



## **HEALTHCARE COALITIONS AND REGIONAL MEDICAL COORDINATION**

### **A HEALTHCARE COALITION**

A healthcare coalition is a group of healthcare organizations, public safety and public health partners that join forces for the common goal of making their communities safer, healthier and more resilient. Healthcare coalitions (HCCs) support communities before, during and after disasters and other health-related crises.

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of an HCC is to coordinate how public health, healthcare institutions, and first responder agencies, such as police, fire and emergency medical services (EMS), will manage their efforts to enact a uniform and unified response to an emergency, including a mass casualty or other catastrophic event. In order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency response, Wisconsin has begun to shift from funding specific agencies/entities for preparedness to focusing on strengthening a regional response and recovery system using an HCC.

### **HEALTHCARE COALITION PARTNERS**

In addition to hospitals, public health, emergency medical services, emergency management and trauma, HCCs should consider including the following emergency response partners: clinics, long-term care facilities, tribes, mental and behavioral health providers, community and faith-based partners, specialty service providers (e.g., dialysis, pediatrics, woman's health, stand-alone surgery, urgent care), support service providers (e.g., laboratories, pharmacies, blood banks, poison control), primary care providers, community health centers, and other appropriate partners.

### **REGIONAL MEDICAL COORDINATION**

The regional medical coordination system will help to close critical gaps in medical surge capacity, and continuity of operations, and enhance coordination with emergency physicians in the development and refinement of HCCs. Responsibilities of a regional medical coordination system include:

- collection and collation of regional health information
- situation awareness
- monitoring of health care system performance and capacity
- support to health care system logistic requests in coordination with state and local agencies

### **MEDICAL COORDINATING CENTER**

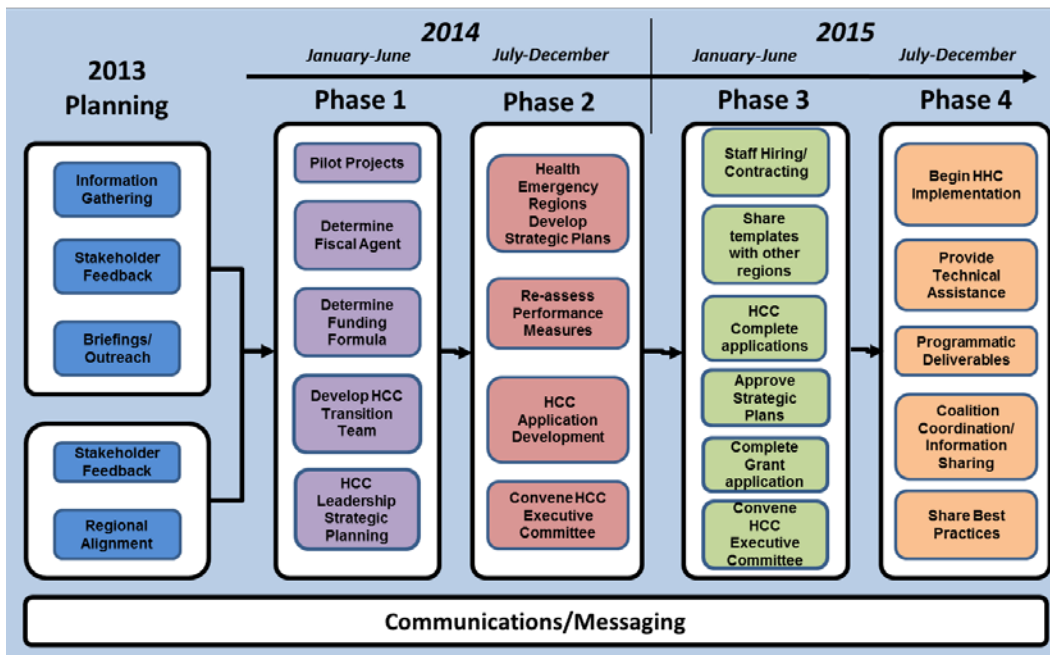
Nationally, many states have developed medical coordinating centers (MCCs) as a part of the HCC model. The MCCs serve as the "response" arm of the healthcare coalition. Disaster MCCs can be virtual or located at a facility. Some of the activities of a disaster MCC may include: monitoring and alerting Healthcare coalition partners in an emergency, the coordination and use of hospital beds in a large-scale emergency, providing

situational awareness during a disaster to all response partners, providing clinical consultation and coordination (such as in burn and medical surge capacity), coordination and the movement of medical supplies in a response, serving as a centralized communications hub, and establishing memorandums of understanding with HCC partners for a response.

**WISCONSIN HEALTHCARE COALITION STRUCTURE**

- Beginning July 1, 2015, there will be seven HCCs, one of each of the seven Health Emergency Response Regions.
- Each HCC will determine their governance through a strategic planning process.
- The HCC will have by-laws and a multidisciplinary board. At a minimum, the board should consist of hospitals, public health, emergency management, trauma, and emergency medical services representatives, led by a medical director and project coordinator.
- Each HCC should have staff that lead HCC activities, including a medical director, healthcare coalition coordinator, and trauma coordinator.
- Each HCC is required to meet the ASPR program measures, staffing requirements, and regional medical coordination guidelines to receive funding. The Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response has articulated several HCC program measures, including development of a strategic plan, recovery plan, and mass fatality management, and demonstration of ability to: 1) monitor patient acuity and staffed bed availability in real-time, 2) off-load patients, 3) on-load patients, and 4) track and document patient movement.
- HCCs are encouraged to develop strategies for long-term sustainability and maintenance of HCCs.

**TIMELINE FOR HEALTHCARE COALITIONS**



For more information, please email the Wisconsin Department of Health Services at: [DHSResponse@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSResponse@wisconsin.gov)