

# Using Knowledge to Move Action: State Disaster Planning, Preparation, and Implementation

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# Knowledge, Action, & Planning

- Two Key Concepts:
  - 1. Case Study: Pandemic Avian Influenza (PAI) will exceed our worst historical disasters.
  - 2. Taking Action: What to do about the fact that the mental health and substance use fields are absent.

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- The ABCs of PAI:
- 1% will die; 10% will become very ill
- Economy will stop; schools will stop
- Several cycles will occur over several months
- Problem will be national; external resources will not be available

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- ABCs of PAI
- CDC and HRSA have given grants to the States (Directors of PH Preparedness) to prepare PAI Plans and conduct Tabletop Exercises
- Plans are available at:  
<http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

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- ABCs of PAI
- These plans are critical: *Community and personal survival will very likely depend upon whether the local Pandemic Plans actually work.*
- Therefore, Constella has undertaken a review of these plans.

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## *The Fairy Tale Hotline*



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- Key Findings:
- Plans should extend beyond health
- Impact estimates should be documented
- Government continuity should be addressed
- Business activities should be considered

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- Findings Continued:
- State plans should be coordinated with local activities
- Major health and social services should be included
- Communication plans should be broadened

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- Findings Continued:
- Mortuary services should be considered
- Plans should include ongoing implementation activities

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- Recommended National Actions:
- Conduct a Detailed Review of the Plans
- Create a Model Plan
- Convene Focus Groups of States: ID Barriers and Solutions
- Provide State Specific TA

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- Mental Health and Substance Use:
- Not mentioned in the State Plans
- Are a critical part of the State infrastructure
- Serve populations that will be particularly affected by the dislocations caused by avian flu

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- Mental Health and Substance Use:
- Constella prepared a white paper, "Preparing for Pandemic Avian Influenza: Ensuring Mental Health Services and Mitigating Panic."
- This paper was distributed to you electronically.

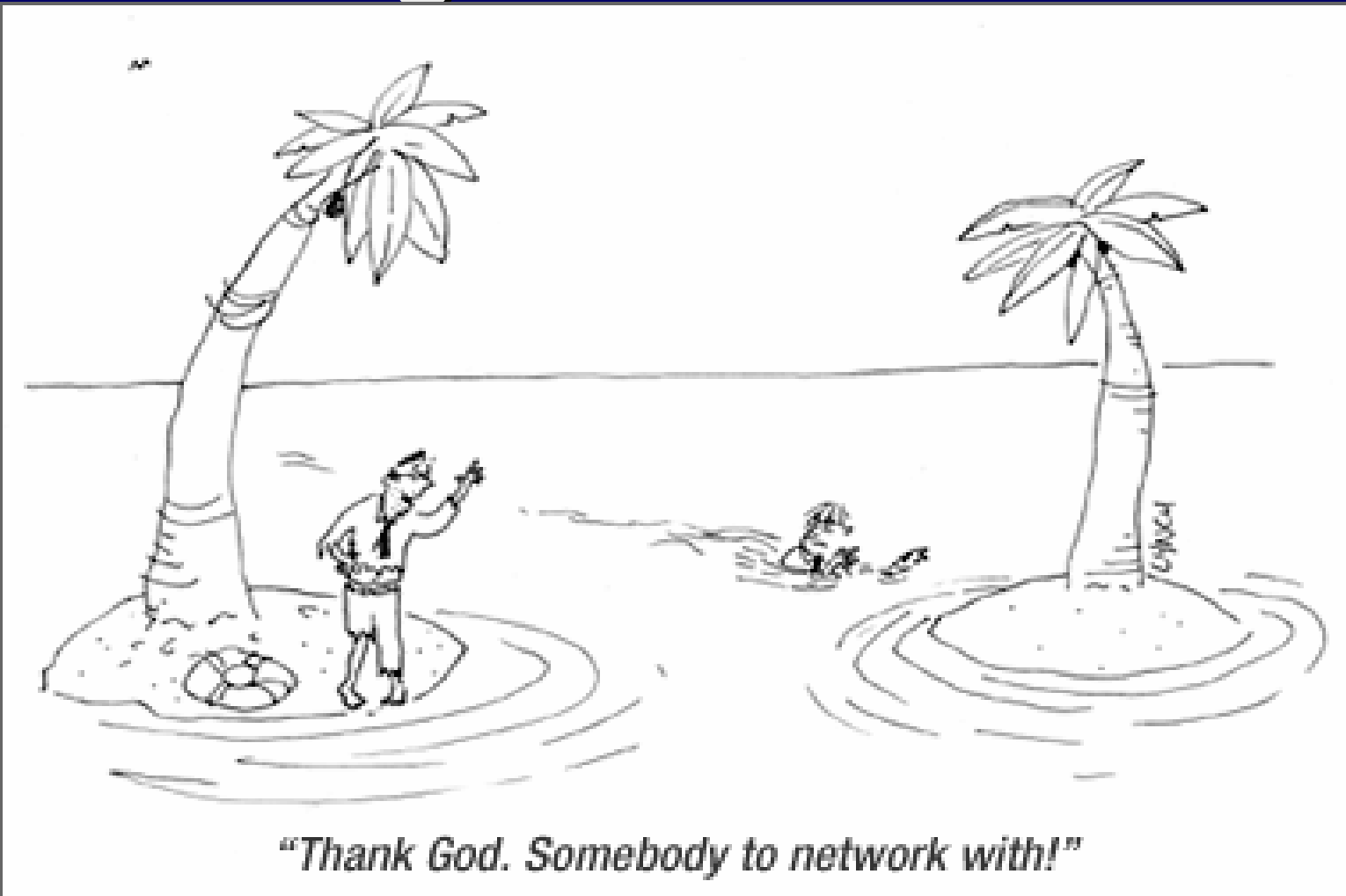
# Knowledge, Action, & Planning

- Mental Health and Substance Use:
- Core Finding: Ensuring MH and SU services and mitigating panic are essential to reducing the severe disruptions associated with the secondary effects of PAI.

# Knowledge, Action, & Planning

- Some Key Factors:
- Many new cases of mental illness are likely to develop
- Current clients will need ongoing care provision
- Panic reactions can threaten community infrastructure.

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*"Thank God. Somebody to network with!"*

# Knowledge, Action, & Planning

- Recommended Actions:
- Plan to Reprogram Federal MH Funds
- Plan the State and Local MH Response
- Support the Private Sector Response
- Ensure the Mental Health of Essential Personnel

# Knowledge, Action, & Planning

- Recommended Actions:
- Mitigate Panic
- Identify and Empower a Lead Federal Agency

# Knowledge, Action, & Planning

- Key Data Systems:
- **BIOSENSE**: Reporting of biological agents from terror or accident. Currently, 1000 Hospitals.
- **VAERS**: Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. Currently, 50 State coordinators, 6 drug companies, citizens.

# Knowledge, Action, & Planning

- How can we get mental health and substance use care to the table?

# Knowledge, Action, & Planning

- Potential Actions:
- SMHAs and SUAs need to reach out to the State Directors of Public Health Preparedness
- SMHAs and SUAs need to engage their own planners in a PAI plan process
- SMHAs and SUAs need to work with local facilities

# Knowledge, Action, & Planning

- Potential Actions:
- MH and SU advocates need to work closely with the State PH Affiliate
- MH and SU advocates need to educate consumers and families to the PAI threat and reasoned responses.
- Other strategies?

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