NEW ORLEANS
ERNEST N. MORIAL CONVENTION CENTER
MEDICAL MONITORING STATION

Meghan Maslanka, MD
Convention Center Medical Manager/Operations Section Chief
LSU New Orleans Associate Director of EMS and Disaster Medicine
THE CONCEPT

- 2,000 bed facility in the New Orleans Convention Center
- Effort led by the Louisiana Department of Health and the Louisiana National Guard
- Hurricane sheltering plans used to create facility
- Outside staffing agency contracted to provide clinical care
CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

• Initial mission:
  • Accept patients from the inpatient setting
  • Accept recovering patients with ongoing medical needs
  • Accept patients capable of ambulation and self care

• Revised mission:
  • Accept patients from nursing homes, clinics, urgent cares, emergency departments, and inpatient settings
  • Accept patients in any stage of illness
  • Accept patients regardless of ambulation and/or self-care capabilities
CHALLENGES RELATED TO REDESIGN

- Majority of patients from nursing homes
  - Large number of patients with ambulatory issues and total care needs
  - Long duration of patient stays
- Facility designed for high volume, low acuity
- Initially lacked access to testing

CHALLENGES RELATED TO BEING AN ALTERNATIVE CARE SITE

- PPE shortages
- Limited resources
- Logistics processes
- Clinicians and case managers not familiar with local customs and resources
- Difficult to track data
ACQUIRED CRITICAL RESOURCES

• Appropriate staffing types & ratios
• Quality assurance (role, meetings, tools, daily reports)
• COVID-19 testing capabilities
• Hospital beds
• Wound care team & equipment
• Physical therapy team & equipment
• Patient activity area & schedule
• Special diets
• Case management
• Daily data reports
THE FUTURE

• Concerns
  • Resurgence in cases as the City/State reopens
  • Need for non-inpatient care sites as nursing home testing is expanded/mandated
  • Need for Covid + sheltering options during hurricane season

• Options
  • Keep the Convention Center MMS open
  • Open smaller MMS facilities within empty wings of hospitals
THANK YOU!
QUESTIONS?