

Abstracts of Oral Presentations-WADEM Congress on Disaster and Emergency Medicine 2019

PSYCHOSOCIAL

Challenges and Opportunities for Interprofessional Collaboration within the Post-disaster Psychosocial Support Network in a Terrorism Scenario in the Netherlands: A Network Analysis

Mr Jurriaan Jacobs¹, Jacklien Maessen¹, Dr. Michel Dücker^{1,2}

1. Impact Foundation, Diemen, Netherlands
2. NIVEL, Utrecht, Netherlands

Introduction: Post-disaster psychosocial support (PSS) is an indispensable element of disaster management. A variety of studies contributed to the development of guidelines, information about guideline implementation, and evidence-based practice, as well as the status of local PSS planning and delivery systems in different European regions. However, the multi-disciplinary nature of the organization of post-disaster PSS requires interprofessional and inter-organizational collaboration, but is presently insufficient institutionalized on individual, organizational, and governmental levels, locally, within the region, and nationally.

Aim: Objective of this research is to map the existing post-disaster PSS network in the Netherlands in the context of a terrorism scenario, and to identify probable collaboration problems rooted in weak ties and lack of alignment between actors at different levels.

Methods: Focus groups were organized in Belgium, France, Norway, and the United Kingdom to learn from the inter-agency response to recent terrorist attacks. Next, social network analysis methods were used to analyze the structure of the collaborative network for post-disaster PSS in the Netherlands. A scenario-based questionnaire was distributed amongst relevant stakeholders through snowballing methods. Respondents were asked to identify organizations they collaborate with on different PSS activities during the preparedness, acute, and recovery phase.

Results: The international focus groups resulted in valuable lessons for the Dutch PSS network. Data collection for social network analysis is currently in progress. Based on previous research we expect limited ties between disciplines during the preparedness phase and during the “registration of affected persons” in the acute phase. Most of the interactions between agencies will be linked to one-stop-shop service delivery, and less to commemorations and health monitoring.

Discussion: Lessons from the focus groups, verification of whether or not the expectations are supported by the social

network data, and reflections on opportunities for improvement will be presented at the conference in Brisbane.

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Code Orange: A Systematic Review of Psychosocial Disaster Response

Miss Melissa B. Korman, Miss Lauren Goldberg, Miss Caitlin Klein, Miss Marjan Khanjani, Dr. Gemma Cox, Miss Elina Fila, Mr. Alan Dick, Dr. Janet Ellis, Miss Sophie Moore

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Thornhill, Canada

Introduction: Survivors of mass casualty incidents are vulnerable to both physical and psychological injuries. Hospitals need to triage the walking wounded victims, their loved ones, and witnesses for symptoms of emotional distress to ensure that those who are traumatized benefit from proactive psychological treatment. Hospitals must also manage the influx of searching family and friends, and be able to reunite them with their loved ones, to reduce chaos and prevent hospital skipping.

Aim: To analyze previous research on institutional psychosocial disaster response, what has or has not worked, and lessons learned in order to develop evidence-based future planning suggestions.

Methods: A literature search was conducted on the following electronic databases: (Medline 2007 to July 2018), (Embase 2007 to July 2018), (PsycInfo 2007 to July 2018). A combination of subject headings and free text keywords were used to perform the searches. After removing duplicates, abstracts were screened independently by two reviewers for the following inclusion criteria: 1) crisis intervention (in a disaster situation), 2) mention of psychosocial response or lack thereof and lessons learned, 3) relevant outcomes, 4) OECD countries, and 5) journal articles published 2007–Present. Review articles were excluded. Primary and secondary reviewers are in the process of discussing discrepancies. Data extraction will be conducted from all articles that meet the inclusion criteria. Key themes to be analyzed include psychological casualties, searching family and friends, and family reunification plans.

Results: The initial search yielded 6,267 results. 5,294 articles remained after duplicates were removed. Of the 4,890 reviewed thus far, 269 articles met inclusion criteria.