HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH IN THE BAHAMAS … THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

MINISTRY OF HEALTH, BAHAMAS
DR. CHERITA MOXEY
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OUTLINE

OBJECTIVES

CONTEXT

CHALLENGES

OPPORTUNITIES
OBJECTIVE

Sharing learning experiences and lessons learnt
Number of new COVID-19 cases per week for The Bahamas for data ending with case 761.
CHALLENGES
Planning for surge capacity

Duplication of skill sets to manage cases at non-hospital COVID-19 Assessment Facilities

Multi-tasking

Psycho-social influencers (fear, stress, work-family burn-out)

Compensation and other financial issues

Demands of Unions

Misstep: voluntary versus mandatory participation

Influence of social behaviours on work environment

Failure of transitioning PPE knowledge to safe practices
RETROSPECTIVE CASE SERIES OF EXPOSED HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS (APRIL – MAY 2020)
PHA Database:
Percentage of HW responding NO to consistent use of:

- Eye protection: 94%
- Respirator: 82%
- Gown: 71%
- Single use Gloves: 46%
- Medical Mask: 30%
TERTIARY FACILITY STAFF EXPOSURES

- Exposure assessment (WHO Tool)
- Data Source: Institutional Employee Health Units
- Data Time Stamp: as at 7th August, 2020
COMMUNITY CLINICS STAFF EXPOSURES

- Staff a community clinics
- Data Source: Department of Public Health
- Data Time Stamp: As at 7th August, 2020
CONTRACTION OF WORKFORCE DUE TO POSITIVE COVID-19 HCW

COVID-19 POSITIVE HCP BY TYPE

- Domestic staff: 1
- Physiotherapist: 1
- Technician: 2
- EMS: 3
- TCN: 3
- PCA/PCT: 10
- Physician: 17
- RN: 20
COVID-19 POSITIVE HCP BY PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT (n=57)

- PMH, 16, 28%
- GBHS, 17, 30%
- DHHS, 12, 21%
- Community Clinics, 9, 16%
- MOH, 1, 2%
- SRC, 2, 3%
DIFFERENCES IN THE 1ST AND 2ND WAVES

1st Wave: 23
2nd Wave: 34
OPPORTUNITIES
Task shifting
Building capacity
Regulating unregulated professions
Documented protocols and process flows
Magnified a fragmented system
INFORMING CASES AND IDENTIFYING CONTACTS

- Contact tracing strikeforce
- Lockdowns provided the opportunity to recruit non-health professionals
- Adaption of JHU online contact tracing course
- Increased pool of certified contact tracers (~90)
VIRTUAL COVID-19 CALL CENTRE

Complemented the case and contact investigations
In the absence of widespread testing, served to identify likely suspected cases in the community
HEALTH-IN-ALL POLICIES… COLLABORATING FOR THE RESPONSE
STRENGTHENED DIGITAL ECOSYSTEMS