

Emergency Preparedness Toolkit for Faith- Based Organizations

Faith Community Nursing

Emergency preparedness involves careful planning to prevent and minimize danger. At one of our Faith Community Nursing Network meetings, our speaker was our Oakland County sheriff, Michael Bouchard who presented "What to do when an active shooter is in your building. I was intrigued by the information presented. I could not let the information be placed in a file cabinet. I began to compile the information so others could have this valuable information. We came together as a team in our Faith Community Nursing department and developed this toolkit. **The purpose of initiative is** to provide an organized guide for faith- based organizations to keep individuals safe in their communities. The **design** was developed as a guide or a frame work to get the process started for any group or organization to adapt for use in their current building. The toolkit is easy to follow with an assessment survey, scenarios, communication, and an evacuation plan to get started. The layout with identified tabs are helpful to access the information within the toolkit.

The **population served** has been greater than we could have ever imagined. The toolkit is in many states within the United States. All of our Faith Community Nurses in our St. Joseph Mercy Oakland, Michigan churches and parishes have the toolkit. Several of the Trinity Health System hospitals have the toolkit. We have had numerous requests for the electronic version of the toolkit to be sent to faith- based organization and groups. The sheriff's office in Oakland County, of Michigan was provided a copy to use with groups as needed when presenting in the community.

Outcomes: The Catholic Archdioceses in Michigan requested **106 copies** of the toolkit. We sent the bound books to the Archdioceses to be distributed. This outstanding request for our Faith Community Nursing department indicates **implications for best practices** as Faith community Nurses in the community. The tool was developed in the fall of 2016. It is still requested and utilized in our faith-based organizations, groups, and communities in 2019. Many of our churches have used the toolkit in areas that they have needed to update according to their building layouts and needs. Our Faith Community Nursing department is pleased to share this document as best practices in our community. Submitted by: Deborah Dixson, BSN, RN-BC

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