High-Priority Tools for Public Health Emergency Legal Preparedness

NACCHO Emergency Preparedness Pre-Summit Workshop
February 22, 2011
Public health law and science: A seminar for judges

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Background

2006
Courthouse
Biohazard/Bioterror
Preparedness Guide
Background

2008

Court Continuity of Operations Planning
2009
Public Health Law and Science: A Seminar for Judges
Curriculum – Day 1

- The history of threats to the public’s health (60 min)
- The nature of infectious disease (90 min)
- Public health practice and science (90 min)
- Biological agents as instruments of terrorism (90 min)
Curriculum – Day 2

- Federal jurisdiction in public health matters (60 min)
- Cross border issues (30 min)
- State public health law (90 min)
- The role of the courts in the administration of public health matters (60 min)
- Applying the law (60 min)
Hypothetical Case Studies

1. Quarantine and isolation
2. Mass quarantine
3. Compelled medical procedure
4. Privacy
5. School dismissal
6. Cordon sanitaire
7. Cancellation of mass gatherings
8. Mandatory vaccination
9. Commandeering of private property
10. Judicial emergency
Seminars to date

- Ohio
- Connecticut
- New York
- New Jersey
- Pennsylvania
- Montana
- Texas
- Georgia
Evaluation findings/outcomes

- Relationships
- Improved awareness of the role of public health
- Better prepared judiciary
Lessons learned

- Duration - 3... 2... 1.5....

- Adapt curriculum – avoid mission creep

- No doomsday case studies
Timeline

- Contact State Dept. of Health
- Identify & contract with facility & hotel
- Work with faculty re: slides
- Last minute details

- Contact potential faculty
- JEE: issue invitation & register judges
- Seminar minutiae: binders, nametags, etc.
Lessons learned

- Consider yourself a master at persistence
  - You may prefer “tenacious”

- Establish a good relationship with JEE contacts

- Checklists are your friends – organization is key
Lessons learned

- Stay in communication with speakers

- Expect last minute crises – speaker cancellations, missing presentations – and be prepared

- Remember that the goal of the seminar is to build local relationships in public health
Summit participant feedback – your suggestions

- Topics to be added/other improvements
- How could you get this done in your state – what would be needed?
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