Legal Aspects of Pandemic Influenza: A Tabletop Exercise

Public Health Preparedness Summit
February 22, 2011

Background

- Carter County, Ardmore, Oklahoma
- Proactive Pandemic Influenza Planning
- District Judge interest
- Previous Pandemic Influenza Exercises

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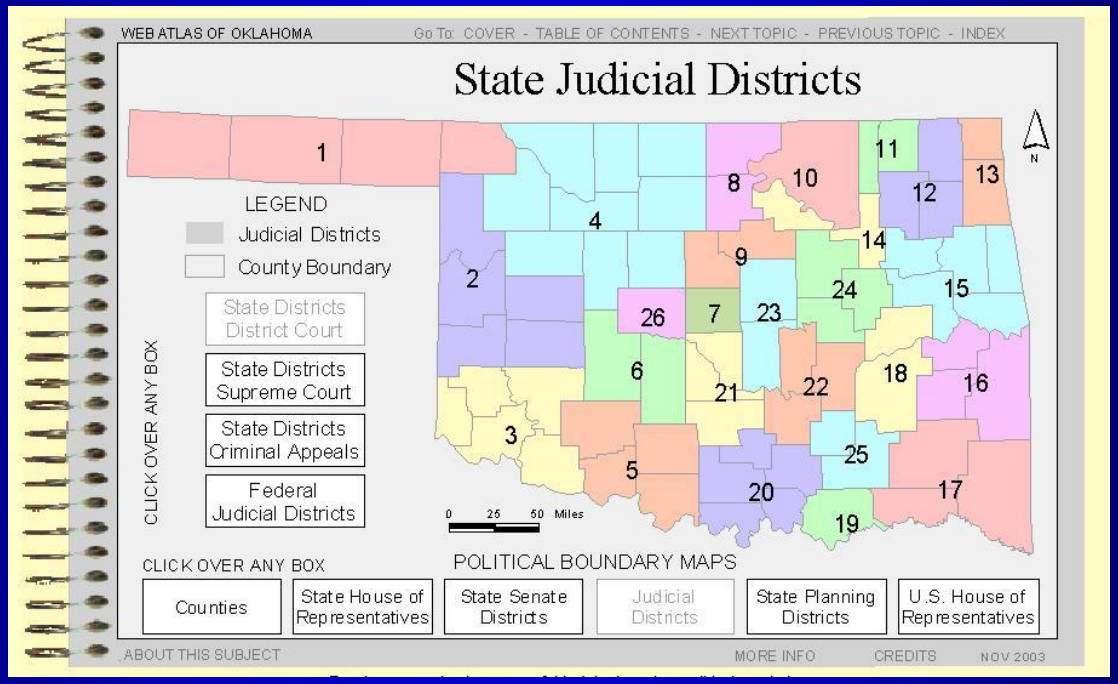
Bench Book

- Created by Judge Walker, District Judge of the 20th Judicial Court District



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Bench Book (continued)

- Contents
  - Introduction
  - Planning Assumptions
  - Administrative Responsibilities
  - Personal Health
  - Court Orders

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Court Orders

- Acquisition of health care products
- Authorizing regulation of health care products
- Destruction of property
- Disclosure of public health information

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Court Orders (continued)

- Disposal of contaminated waste
- Disposal of human remains
- Establishment of an alternate care site
- Quarantine

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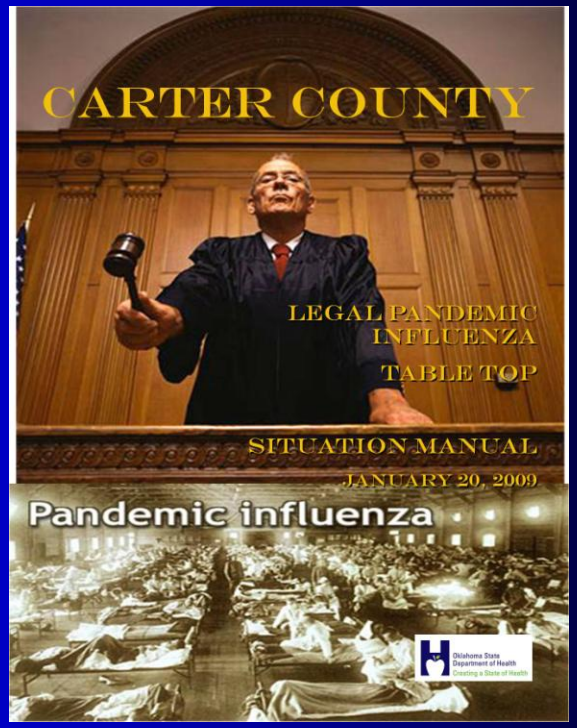
Tabletop Exercise

- January 20, 2009
- Planning
- Participants
- Objectives
- After Action Report



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Planning Team

- Region 3 Preparedness & Response Team
- County Health Administrator
- General Council, Director
- Training & Exercise Coordinator

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Participants

- Emergency Management
- Fire Department
- Mental Health Professionals
- Public School System
- County Commissioners
- District Attorney's Office
- Sheriff's Department
- Health Department
- Chickasaw Nation

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Participants (continued)

- City Government
- Municipal Court
- Funeral Directors
- Hospitals
- Medical Reserve Corps
- Regional Medical Response System
- Local Attorney's

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Exercise Objectives

- Identify the roles and responsibilities of local decision makers in Carter County
- Identify the legal aspects of Pandemic Influenza Planning
- Assess the validity of the Carter County Bench Book in reference to a pandemic influenza event
- Identify the next steps in the planning process

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Target Capabilities Assessed

- Fatality Management
- Isolation and Quarantine
- Medical Supplies Management and Distribution

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Exercise Evaluation

- Evaluators:
  - Training and Exercise Coordinator, OSDH
  - General Council Director, OSDH
  - Regional Preparedness Nurse
- Participant Feedback Forms
  - Filled out by all participants
  - Observers comments

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After Action Report

- Strengths:
  - First Legal Aspects Tabletop for any preparedness event
  - Good attendance of community decision makers
  - Representation from county and state levels active involvement

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After Action Report

- Areas for Improvement:
  - Communications capabilities
  - Better address mandating social distancing /quarantine/isolation
  - Identification of essential staff, services, and alternate work modalities

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Additional Lessons Learned

- Participants wanted to focus on response instead of legal implications
- Needed to have more representation of local law makers
- Participants wanted to fight scenario and jump ahead of the process

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Tools available to you

- Bench Book
- Exercise Slides
- Situation Manual
- Evaluation forms
- After Action Report

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Questions?

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Contact Information

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