



Creating Policy, Systems, Environmental Change: Success Story and Lessons Learned

Title

Community Nutrition Advisory Council Springs Into Action to Assist in Fire Disaster

Intervention Summary

Our Community Nutrition Advisory Council (CNAC) had just met the week before disaster struck in our small town of Weed with a devastating fire which destroyed 150 homes and a variety of other buildings, including the Great Northern Services (GNS) building which stored our county's USDA commodities emergency food supplies. The coordinator of this program, who was an active member of our CNAC group, reached out to our group with requests for immediate food-related needs to assist the many fire survivors. We immediately started a communication network within our group to relay ongoing information to key stakeholders which included Rotary First Harvest, local community gardens and farmer's markets, Office of Education, PSA 2 AAA, Public Health, Social Services, Faith Community Nurses, YMCA, school nurses, etc.

Description of Barriers Encountered and Identified or Proposed Solutions

During an emergency situation of a large magnitude, it is often difficult to provide a coordination of services as well as information dissemination. It is vital to have partnerships and communication networks established before a crisis arises.

Future Directions/Sustainable Success

This experience helped me to realize how important it is to build sustainable community relationships and we plan to continue growing and diversifying our CNAC group. One member sums up this concept by an e-mail message, "amazing what relationships can do...we met Renee (GNS) at your meeting; fire broke out; you and I connected; we connected and went to Weed; others came along; information was sent out to Rotary

clubs; Rotary responded; connections were made with Weed and Mt. Shasta Rotary Clubs, 4-H, and many others. Thanks for the opportunity to be involved!”.

Contact information about this Narrative

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