



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
2377 N. Stemmons Freeway
Dallas, Texas 75207

September 28, 2005

Julie L. Gerberding, MD, MPH
Office of the Director, CDC
Mailstop D-14
1600 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Gerberding:

The evacuation to Dallas County of over 20,000 individuals displaced by Hurricane Katrina placed an unprecedented burden on the healthcare system of Dallas County. Despite the suddenness with which the event took place, the magnitude of the displaced population, and the lack of any specific preparation for this particular kind of emergency, the healthcare community of Dallas County responded quickly and effectively.

As the County Health Authority, I was given the responsibility for arranging that the evacuees, upon arriving in the county, received the necessary medical care. More naturally, my agency, Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS), was also responsible for attending to the public health needs of the evacuees staying in Dallas County shelters.

As it turned out, the many public health needs that arose in conjunction with sheltering this particular population were significant. Fortunately, the bioterrorism funding DCHHS has been receiving for the last several years enabled my staff to be very well prepared for this emergency, and to the extent that we did a good job, that funding is directly responsible. However, the relatively small size of our staff and the magnitude and duration of the emergency placed a tremendous burden on my limited staff. As a consequence, the CDC staff sent to Dallas County to support our public health efforts were invaluable, providing trained public health professionals who could immediately be put to work and who could supply expertise that a local health department our size does not possess. Specifically, I would like to thank the following individuals for their assistance during this emergency:

Ben Sklaver	Beth Hibbs	Dale Nordenberg	Jeff Pagan
Chad Martin	Stephanie Rutledge	Jill Russell	Danice Eaton
Craig Wilkins	Laurie Johnson	Nancy Sahakian	James Lando
Martna Baldwin	Robert Knowies	Shelley Stonecipher	Toby Hill
Curtis Blanton	Valerie Koker	Leisel Talley	
Gregory Burr	Peter Kowalski	Matt Walburger	
Clint Chamberlin	James Kucik	Chad Wood	
Stacey Cooke	Michael Lewin	Susan Cookson	
Alan Crawford	Helen Manda	Dan Harper	
John Dunn	Robin Nandy	Sue Montgomery	
Ann Forsythe	Robert Lazo	Dori Reissman	
Kathleen Kowalski-Tralkofler		Ramesh Krishnamurthy	

Julie L. Gerberding, MD, MPH
September 28, 2005
Page Two

It is not possible to exaggerate their professionalism, competence and work ethic, or their ability to integrate themselves into the local situation in a smooth manner, allowing for a highly productive collaboration between DCHHS and the CDC. Thank you for sending them to Dallas County.

Sincerely,



David Buhner MD MS
Medical Director/Health Authority
Dallas County Health and Human Services

DB:gp