The Occupational Therapy Role in Disaster Preparedness

Nicole Picone, OTD, OTR/L
May 22, 2018
World Federation of Occupational Therapists
Lessons Learned

- 9/11 response, Hurricanes Katrina and Sandy
- Failures in communication, coordination, collaboration
- 30% Americans with disabilities have an emergency plan (Smith & Notaro, 2015)

Progress

- Common Structure: National Incident Management System
- Inclusive Planning: C-MIST “Function-Based Framework” (Kailes & Enders, 2007)
- Competency Standards: physicians, nurses, & social workers
“Whole Community Approach”
(FEMA, 2011)

OT Practice Framework

- Public Safety
- Healthcare Facilities
- Law Enforcement
- Public Health

Disaster Preparedness <-> Health Promotion
Program Development: Design

- Workshop: Blended-Experiential Learning
  - Lecture, “Tech Tips”, Table-top exercises
- Disaster Scenario: “Ice Storm”
  - Client Case Studies
  - Organizing day/nighttime activities in Emergency Shelter
- “OT Disaster Preparedness Survey”
  - Attitude, Perceived Knowledge, and Confidence
  - Satisfaction with educational delivery methods
Program Development: Tools

- Alert Notification Systems: Weather Radio, Phone Apps
- “Family Communication Plan”
- ”Personal Evacuation Checklist”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>*MRC</th>
<th>CERT</th>
<th>Red Cross</th>
<th>DMAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Volunteer</strong></td>
<td>Medical &amp; Non-medical</td>
<td>Community volunteers</td>
<td>Community volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>18 hours</td>
<td>Free Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Orientation</strong></td>
<td>Shelter Operations; etc.</td>
<td>Light Search &amp; Rescue</td>
<td>Extensive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Training</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Free Classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time Commitment</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>On-call (2-3 weeks)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Next Steps

• WFOT: Disaster Preparedness and Response
• United States:
  – otconnections.aota.org
  – training.fema.gov/nims
  – ready.gov/medical-reserve-corps
• Local: How can you plan with your community?

“PLAN”  “PACK”  “PRACTICE”
References

