

Physicians Respond to Evacuee Needs

Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center - Shreveport physicians responded to medical needs of over 550 Hurricane "Harvey" evacuees including children and the elderly at the Jewella Critical Transportation Needs Shelter (CTNS) in Shreveport between August 31 and September 6, 2017.

The Jewella CTNS is a component of the state's hurricane sheltering plan for those lacking transportation in an evacuation. Previously a Sam's Club, the re-purposed building is configured to shelter 2400 hurricane evacuees.

As part of Louisiana DHH and Region 7 Health Care Coalition planning, a team of LSUHSC-S emergency medicine physicians led the shelter medical unit that included support staffing from the volunteer Medical Reserve Corps and David Raines Community Clinic.

History

Experiences of Hurricane "Katrina" (2005) and "Gustov" (2008) in Shreveport-Bossier City demonstrated the needs and challenges in providing medical care to a large sheltering population. Shelterees arrive in our area with a range of health maladies many without resources including medications. A shelter medical unit provides for urgent needs while mitigating impacts on local hospitals and health systems.

Physicians Responding

The Jewella CTNS medical unit was led by ED attending Brian Martin, MD. Another ED attending was Britni Stenard, MD. Emergency medicine residents included Lupe Duran, MD; Ken Maniscalco, MD; Cory Markham, MD; Blake Goodman, MD; Jenny Jones, MD; Quinn Cummings, MD; Anisha Turner, MD; Britni Stenard, MD; Stacy Henderson, MD; Luke Cvitanovic, MD; and Kellsey Moody, MD.

Pediatric medical care providers in the shelter included Joe Bocchini, MD; attendings Steve Bienvenu, MD, and Fred Sullivan, MD, and included Pediatric residents Maxie Davie, MD; Tierney Plotter, MD; and Alice Madani, MD.

Activation

Upon notification Dr. Brian Martin activated his team of emergency medicine residents who staffed the Jewella shelter medical unit. Physicians were on site to assist with bus triage of evacuees and provide medical care to those who lost everything in the floods. Shelter Medical Unit physicians evaluated over 165 patient evacuees, wrote over 550 prescriptions and assisted to coordinate 12 EMS transports from the Jewella shelter to local hospital emergency departments.

Validation

Knox Andress, RN, at the Louisiana Poison Center and serving as Hospital Designated Regional Coordinator, reports the plan of LSUHSC-S emergency medicine physician response to local state shelters was first validated in response to Hurricane "Isaac" (2012) and was reaffirmed in the Hurricane "Harvey" response.