

## **NLAPH Team Summary**

### **Los Angeles County**

Team Los Angeles was brought together around a large scale project aimed at changing the culture of emergency preparedness in Los Angeles County. The team represents a diverse set of agencies, including the primary care health centers, non-profit community, public health, and Medical Reserve Corps. Overall, the goals of the project include 1) enhancing Los Angeles County's preparedness for public health emergencies by applying current research in the field of "whole community" disaster planning, 2) developing resilient communities in a concrete way that leverages existing social and organizational infrastructures, and 3) engaging community-based organizations in providing leadership and partnership to promote community resilience in the face of emergencies.

When the team first came together, the project had already been in development phase for about a year and a half. Workgroups had been assembled, made of community partners to discuss and develop components of a resilience-building toolkit to implement in L.A. County. Upon arrival to the project, the team saw a need to help guide the Workgroup activities toward completion of tangible deliverables by addressing the various communication and coordination challenges. Significant challenges included a lack of collective direction and vision, unclear deliverables, and a fast approaching deadline. To address these challenges, the team leveraged the leadership tools and skills provided throughout the NLAPH program by coordinating disparate Workgroup objectives and Toolkit components into a comprehensive set of activities contained in a "Blueprint for Community Resilience." For example, in one Blueprint activity, pilot communities will be required to agree upon a set of "Rules of Engagement," i.e., ground rules to encourage open participation and respect. The Blueprint activities will lead to a whole community emergency response plan which maps out existing local resources, organizations, and networks. The participation of the four members of Team L.A. in the project will continue to evolve as they support the implementation of the blueprint into the pilot communities.