



**KIDNEY COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE COALITION**

# **Community Partner Meeting: Dialysis and Disasters**

## *WebEx Summary*

**December 6, 2012**



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## **Introduction**

Each year, the Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) Coalition hosts a meeting to provide disaster focused outreach and education to members of both the kidney and emergency management communities. Community partners play an important role in the development and implementation of disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts which address the needs of kidney patients. Whether representing the private or public sector, community partners are vital to the incorporation of the needs of individuals with stage renal disease (ESRD) in local, state, and national disaster planning. As a volunteer-based coalition, KCER recognizes the value of emergency preparedness partners to help shape and direct kidney community preparedness through all stages of the emergency management continuum.

On December 6, 2012, KCER held a Community Partner WebEx Meeting titled Dialysis and Disasters. The meeting facilitated the development of community partnerships through education and information sharing between all stakeholders in attendance. The meeting agenda included presentations by KCER staff, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), and KCER Response Team and Task Force leadership. Specific goals of the meeting were to:

- Explain the relationship of the Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) Coalition with the end stage renal disease (ESRD) community
- Describe the role of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) in the ESRD community
- Report on KCER Response Team activities and updates
- Review the goals of the KCER Transportation Task Force
- Identify emergency preparedness and response procedures for dialysis and transplant patients

## **End Stage Renal Disease and KCER**

For many community partners in attendance, the meeting represented a first introduction to ESRD, both as a chronic disease state and as a vulnerable population. For this reason, the meeting included an introduction to ESRD and background on why the care of individuals with ESRD is an issue which warrants special disaster planning and preparedness attention. Martha Hanthorn, MSW, Executive Director of FMQAI: The Florida ESRD Network and Executive Director of the KCER Coalition shared that:

- Significant work on disaster preparedness and response began during the 2004 hurricane season
- A national coalition was first hosted in January 2006
- KCER is a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) funded special project
- KCER is a volunteer-based coalition

The Mission of the KCER Coalition is to collaboratively develop, disseminate, implement and maintain a coordinated preparedness and response framework for the kidney community in the event of any type of emergency or disaster.

The Vision for KCER is that it is the leading authority on emergency preparedness and response for the kidney community by providing organization and guidance that seamlessly bridges emergency management stakeholders and the ESRD community nationwide.

KCER tasks include:

- Provide technical assistance to all stakeholders
- Coordinate disaster response activities when requested by CMS or an ESRD Network
- Promote an Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) Protocol
- Provide Community Partner presentations

A variety of stakeholders in the KCER community presented reports of their recent collaborations with the Coalition. A summary of these are provided below.

## **Overview of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)**

An overview of ASPR was presented by Pamela “Shayne” Brannman, MS, MA, HHS OS ASPR-HHS Secretary’s Operation Center, and Jeffrey A. Kelman, MD, CMS. Ms. Brannman coordinated communication between CMS, KCER and ASPR during Hurricane Sandy. Dr. Kelman is now analyzing data about the effects of Hurricane Sandy on kidney patients.

## **KCER Response Team Activities**

KCER Response Team Activities were shared with participants. Updates were provided by:

- Sharon Badger, RN, Patient Assistance Response Team Leader
- Shane Perry, BS, Patient & Provider Tracking Response Team Leader
- Robert Kenney, MD, Physician Response Co-Team Leader
- Lisa Hall, MSSW, LICSW, Communication Response Team Leader
- Melinda Martin-Lester, RN, BA, CNN, CHC, Coordination of Staff and Volunteers Response Team Leader
- Susan Easter, MS, CAE, KCER Emergency Management Specialist

## **KCER Transportation Task Force**

Goals for the newly formed KCER Transportation Task Force were presented by Task Force Chair Lisa Hall, MSSW, LICSW. She shared that two needs assessments will be forthcoming, one for

dialysis providers and the other for transportation providers, to assess current needs and determine potential solutions.

## **Emergency Preparedness and Response for the Dialysis and Transplant Community: What You Need to Know!**

Ms. Martin-Lester provided a presentation titled Emergency Preparedness and Response for the Dialysis and Transplant Community: What You Need to Know! This session concisely informed attendees about emergency planning and management for the renal community. Specific recommendations for managing dialysis patients in shelter and triage situations included:

- Types of renal replacement therapy
- Vascular access and vein preservation
- The fundamental assessment of patients in an emergency situation
- Renal diet and fluid considerations

A Shelter Triage tool has been developed by the KCER Coordination of Staff and Volunteers Response Team to assist shelter nurses in evaluating dialysis patients in the shelter setting. This tool will be available on the KCER website.

## **Open Space**

KCER Emergency Management Specialist Susan Easter, MS, CAE, invited participants to ask questions, share comments, or provide feedback in the Open Space section of the meeting. Attendees had no further questions beyond those submitted and discussed during earlier sections of the meeting.

## **Summary**

The KCER Community Partner Meeting: Dialysis and Disasters presented a unique opportunity to bring together stakeholders from the renal community, shelter services, and emergency management offices. The event was attended by 234 registrants with representation as noted below:

- American Red Cross staff from various states and the national office in Washington, DC
- United Way representatives
- Federal officials from CMS, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- State government and US Territory officials
- Staff from dialysis facilities
- Staff from ESRD Networks

The Community Partners WebEx Meeting: Dialysis and Disasters will be available in its entirety on the KCER website at [www.kcercoalition.com](http://www.kcercoalition.com).