

# Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness

## SUCCESS STORY

CENTRAL INDIANA

### Meta-Leadership: A Partnership needed to respond to the Indiana State Fair Stage Collapse

Contributor: Michelle Wilkin

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Michelle Wilkin, Preparedness Advisor at MESH, Inc.\*, was first exposed to Meta-Leadership when she attended the Central Indiana Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness in April 2011. Immediately following the Summit, Wilkin was energized and motivated by the speakers, curriculum, and networking opportunities. She saw great links between her responsibility at MESH to monitor hospital surge, and the principles of Meta-Leadership, specifically those that emphasized the need to have partners outside of one’s organization.

#### It Took One Phone Call as a Result of the Summit

In August 2011, Wilkin experienced first-hand the importance of attending the Summit and networking. On August 13<sup>th</sup>, MESH, along with the entire community and nation, learned of the Indiana State Fair stage rigging collapse. Upon hearing the news, Wilkin placed a call to Adrienne Goodvine at the Indiana Blood Center. She did not know the extent of the injuries, but wanted to ensure area hospitals were prepared. Wilkin was able to easily place this call because she met Goodvine when they were seated together at the Summit. As Wilkin describes, “I needed to know what the Indiana Blood Center had in stock, and how much was in reserve so that we could more effectively respond to the tragedy that was unfolding.” She notes that prior to the Summit, she would not have had a strong point of contact at the Blood Center to call.

#### Actively Seeing Out New Partnerships

Her role with MESH requires her to actively create and enhance cross-sector partnerships. The response to the stage rigging collapse is one example of the important partnerships that Wilkin developed at the Meta-Leadership events. She credits the Summit for changing the way she thinks when she meets someone new. Rather than file away the new contact, she actively analyzes the connection, performing a “gaps, gives & gets” exercise to “connect the dots” and identify ways in which MESH could potentially partner with the new contact.

*\*MESH, Inc. is an innovative non-profit, public-private coalition located in Marion County, Indiana (Indianapolis) that enables healthcare providers to respond effectively to emergency events, and remain viable through recovery. Through its many workgroups and educational programs, MESH creates a forum for healthcare organizations to collaboratively address issues ranging from operational readiness to reimbursement following a catastrophic disaster.*

*The Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness empowered business, government and nonprofit leaders to act together in times of crisis. The five-year initiative connected 5,000 business, government and nonprofit leaders in 36 communities. For resources and more information about Meta-Leadership visit the [CDC Foundation Meta-Leadership Website](#).*



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