



## Emergency Preparedness Interagency Collaborative Hospital Liaison Group

The Hospital Liaison Group (HLG) is a subgroup of the Emergency Preparedness Interagency Collaborative (EPIC), led by Dr. Stephen Bayne of Irvine Unified School District (IUSD). The HLG was established to strengthen coordination between the Educational Institutions and local hospitals in the event of a Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) on a school or campus.

Co-chaired by Shadlie Kensrue, IUSD Director of Health Services, and Christopher Riccardi, Emergency Manager for Rady's Children Health in Orange, California, the group brings together county emergency response organizations and representatives from educational institutions, private schools, and charter schools across the greater Irvine area.

The vision of the HLG is to ensure a structured, coordinated response that prioritizes victim identification, communication, and logistical support for students, staff, and families in the event of a school-related MCI. Through this collaborative effort, the group aims to enhance readiness, response efficiency, and interagency communication during critical incidents.

### **Objectives:**

- Facilitate seamless coordination between schools and hospitals during an on-campus MCI.
- Support victim identification using school records and databases.
- Serve as a communication bridge between hospitals, families, and school leadership.
- Integration into hospital Family Reunification/Information Centers (FRC/FIC) to assist with reunification efforts.

### **Preparation and Training:**

- Regular coordination meetings with hospital representatives and educational institutions to align response expectations.
- Joint training exercises for school nurses/school liaisons and hospital staff, focusing on disaster triage, patient tracking, and intake protocols.
- Participation in mass casualty drills at both school and hospital levels to enhance readiness.

### **Event Response Plan:**

- Immediate notification of the educational entity representatives upon an MCI activation.
- Rapid communication of event from educational entity representatives to hospital representatives of the event scope for response preparation purposes.
- Pre-designated hospital assignments for school nurses or educational entity representatives, ensuring an organized response.
- On-site victim identification & communication, using student information system (SIS) to assist hospital staff and reunite families.
- Collaboration with hospital staff to provide timely updates to families.
- Utilization of educational entity representatives for cohesive communication between school leadership and hospital representatives to ensure accurate information for the community.

This initiative represents a critical advancement in school emergency preparedness, strengthening our ability to respond effectively in high-stakes situations and ensuring the best possible outcomes for students and staff.