


Addressing the Mobilization of Complementary and Integrative Health and Allied Health Professionals in Public Health Emergencies

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Introduction



1. Coulter, Ian C., Margaret D. Whitley, Deborah Khoury, and Patricia M. Herman. Incorporating Complementary and Integrative Health Providers in the Public Health Pandemic Response: Lessons from COVID-19 and Recommendations for the Future from a Multidisciplinary Expert Panel. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2022. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR5439-3.html

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How can complementary and integrative health (CIH) and allied health professions more effectively and efficiently mobilize when the next local or global public health emergency occurs?

- Literature
- Interviews
- Data
- Recommendations

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Literature Review about COVID-19

PEER REVIEWED LITERATURE



- Chiropractic
- Naturopathic medicine
- Acupuncture
- Dentistry
- Physical therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Psychology
- Respiratory therapy
- Massage
- Dieticians

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What examples of recent mobilizations exist for other purposes?



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Qualitative Interview 1: Attainment of State Licensure

WHAT THEY DID:

- Long-term goal
- Legislative
- Collaborate with stakeholders
- Dedicated and passionate

WHAT THEY RECOMMEND:

- Communication
- Create relationships locally
- Inclusion as essential personnel



CHALLENGE: Negotiating for understanding of scope of practice

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Qualitative Interview 2: National Professional Organization

WHAT THEY DID:

- Contacted all members
- Provided resources
- Worked to ensure status as essential health care providers

WHAT THEY RECOMMEND:

- Communication
- Create relationships locally
- Train students in public health

CHALLENGE: Misinformation

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Qualitative Interview 3: Educators

WHAT THEY DID:

- Worked to expand scope of practice
- Trained students to participate in vaccination
- Collaborated amongst university departments

WHAT THEY RECOMMEND:

- Communication
- Prepare students for role in public health
- Continued policy efforts
- Use new knowledge for interdisciplinary clinic



CHALLENGE: Getting whole profession on board

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Qualitative Interview 4: Local Health Department

WHAT THEY DID:

- Quickly adapt to changing guidelines
- Provided resources
- Worked at local, state and national levels

WHAT THEY RECOMMEND:

- Communication
- Database of vetted personnel
- Better technology
- Strengthen community resources

CHALLENGE: Need to track down knowledge; burn out

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Qualitative Interview 5: Local Medical Reserve Corp

WHAT THEY DID:

- Quickly adapt to changing guidelines
- Provided resources
- Worked at local, state and national levels
- Communication system in place

WHAT THEY RECOMMEND:

- Communication
- Better technology
- Strengthen community resources: pre-train, pre-credentialed, and complete background check



CHALLENGE: Overwhelming number of new volunteers; long onboarding process

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Recommendations

What do we want our role in public health to be?



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Recommendations

How can we build momentum for that role?

- UVCA
- ACA, ICA
- Legislative
- Multidisciplinary
- Students



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Recommendations

How can we engage with our communities regarding topics related to public health?

- Discuss stress management with patients
- Give a talk about nutrition at the local library
- Build a 5K team



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Recommendations

How can we get onboard now to be part of the team in the future?

- Get to know your LHD staff and ER providers
- Become a Medical Reserve Corp volunteer NOW



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thank you

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