Applying Theory to Practice: Hurricane Sandy 2012

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Week 4
Hurricane Sandy (October 2012): National Disaster Medical Assistance
• DMAT
• DMORT
• VMAT
Destruction on Long Island, NY
Manhattan NYC

Before & After
Atlantic City, New Jersey
Mobilization Center in Maryland

- HHS Warehouse
- Teams from TN, AK, FL, OH, KY
- From here Different Strike Teams were sent to NYC and New Jersey
Our Blended Teams.....
Fit testing at the Mobilization Center in MD
My New Friends from AK 1 & FL 6&3
New York: John Jay College Shelter
Two Special Helpers at the Shelter!

Ben

Cardinal Dolan
Our First Mission:
Set Up a Medically Fragile clinic for Shelter people.

Psychiatric patients, Diabetics, Arm Fx, Elderly, HIV +, CP,

All displaced by the Hurricane

Many without power & a safe place to live

Acuity of care was fairly low
USS Empire State

Shelter closed and we were deployed to Maritime College for staging. This was my sleeping quarters on a Navy cargo ship.
A little Down time in NYC: Comfort for the Team & Marathoners
Glen Gardner, New Jersey

Psychiatric Hospital

Our Second Mission
Our Four legged friends.....

Tame Deer due to Previous Patients
All our Equipment: The Cache
Our Make-shift Hospital
Glen Gardener: On Generator Power

Supply area

Oxygen Delivery Set-up
Haunted?
Katherine Kolcaba: Comfort Theory

- Developed in 1990
- Is a Middle Range-Practice theory
- Purpose is to place *Comfort* in the forefront of healthcare or *Patient Centered care*.
- Currently Associate Professor of Nursing at the University of Akron
Comfort Defined


- Comfort care has 3 components:
  1) Use of appropriate & timely interventions
  2) A mode of “delivery” that projects Caring & Empathy
  3) The “intent” to comfort
Three Types and Levels of Comfort:

*Comfort* is described as existing in 3 forms:

- Relief
- Ease
- Transcendence
Relief defined:

- Absence of pain or discomfort due to the administration of analgesics or care
Ease

- A comfortable state of contentment: Meeting Basic Needs
Transcendence

NYC Marriage proposal

NYC Marathon Runners

- A state of comfort in which people (patients) rise above their challenges to reach some state of comfort
More Transcendence.......
Other Tenets of this Theory

- **Health care needs**: the more needs the greater the need for comfort

- **Intervening variables**: variables that the provider has little control over
  - 1) Weather
  - 2) Flooding
  - 3) Lack of Electricity
  - 4) Language & Culture Barriers
Nursing:

- Is described as the process of assessing the Patients’ comfort needs, developing and implementing appropriate nursing interventions and evaluating comfort following the interventions
Health

- Health is considered to be optimal functioning as defined by the patient, group or community.
Person or Patient

- These are individuals, families, institutions or communities in need of health care.
Environment

- Any aspect of the patient, family or institutional surroundings that can be manipulated by a nurse or loved one to promote or enhance Comfort
How do We as Nurses on a DMAT team Apply Kolcaba’s Comfort theory to help patients/people during Hurricane Sandy?

- Use the *Nursing Process*
- Keep it *simple and basic*
- Remember *Comfort* is defined individually for each person/patient
- *Comfort* is more than the absence of pain, anxiety, or physical discomfort.
Comfort of the DMAT Providers