COVID-19 RESPONSE IN AZ-MARICOPA COUNTY

“HOW A MEASLY VIRUS BROUGHT THE WILD WILD WEST TO ITS KNEES”
ARIZONA SPIKING: WHY?

• WE ARE VICTIMS OF OUR OWN DILIGENCE

• WE ARE VICTIMS OF OUR IMPATIENCE AND FIERCE INDEPENDENT STREAK
THE GRIM STATISTICS A/O 7/2/2020

STATE-WIDE:

1. 84,092/4,878/88
   • 6/16/2020: 39,097/1,219/?

2. ED VISITS 7/1: 1,289 (A RECORD)

3. ICU PATIENTS: 1520 (91%) (A RECORD)

4. VENTILATED PATIENTS: 807 (A RECORD)
THE GRIM STATISTICS A/O 7/2/2020

MARICOPA COUNTY:

1. 57,485/825/24
   • (6/16/20: 20,670/540)

2. SINCE SOCIAL RELAXING 5/15/20
   • MEDIAN AGE OF PATIENT 49 TO 35
   • 50% OF NEW 20-44
   • ONLY 10-11% OF NEW >65 (WAS 20% 5/15/20)
WHAT TO DO?

1. Gubernatorial and ADHS roll-back of opening procedures
2. “Crisis Standards of Care”
3. COVID specific hospitals and convalescent facilities

BUT CHALLENGES ABOUND
CIVIL LIBERTIES VS. PUBLIC HEALTH

• HEALTH CLUBS REVOLT AND FILE SUIT
  • MOUNTAINSIDE FITNESS (18 SITES, 90K MEMBERS)
  • LIFE TIME FITNESS (1,500 EMPLOYEES)
    • STATE RESPONSE: LIQUOR LICENSES SUSPENDED

• JOHNS HOPKINS DATA: ONLY 1/13 LARGEST PROTEST CITIES WITH CLEAR CAUSE/EFFECT INCREASE
  • PHOENIX
“CRISIS STANDARDS OF CARE”

• ACT OF GOVERNOR IN CONSULTATION WITH “STATE DISASTER MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE”, CHAIRED BY ADHS DIRECTOR

• LIABILITY PROTECTIONS FOR RESOURCE ALLOCATION

• HEIGHTENED EMPHASIS ON ENHANCED DISPATCH, ALTERNATIVE DESTINATION, TELEMEDICINE

• EARLY DISCHARGES OF PATIENTS ARE CONCERNING THE EMS COMMUNITY
TRYING TO OFF-LOAD THE STRESSED

- ***AZ COVID-19 SURGE LINE
- COOPERATIVE: ADHS, HOSPITAL CHAINS, INTERFACILITY PRIVATE AMBULANCE AGENCIES
- BI-DIRECTIONAL
- ***COVID-19 SPECIFIC FACILITIES
STEWARD ST. LUKES-PHOENIX RE-OPEN

• IDENTIFIED EARLY
• INFRASTRUCTURE CONCERNS CAUSE DELAY
• PATIENT POPULATION?
• ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS: INDISPENSABLE
• STAFF: OUT OF STATE RECRUITS, ESAR-VHP?
APPROACH TO RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES

• NEITHER ADHS NOR MCDPH WILL IDENTIFY INDIVIDUAL POSITIVE CASES IN RCFS
• WILL ONLY IDENTIFY HOW MANY FACILITIES OF A CERTAIN CLASSIFICATION HAVE CASES
• "WORK-AROUND" EXISTS WITH CDC/CMS, BUT DATA APPEARS TO BE INCOMPLETE
• PRACTICAL APPROACH: EVERY PATIENT IN EVERY FACILITY IS A PUI FOR COVID
• FIGHTS RESULT OVER INGRESS, EGRESS, PRESENTATION OF PATIENTS, "LIFT-ASSISTS"
• LEGISLATURE ADJOURNED BEFORE THIS COULD BE DEALT WITH
POTENTIAL PEARLS:

• EMS IS INCREASINGLY A PUBLIC HEALTH DISCIPLINE: INTERACT WITH THIS INFRASTRUCTURE
• ANTICIPATE A CONFLICT BETWEEN PUBLIC HEALTH DOCTRINES AND CIVIL LIBERTARIANISM
• REIMAGINE TRADITIONAL EMS CONCEPTS OF DISPATCH, TRIAGE, TREATMENT AND DISPOSITION
• “NEVER LET A GOOD PANDEMIC GO TO WASTE”...GARTH GEMAR, MD., SOMETIME IN 2020