

A person with curly hair is seen from behind, wearing a light blue t-shirt with the Project HOPE logo and website. They are in a meeting room with other people seated in the background and a man standing near a whiteboard. A dark blue semi-transparent banner is overlaid at the bottom.

Systems Coordination and Partnerships

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Partnerships Are Preparedness Infrastructure





What the LA Wildfires Taught Us

The 2025 LA wildfires stress-tested every layer of the regional health infrastructure. Three critical domains revealed both the strength of existing partnerships and the gaps that remain.

Continuity of Care

- Mobile healthcare access
- Care navigation
- Medication access and pharmacy coordination

Behavioral Health

- Community mental health support
- Workforce resilience
- Referral pathways

Community Recovery

- Trusted local partnerships
- Community-based service delivery networks
- Sustained engagement beyond the acute phase

Recent wildfires demonstrated that health system resilience depends on relationships as much as resources.

Three Key Partnership Capabilities That Strengthen Resilience

Health Systems

- Referral pathways
- Mobile care planning
- Continuity-of-care protocols

Public Health & Emergency Management

- Joint planning
- Information sharing
- Resource coordination

Community Organizations

- Trusted communication channels
- Outreach networks
- Behavioral health supports



Preparedness capabilities are built through relationships, not just plans.

Community Organizations Are Preparedness Infrastructure

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Common Framing	Operational Reality
Stakeholder	Operational Partner
Recipient	Co-Designer
Outreach Channel	Trusted Access Point
Recovery Support	Preparedness Asset
Community Resource	Resilience Multiplier

Preparedness is often less about creating new relationships during a crisis and more about activating relationships that already exist.





The Preparedness Gap: Who Owns Continuity of Care?

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When clinics close...

Who maintains access?

When patients are displaced...

Who helps navigate care?

When behavioral health needs increase...

Who remains engaged?

When frontline workers are affected...

Who supports the workforce?

Continuity of care and behavioral health support are preparedness challenges – not just recovery challenges.

Questions for Future Preparedness

1

How can health systems better **integrate community organizations** into preparedness planning before disasters occur?

2

How do we **sustain the partnerships** built during disasters so they strengthen preparedness for future events?

3

Are we investing enough in **behavioral health preparedness**—for communities and for the workforce that serves them?



Preparedness is an ongoing process of building, testing, strengthening, and sustaining partnerships.



THANK YOU