



Northwest Center for Public Health Practice

Promoting excellence in public health practice



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Pacific NorthWest Border Health Alliance

The Crystal Ball: Where Does Our Future Lie?

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Pacific NorthWest Border Health Alliance - Components -

- Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) –
– the operational component of the PNWBHA
- Cross Border Workshop – annual
- Workgroups – currently seven



Pacific NorthWest Border Health Alliance

- Has provided a framework for interagency and interdisciplinary collaboration
- MOUs developed include
 - information sharing
 - movement of medical personnel across the border
 - public health laboratory surge capacity
- Website, information source



Joint Coordination Committee

- The operational component of the PNWBHA
- Joint Co-Chairs - Canadian and US
- Meetings occur monthly via teleconference
- The agency or ministry of the Co-Chairs provides administrative and logistical support



Workgroups - Participation

Communications	3.8%
Health Emergency Management	26.4%
Public Health Emergency Medical Services	12.3%
Epidemiology & Surveillance	19.8%
Indigenous Health	8.5%
Public Health Laboratories	3.8%
Public Health Law	7.5%
Will not attend a workgroup session	17.9%



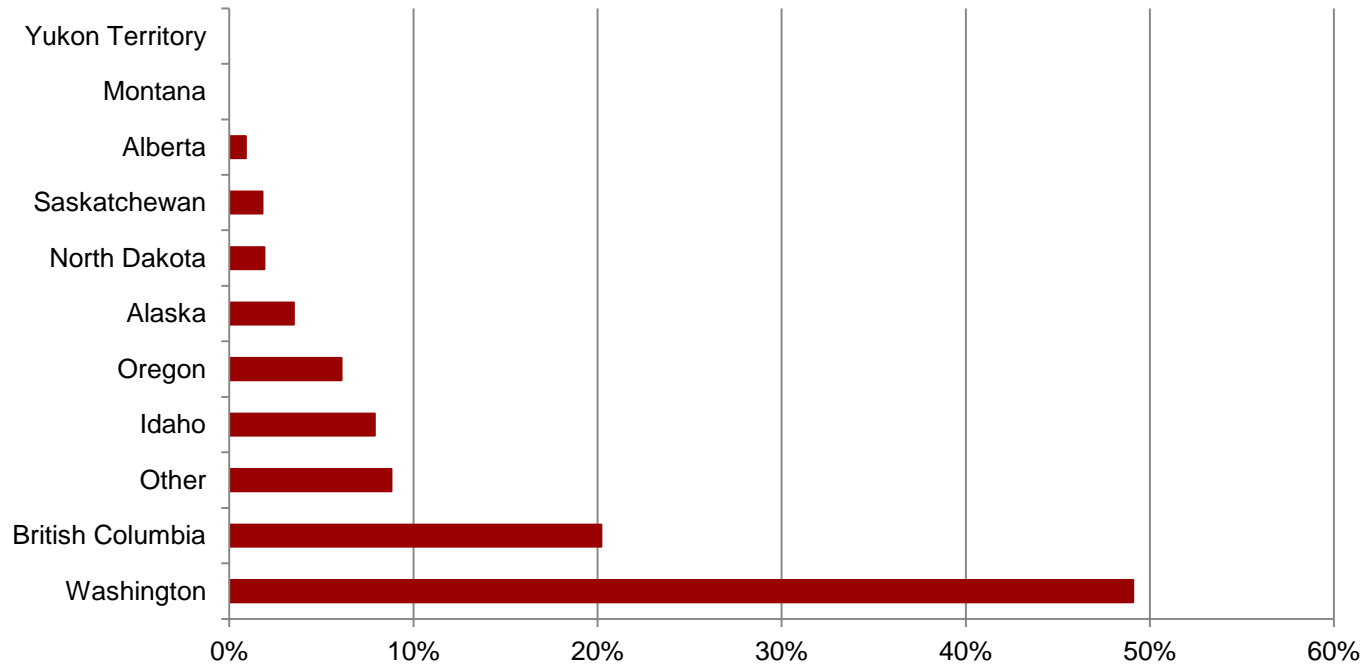
Pacific Northwest Cross Border Workshop



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Who Attends? Location

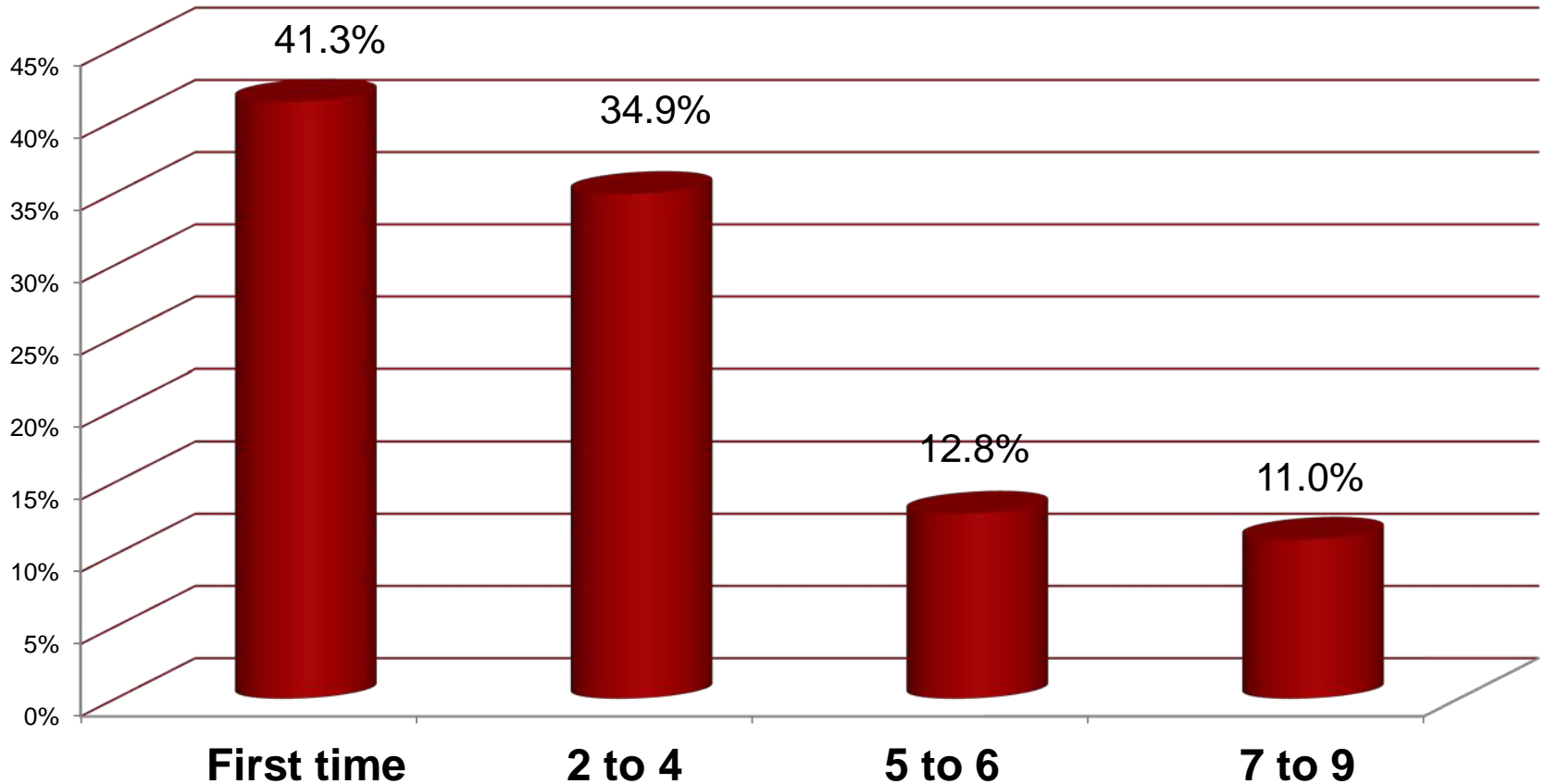
Respondents by location (N = 114)



Other=Multiple States, Manitoba, Guam, Ontario, Georgia, New Mexico, Michigan



Previous Workshops Attended



Who Attends?

