* State emergency management

### Module 3: Vulnerable and Hard-to-Reach Populations

*Lesson 1:* Identifying and responding to vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations

*Lesson 2:* Local, state, and federal approaches to assist vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations

### Module 4: Personal and Workplace Emergency Planning

*Lesson 1:* Family, workplace, and community emergency plans

*Lesson 2:* Preparing for hurricanes

*Lesson 3:* Preparing for tornadoes

*Lesson 4:* Preparing for wildfires

*Lesson 5:* Preparing for a flood

*Lesson 6:* Pandemic influenza

## Intermediate Course Modules and Lessons

(Available online in late winter 2007)

### Module 1: The Emergency Response System

*Lesson 1:* The local/facility Incident Command System (ICS)

*Lesson 2:* The Emergency Operations Center

*Lesson 3:* Functions of incident management (command, logistics, planning, finance, and operations)

*Lesson 4:* Communications during a disaster event

*Lesson 5:* Evidence and chain of custody in sample handling and disaster investigation

*Lesson 6:* Conflict management during a disaster event

### Module 2: CBRNE

*Lesson 1:* Chemical agents in intentional and non-intentional disaster events

*Lesson 2:* Biological agents in intentional and non-intentional disaster events

*Lesson 3:* Radiation/nuclear exposures in intentional and non-intentional disaster events

*Lesson 4:* Energetics/explosive events in intentional and non-intentional disaster events

### Module 3: The Psychosocial Impact of a Disaster

*Lesson 1:* Normal reactions to stressful events

*Lesson 2:* The role of mental health personnel

*Lesson 3:* Emotional recovery: Helping disaster workers, survivors, and their families cope

*Lesson 4:* The need for conflict prevention, management, and communication

### Module 4: Issues in Managing a Mass-Casualty Disaster Event

*Lesson 1:* Surge capacity and system overload

*Lesson 2:* Triage and patient tracking

*Lesson 3:* Transportation

*Lesson 4:* Security

**Free, continuing education for over 45 different health care disciplines is available at [www.nova.edu/allhazards](http://www.nova.edu/allhazards). Courses will be available at four levels:**

- Basic Awareness Course (now available online, by CD, and as a speaker program; coming soon in Spanish!)
- Intermediate Course (coming winter 2007!)
- Advanced Course (in development)
- Executive and Hospital Administrator Course (in development)



# CBAP CHRONICLE



## Notice of Accreditation/Nondiscrimination

Nova Southeastern University admits students of any age, race, color, sexual orientation, pregnancy status, religion or creed, nondisqualifying disability, and national or ethnic origin. Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097; telephone number: 404-679-4501) to award associate's, bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees.

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