

# Healthcare Coalitions: What Wisconsin Hospital Leaders Need to Know

Jason M. Liu, MD, MPH (Medical College of Wisconsin)  
Michael R. Clark, MD (Ministry Health)

# Outline

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# Background - Wisconsin Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program (WHEPP)

- Supports hospital emergency preparedness planning and response
- Over last 11 years, provided millions of dollars to hospitals and healthcare systems for emergency preparedness
- Funded by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; grants administered by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Federal grant guidelines for hospital preparedness programs require formation of regional healthcare coalitions (HCCs)

# HCCs - Overview

- **Group of healthcare organizations, public safety and public health partners that join forces for the common goal of uniform and unified response to a medical surge emergency**
- **Support communities before, during, and after disasters and other health-related crises**
- **Development is required as condition of continued funding through hospital preparedness programs**

## HCCs - Overview (cont'd)

- Historical focus on planning and education (WHEPP) will shift to include response and recovery
- Meant to assist with large-scale or unusual emergencies
- **Does not replace or supplant day-to-day functioning/activities of individual organizations or disciplines**
- Locally driven, bottom-up approach
  - Each level decides when to activate the next level
  - Individual healthcare organization -> Area -> Region -> Statewide

# HCCs - Advantages for Hospitals

- **HCCs may help in meeting certain regulatory requirements**
  - Joint Commission
  - Medicare Condition of Participation related to emergency preparedness
  - Provide tools/templates, content experts, or other resources to assess and meet compliance and operational goals
- **Gateway to all partners involved in a healthcare emergency/special incident**
  - Coordinate regional healthcare plans for large-scale disasters
  - Reach and coordinate with other healthcare organizations and other stakeholders more efficiently
  - “One stop shop” offloads burden of a single organization having to contact each partner by itself

## HCCs – Advantages for Hospitals (cont'd)

- **Provides enhanced response and treatment resources**
  - Coordinated distribution of patients to reduce chance of disproportionate surges on any single organization
  - Easier access to knowledge resources – regional and state experts, etc.
  - Easier access to physical resources – bed space, equipment, supplies, medications, etc.
  - Indicators for and uniform deployment of crisis standards of care
- **Streamlined information flow**
  - Reduces “information overload” and ensures relevance/utility for organization
  - Promotes uniform message across region to reduce confusion/conflicting information
  - Offload burden of collecting/sorting information from single organization
  - Uniform method to collect available information to provide an accurate situational picture

# Medical Coordination Centers

- Serve as the “response” arm of the HCCs
- HCC-run entities
- Collate and disseminate information
- Offer coordination and technical assistance during a disaster
- Types of Coordination
  - Hospital beds
  - Patient Movement
  - Specialty Equipment

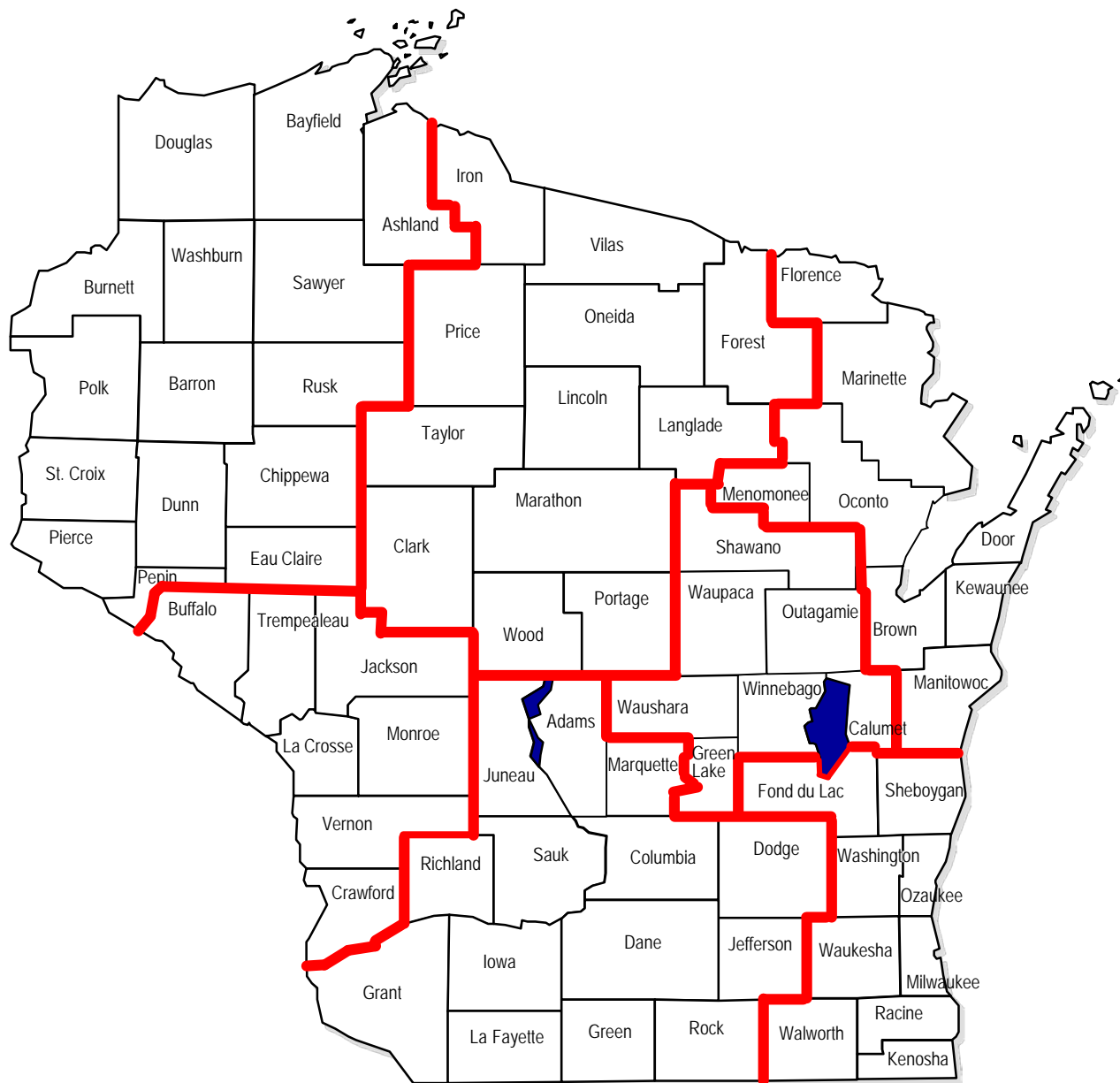


# Next Steps for Wisconsin

- **Establish seven regional HCCs by July 1, 2015**
  - Engage potential partners
  - Develop regional governance structures
  - Set regional goals and objectives

# HCC Regions

- Regions to be based on the current WHEPP regions.



# How a Hospital Leader Can Help

- **Support internal and external emergency planning**
  - Strengthen partnerships with other healthcare, public health, and public safety organizations
  - Institutional approval/support of staff to work on plans
  - Participation in exercises
  - Encourage familiarity with preparedness and Incident Command System at all levels of organization
  - Mobilize organizational resources in planning and response

# How a Hospital Leader Can Help

- **Support HCC development**
  - **Support of multi-disciplinary, multi-organizational HCC concept and development**
    - Hospital/hospital system participation
    - Outreach to partners
  - **Provide administrative/business expertise to coalitions**
  - **Support of information sharing**
    - Situational awareness
    - Current capacity/capabilities
    - Resources available

# Questions?