Experience in Public Health

Length of time in preparedness and emergency response:

19.8 % 3 years or less

31.5 % 3 to 9 years

47.7 % 10 years or more

Years in current position:

42.9 % 3 years or less

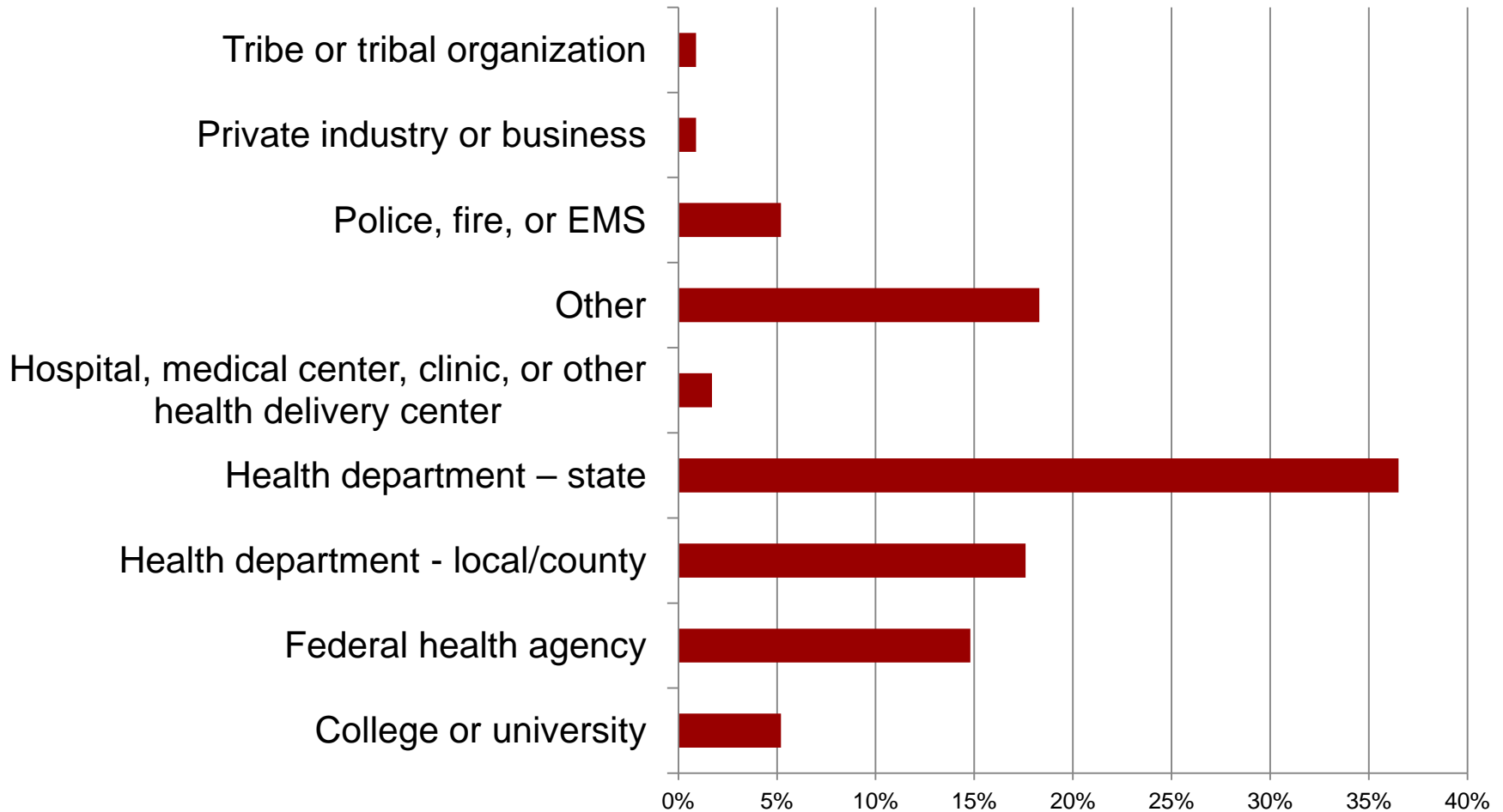
41.1 % 3 years or more

16.1 % 10 years or more



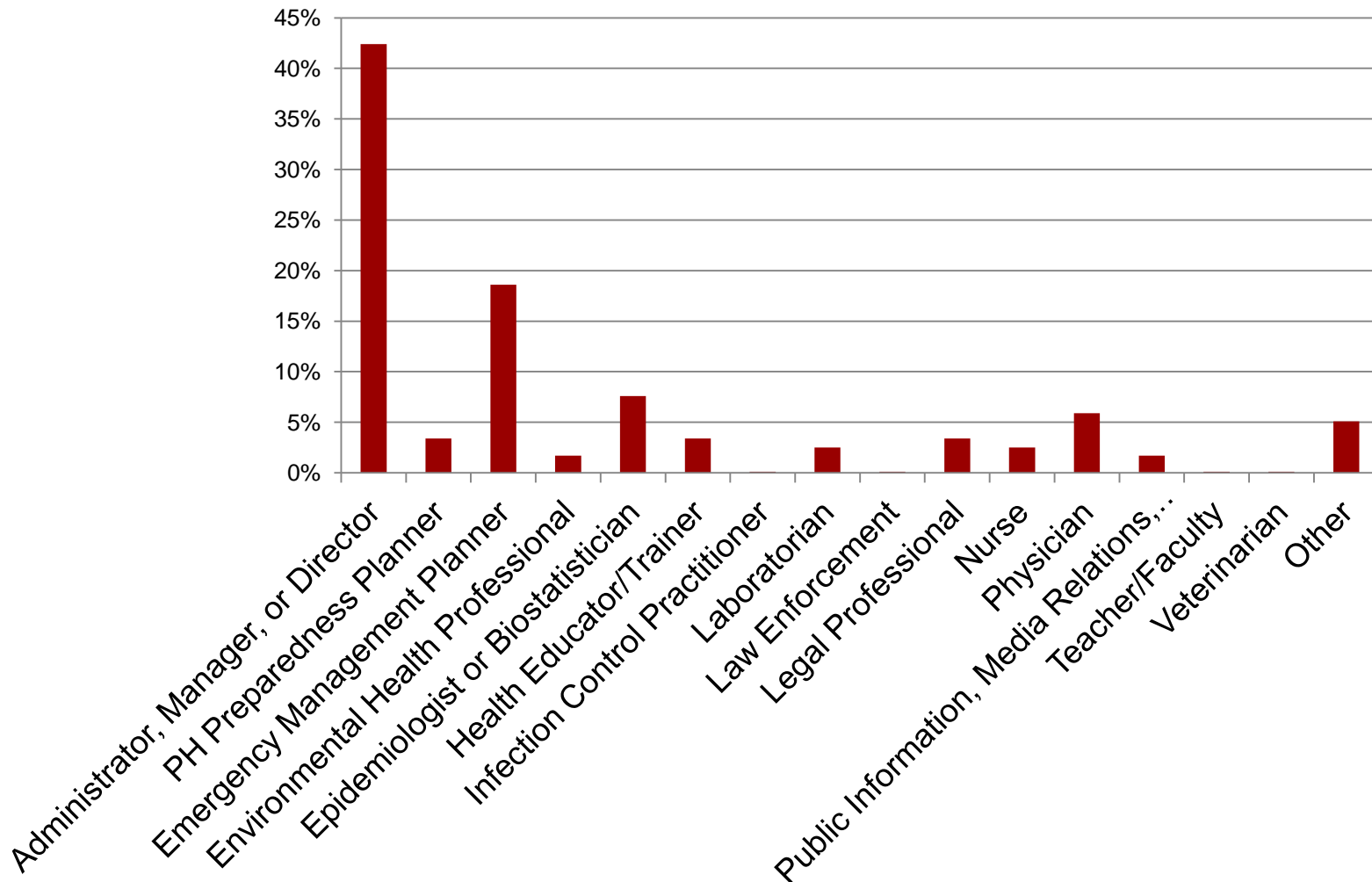
Who Attends? Type of Organization

Percentage of respondents by type of organization (N =115)

