Design of a Problem-Based Learning Case Series on Community Resilience

Jane Ann Vaccaro, RN, BSN, MPH Candidate

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON · SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

W

Background

Community Resilience (CR) - "The sustained ability of communities to withstand and recover-in both the short and long term-from adversity."

- Disaster management is evolving from first responder focus to "Whole Community" approach

- Federal-level initiatives and policies endorse CR inclusion in emergency management and public health preparedness plans

- Governmental agencies and preparedness experts cite need and desire for CR training

- Problem-based learning (PBL) offers instructional method well-suited to emergency and public health preparedness experts

Project Goal

Design PBL case series geared towards working professionals including:

- Public health emergency preparedness professionals, emergency managers, and first responder agencies

- Government, business, and non-governmental organization staff responsible for disaster planning activities

This training tool will:

- Build participant awareness of CR

- Articulate CR relevance to participant's practice

- Improve community capacity to withstand adversity

The series serves to contribute to the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) nation-wide clearing house of disaster preparedness training resources
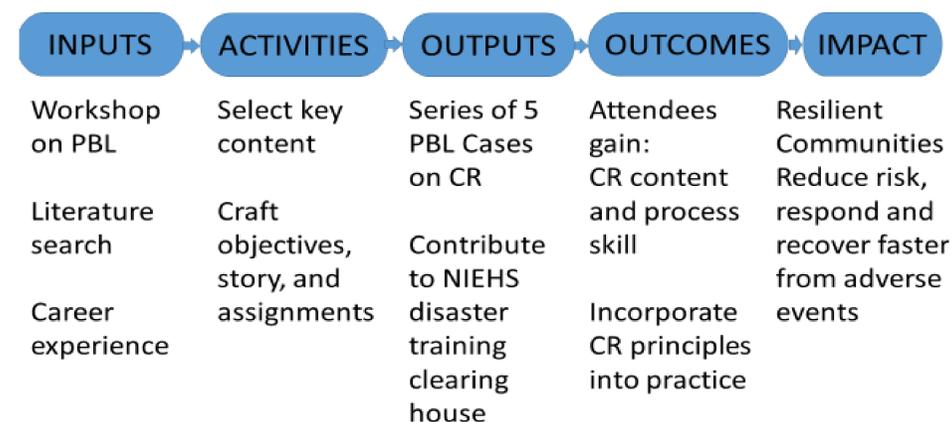
Methods

In order to construct an informed and useful PBL case series the following steps occurred:

- Attended University of Delaware, PBL workshop on PBL theory and problem design

- Conducted literature review on CR and PBL to inform problem/case design

- Used Logic Model to establish program components and conformity with desired outcomes

Case Design including:

- Writing learning objectives

- Selecting crucial content and resources

- Drafting authentic case scenarios

- Staging case progression

- Crafting assignments congruent with objectives

Logic Model

INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES	IMPACT
Workshop on PBL	Select key content	Series of 5 PBL Cases on CR	Attendees gain: CR content and process skill	Resilient Communities Reduce risk, respond and recover faster from adverse events
Literature search	Craft objectives, story, and assignments	Contribute to NIEHS disaster training clearing house	Incorporate CR principles into practice	
Career experience				

Outcomes

Series of 5 PBL case-based scenarios based on authentic events with widespread community impact, for example-the 2014 and 2015 Eastern Washington Wildfires

Case series focuses on:

- CR principles including learning from the past, accounting for assets, taking action at every level, and shortening recovery time

- Partnership building across key sectors

- Community engagement

- Collaborative problem-solving

Structure Protection, First Creek Fire, Chelan, WA 08/22/15 (USFS)

Future Directions

Next Steps include:

- Instructor guide based on PBL methods

- Subject matter expert review

- Ground-truthing for credibility and feasibility

- Course evaluation design

- Pilot testing and revision

Omak, WA Home Depot Shelters Wildfire Evacuees. Photo Credit-Wenatchee World 08/28/15