American Academy of Pediatrics
“Enhancing Pediatric Partnerships to Promote Pandemic Preparedness” Meeting

GEORGIA STATE ACTION PLAN
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State Models:
Georgia Hospital Association (GHA) disaster communication website (gha911.org)
Augusta regional website (ga-gline.org) linking hospitals, providers and public health
On-going meetings between Department of Education and Public Health

Key Challenges:
1. De-centralization (public health, schools, 159 counties) hinders coordination and communication.
2. Lack of Pediatrician (especially Primary Care) involvement in statewide planning and decision-making processes.

Action Steps:
1. Develop web-based communication systems at the regional and state level that involve all stakeholders (public health, providers, hospitals, schools, parents).
2. Promote 2-way flow of information from large organizing bodies (GHA, DPH, AAP, DOE) to members and vice versa.
3. Identify a “Pediatric Champion” at each adult hospital/ER who can participate in 2-way communication and prepare their facility for treating pediatric overflow.
4. Work to expand the capabilities of GRITS, specifically the ability to identify and track high risk populations. The legal structure of GRITS may require development of a parallel system to meet this goal.
5. Identify “trusted spokespersons” at the local, regional and state level who can serve as local experts and reliable sources of information. Cultivate relationships with media at all levels so they will turn to these spokespersons during pandemics or disasters.
6. In a collaborative effort between state agencies, children’s hospitals, pediatricians and other stakeholders, develop a state-wide Pediatric Council. This would facilitate communication about child health issues and coordinated responses to disasters and pandemics.

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