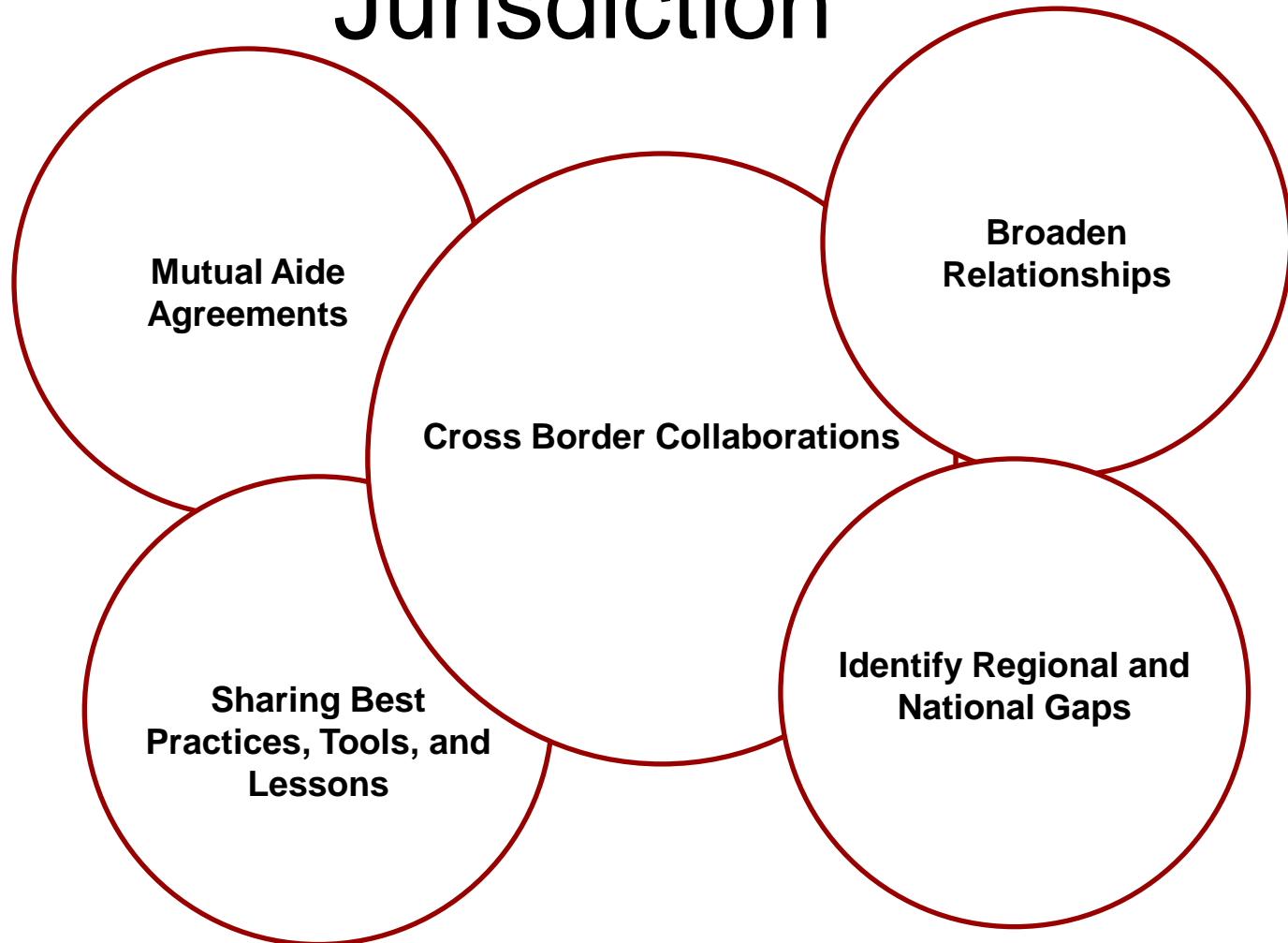


Who Attends? Position

Percentage of respondents by type of position (N = 118)



Value of Alliance to Jurisdiction



Value of Alliance to Individual Work

Information Sharing

Networking & Partnerships

Planning

Cooperation & Collaboration

Communication



Key Benefits to Attending Cross Borders Workshop

Networking & Relationship building (55%)

Discussing best practices and shared issues

Learning about new emerging issues (e.g. Region 10 earthquake)

Improving partnerships and emergency response between jurisdictions and countries

Knowing who to work with in an emergency situation

Understanding key differences and capacities of jurisdictions



Application of Information Learned

75 % of past attendees have applied something learned from the workshops

- Coordinating messages following Fukushima
- 2010 Winter Olympics EMS surge planning
- Information sharing during 2009 flu pandemic
- Expanding exercises to include Canadian assets, such as Mobile Medical Unit
- Creating Canada/US boarder patient transfer and communication policies



The Future???

“Without a continuing forum the conversations and collaborations will dwindle. Coordinations during an emergency would become much more difficult.

“I think the addition of a specific medical surge workgroup would improve progress in that area....”

“We need to identify funding sources to provide resources to maintain and improve the systems and collaborations that have been built.”



Ideas?

The future should build on the past, but it doesn't need to look like it.

- Strategic directions
- Organization
- Funds or sponsorship
 - Alliance
 - Workshop
 - Workgroups

