

CDC Pacific Health Initiative: The Palau Community College Center for Emergency Health

The Center for Disease Control & Prevention - in conjunction with the DHHS Office of Pacific Health in San Francisco and with resources provided by the U.S. Department of Interior / Office of Insular Affairs - established in 1999 the Pacific Emergency Health Initiative (PEHI), which has been reviewing the Disaster Management (DM) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) capacity of select Pacific Island Countries. The purpose of this review is to improve regional DM / EMS capacity development. To this end, building upon an earlier EMS WHO consultancy to Palau and after conducting two strategic planning workshops in Palau in October 2001, CDC announced in June 2001 that it would work in partnership Palau Community College (PCC), the Palau Ministries of Health and Justice, the Palau National Emergency Management Office, and the Palau Red Cross to establish the Palau Center for Emergency Health to be organizationally located within Palau Community College. The purpose of the Center is to provide training and technical assistance to promote appropriate DM and EMS development for the region. Training will include public health DM training and hands on clinical training for all levels of emergency care from basic First Responder Training to Advanced Emergency Medicine Training for physicians and nurses.

The first Palau Center for Emergency Health training activity took place from 10-21 September 2001 at the PCC campus in Koror, Palau, and included 68 participants from 11 Pacific countries and jurisdictions including the U.S. Pacific Flag Territories (Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa), the Freely Associated States of Micronesia (Federated States of Micronesia [Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap] and the Republics of the Marshall Islands and Palau) and the South Pacific nation of Kiribati. The training consisted of two separate programs:

1) Emergency Medical Services: Sept 10-21, 2001 – 34 participants

- An 80-hour course related to First Responder ambulance and pre-hospital clinical care
- Target audience: both potential and current ambulance attendees, fire rescue, law enforcement, nursing staff.
- Outcome: Participants were certified in basic First Responder pre-hospital care. In 2002 courses are scheduled for physicians and nurses at Belau National Hospital in ACLS, ATLS, and PALS.

2) Planning for Public Health and Hospital Emergencies: Sept 10-14, 2001 – 34 participants

- A 40-hour course related to the development of public health plans
- Target audience: public health staff and decision-makers, hospital managerial, administrative and medical staff
- Outcome: Participants gained the background knowledge needed in order to develop 11 separate emergency operations plans for their respective health ministries and/or hospitals. In 2002 the Palau Center for Emergency Health will host subsequent workshops whereby these participants will have the opportunity to apply their training to further develop their actual plans.

A Pacific Scholarship Program was developed by CDC to fund the trainees to the Center's inaugural program at PCC.

For more information about the Center training programs, please contact

The purpose of the Center is to provide training and technical assistance to promote appropriate DM and EMS development for the region.

Willy Wally
Dean, Continuing Education
Palau Community College
Tel: 680-488-2471
Fax: 680-488-2659

willyw@belau.org

Julie Tellei
Chief of Human Resources
Ministry of Health, Republic of Palau
Tel: 688-488-2813
Fax: 680-488-1211
Email: julie@plaunet.com

Dr. Greg Dever
Director, Bureau of Clinical Services
Ministry of Health Republic of Palau
Tel: 68-488-2813
Fax: 680-488-1211
Email: gdever@palaunet.com

Dr. Mark Keim
Emergency Response
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Ph: 770-488-7100
Fax: 770-488-7107
mjk9@cdc.gov