



## **Small Fries, Big Stakes: Pediatric Considerations for Event Planners**

**Presented by:** Dr. Brigitte French; Larissa Chiari-Keith

### **Presentation Abstract:**

Kids are everywhere- homes, schools, parks, movie theaters, malls... and they show up en masse to special events, like concerts and festivals, holiday parades and sporting events. As emergency managers, we do an incredible amount of planning for special events. We make sure security is in place, we have medical staff on site, we have roads blocked off; we might even have an Emergency Operations Center partially activated or on standby just in case... But how often are we incorporating children in our special event planning scenarios? Including pediatrics in emergency planning is essential for whole community preparedness because we all know, kids are not just mini-grown-ups. And if you didn't know children aren't just smaller versions of adults, we'll review key physical and psychological differences with respect to disaster preparedness. After our refresher, we will discuss three different disaster scenarios (a CBRN attack, an active shooter and dirty bomb) at a special event and walk through pediatric considerations to include in planning. Finally, we will wrap up by examining some FREE resources to assist you in pediatric emergency management planning! We will introduce you to the Pediatric Pandemic Network and Pediatric Centers of Excellence as we walk through where to find toolkits, just-in-time training videos, exercises and more. There will always be children in our communities- and they will always be attending whatever fun and exciting events that interest them; let's make sure we keep them as safe as possible by including pediatrics in our special event plans.

## Learning Objectives:

1. Differentiate between the key considerations for pediatric emergency preparedness planning versus adults
2. Discuss specific hazard planning for children at major events, such as CBRN, active shooter or a bombing
3. Apply best practices for incorporating pediatric components into your special event planning

**Speaker Bios:** Dr. Brigitte French is the UCSF Hub Program Manager for the Pediatric Pandemic Network, an all-hazards network of children's hospitals in the United States. She earned her veterinary doctorate in 2003 from Colorado State University and Master's in Preventive Veterinary Medicine from the University of California- Davis in 2004. She was commissioned into the Air Force in 2005 as a Public Health Officer and transitioned to healthcare emergency management in 2015. Dr. French became a CEM with the IAEM in 2017 and a certified California Professional Emergency Management in 2023. Brigitte is the IAEM Children and Disaster Caucus Chair, an active participant in her county CERT and CA Vet Emergency Team member.

Larissa Chiari-Keith, MPH is the CEO and Founder of Alala Advisors, LLC where she provides homeland security, public health, and emergency preparedness planning solutions to public, private, and non-profit organizations. She is an award-winning consultant with over twenty years of experience of working at the intersection of public health, emergency management, and homeland security. She serves as the California State Coordinator for the Western Regional Alliance for Pediatric Emergency Management (WRAP-EM) and the Pediatric Disaster Center of Excellence (PDCOE) Liaison for the Pediatric Pandemic Network (PPN). Prior to her current role, Ms. Chiari-Keith served as a contractor to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office for sixteen years. In that role, she coordinated stakeholder outreach, emergency preparedness, exercise, special events, and response for a biological threat detection program in California. Previously, she served as the Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the City of Pasadena Public Health Department. Ms. Chiari-Keith began her career as a children's policy advocate and community liaison for The Children's Partnership. Ms. Chiari-Keith is a leader in her community, serving as the immediate Past-President of California Women in Homeland Security, a non-profit professional organization and past Vice President of the Multiracial Americans of Southern California.