



ST. JOHN'S  
UNIVERSITY



# *“Can Community Resilience to Disaster be Taught?”*

*Presentation ACP North Texas Chapter – June 1, 2021*

Dr. Bernard A. Jones, CBCP

Assistant Professor - St. John's University – Homeland Security & EM

National ACP Board Member, Garden State Chapter Secretary

# Agenda

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# Personal Introduction

- Assistant Professor at ***St. John's University in the Collins College of Professional Studies.***
- Certified ***business continuity, disaster recovery, and emergency management*** professional.
- Earned a ***D. Sc. degree from New Jersey City University in Civil Security Leadership, Management, and Policy.***
- Professionally passionate about ***resilience posture, resilience metrics and assisting organizations with enhanced organizational resilience.***
- National ACP Board Member & Chapter Board Member (Garden State)



# New ACP Academic Initiative

Association of Continuity Professional's (ACP) upcoming **“Expert Perspectives on Careers in Resilience”** webinar series

Where Academia Meets Practice!

Addressing our next Generation of Business Continuity Practitioners!

ACP connects with students of all ages by showcasing industry-related careers

Chapters will host 12 meetings where they'll introduce local talent, engage with students, and leverage our pre-recorded webinars

The videos will not \*teach\* a topic, but introduce it, introduce people who've established careers and leadership roles in it, and other personal effects



# My Current Research

Writing and article entitled “*Can Community Resilience to Disaster be Taught?*”

IGI-Global Publisher: *International Journal for Risk and Continuity Management - IJRCM*

Topics: Literature Review, Ontology (lived experience), COVID-19 Pandemic, Ontology Model for Practitioners, Future Research, Recommendations



# Abstract

- The foundations of resilience research are embedded in psychology
- Resilience has become more prevalent in disaster response literature
- This presentation will clarify the concept of resilience and develop a helpful dialogue about better ways to assist those experiencing disaster
- We need to begin with helping individuals and organizations in understanding resilience
- We need to assist them while enhancing our & their traits and characteristics for better future resilience

# *Resilience* Defined

Psychological Resilience Definition\*

Business Resilience Definition\*

Organizational Resilience Definition\*

Cultural Resilience Definition\*

What element(s) are common across these definitions?

# What is “Community” Resilience\*



# Definition of Community Resilience – HHS\*

- After hearing the definition, what resonated?
- *Can we alter this definition and make it apply to “organizations” and not “Communities” with a focus on organizational resilience?*
- The HHS Study identified core competencies and “levers” for building community resilience
- Let’s review each lever & core components of community resilience
- Would like your thoughts about the applicability to your organization (as a community)

## Community Resilience Levers & Core Components (Healthcare Crisis)\*

Wellness

Access

Education

Engagement

Self-  
Sufficiency

Partnership

Quality

Efficiency

# Activities Related to Community Resilience

- **Wellness:**
  - Train workforce on appropriate healthcare
  - Develop public health messaging to promote healthy lifestyles
  - ***Conduct an annual assessment of population health vulnerabilities***
- **Access:**
  - Ensure continuity of healthcare and related social services
  - ***Facilitate transition to recovery planning***
  - Provide health services and remove barriers to accessing them

# Activities Related to Community Resilience (cont.)

- **Education:**

- Use effective *risk communication* and provide accurate information on health threats
- ***Work to train & educate partner agencies and build an effective communication system or network***

- **Engagement:**

- Involve community members in planning & decision making on issues related to response/recovery activities
- ***Include community members in planning exercises/drills***
- Build connections among social networks and community orgs.

# Activities Related to Community Resilience (cont.)

- **Self-Sufficiency:**
  - *Encourage personal and community preparedness*
  - Encourage civic responsibility
  - Promote effective bystander responses
  - Foster self- and community-reliance
- **Partnership:**
  - Establish pre-event memorandums of understanding with clear roles and responsibilities among partners
  - Assess existing networks and identify strategies to reinforce them

## Activities Related to Community Resilience (cont.)

- **Quality:**
  - *Monitor continuity/quality of care and long-term health effect*
  - *Regularly conduct research and evaluation to advance science and practice*
  - *Use monitoring, research and evaluation data for continuous quality improvement*
- **Efficiency:**
  - Clearly transition and funding processes for response and recovery
  - Develop monitoring systems to determine where resources are needed

# Questions to Consider

How can Wellness and Access play a role in organization resilience?

Education or Engagement?

Self-Sufficiency or Partnership?

Quality or Efficiency?

## Questions to Consider (cont.)

How have you practiced individual resilience and community resilience?

Has the COVID-19 pandemic changed your perspective on resilience? If yes, how so?

Do you feel that community resilience to disaster can be taught?

Can Ontology (lived experience) play a role in building better resilience?

# Parting Shots & The Time is Now!

1. Use the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to do better
2. Learn the unique aspects from each disaster/crisis event
3. Actively discuss disasters/crises and allow staff to reflect
4. Continue to stay informed about the world around you
5. Update your personal & family emergency plan
6. Upgrade your business continuity professional skillset
7. Seek opportunity to partner & collaborate across your organization
8. Become more involved within your own community and promote your professional acumen as a consulting service offering!

# Contact Information

Please feel free to stay in touch!

Contact me at any time with questions!

Email: [Jonesb1@stjohns.edu](mailto:Jonesb1@stjohns.edu)

Campus #: +1 (718) 390 4176

Mobile #: +1 (201) 755 7557

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/berniejonescbcp/>