HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

ARMEN HENDERSON MD
LENA CARLETON (SOON TO BE MD)
HURRICANE IRMA

Medical and general community was unprepared
- Diverted ambulances away
- Only people who knocked on door let in
- Hospital overflowed with patients afterward

Hurricane threats not taken seriously in years past

Poor and elderly most affected
- Couldn’t physically move or couldn’t afford to move
- Devastation on hospital doorstep

Community still recovering
- Large population of people forced to move (climate gentrification)
COMMUNITY LED RESPONSE (REACTIVE)

- Delivering food to vulnerable populations (without major orgs)
- Boarding up homes with wood
- Debris removal (3 guys and a van) self-funded
- Medical check ups
- Medication renewal
- Keeping elderly cool and hydrated with ice and water
- Chaotic
POST IRMA (PROACTIVE)

Miami Climate alliance (miamiclimatealliance.org)
Created in 2015, focused Miami on climate change
Cross state, multi org alliance focused on hurricane preparedness

Community hub creation

Divided by neighborhood
DADE COUNTY STREET RESPONSE

- Partnership with Dream Defenders
- Community led response for general emergencies
- Started to help combat gun violence
- Branched into hurricane preparedness
DADE COUNTY STREET RESPONSE DISASTER RELIEF TEAM

Website

Servicing community hubs with medical volunteers

Addressing needs of the most medically vulnerable or disabled pre and post hurricane

Building partnerships with:

• Americares
• SAHMSA hotline
• Telemedicine
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Continue to build networks
- Connecting with other like minded organizations
- Education of medical professionals and community
- Urge the state to catch up
- Volunteer sign ups
- Urge people and businesses to have a plan
QUESTIONS?