



POWERED
*For Patients*TM
Advancing Backup Power & Power Restoration
for Critical Healthcare Facilities

**Executive Summary Report on Initial August 19, 2014
Stakeholder Meeting**



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Executive Summary

Powered for Patients is a newly created public-private partnership established by Disaster Safety Strategies (DSS) to address the critical lessons from Hurricane Sandy and other disasters related to backup power and power restoration for critical healthcare facilities. www.PoweredforPatients.org

On August 19, 2014, 50 leaders from government, the electric utility industry, the power generation industry, the healthcare sector and non-profit organizations convened in Washington, D.C. for the inaugural Powered for Patients Stakeholder Meeting. Funding for the meeting was provided by the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), through a cooperative agreement with the Association for State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) also provided significant contributions in the planning and execution of the meeting, along with the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA).

The goal of the day-long meeting was to enable key stakeholders involved in supporting backup power and facilitating power restoration for critical healthcare facilities to better understand the challenges faced by other stakeholders. The meeting also provided a platform for stakeholders to discover opportunities to better safeguard backup power and expedite power restoration through coordinated effort.

This report highlights the Stakeholder Meeting discussions, key findings, open questions to be addressed, proposed solutions to serious challenges and highlights of an attendee survey. It also provides an overview for what the initiative may look like moving forward depending on the resources available to continue the important work of Powered for Patients.

The Stakeholder Meeting

The Stakeholder Meeting began with a keynote address by Dr. Nicole Lurie, the HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response. Dr. Lurie shared her perspective as a federal disaster response leader and a physician, roles that often involve visits to shelters in disaster-impacted areas. She noted how frequently she encounters patients dependent on electric-powered medical devices that often have limited backup battery power. Without access to power, these patients run the risk of becoming critically ill and flooding hospital emergency rooms already strained by the disaster. Dr. Lurie highlighted ASPR's important work on this topic. (See additional details on page 6).

Following Dr. Lurie's remarks and stakeholder introductions, the Stakeholder Meeting explored several key topic areas through moderated discussion, presentations by subject matter experts and open dialogue among the stakeholders. At the end of the meeting, facilitators sought to identify the key takeaways and next steps for the Powered for Patients initiative. The three key topics were:

Topic # 1 - Understanding Stakeholder Roles, Capabilities and Challenges relating to Backup Power and Power Restoration and Assessing Opportunities to Leverage Capabilities and Overcome Challenges through Public-Private Partnership

Topic # 2 - Assessing the Value of Enhanced Situational Awareness of Generator Status for Critical Healthcare Facilities on Emergency Response Decision Making

Topic # 3 - Exploring Opportunities to Expedite Power Restoration for Critical Healthcare Facilities



Key Stakeholder Meeting Outcomes

Given the broad range of topics discussed, there was consensus that Powered for Patients should tackle a core set of issues moving forward through specific topic-focused workgroups. The expectation is that stakeholders will gravitate to the workgroups of greatest interest where they can make the most meaningful contribution based on areas of responsibility and expertise. (See page 5 for the list of suggested workgroups)

The broad range of topics discussed and single-day format of the meeting also meant that some issues were not addressed as deeply as stakeholders and meeting organizers hoped. This left some stakeholders interested in deeper conversations about important issues and also generated a number of questions that could not be addressed either due to time constraints or because the right expert was not in the room. Answering these questions and advancing deeper discussions will be part of the mission of the proposed workgroups.

One of the key success factors of the Stakeholder Meeting was the report by several delegates via the Post-Meeting Survey of immediate changes made in operations or with existing programs based on what they had learned at the meeting. For example, Deanne Criswell, the Team Leader, National IMAT at FEMA, said “the tools that were identified and shared with the group were very beneficial. I have already incorporated some of these tools into our planning efforts and how we can better identify the needs of the community.”

On the topic of exploring opportunities to expedite power restoration for critical healthcare facilities through enhanced coordination between utilities, healthcare facilities and government, Criswell said. “I learned of new applications being developed that will be very valuable during the initial response. I have already started developing strategies for my team to tap into these tools and gain better situational awareness. A demonstration of this would be beneficial, hearing what others might need and how they would use it.”

Stakeholder Meeting discussion and Post-Meeting Attendee Survey responses helped identify the Powered for Patients priorities considered most important going forward. The top five priorities were:

1. Understanding and enhancing power restoration and prioritization (66%)
2. Enhancing pre-disaster communications and post-disaster coordination between utilities and critical healthcare facilities (62%)
3. Enhancing situational awareness of backup power status for critical healthcare facilities for government officials (58%)
4. Addressing codes and standards relating to backup power for healthcare facilities (50%)
5. Addressing challenges related to fuel shortages following disasters (46%)



In addition to providing feedback on the most critical issues Powered for Patients should address, attendees also helped establish priorities for the types of activities Powered for Patients should undertake in addressing critical issues. The highest ranked activities were:

1. Serve as a resource-sharing platform through which information and programs from other stakeholders and interested parties, journals and other media sources can be provided. (50% very important, 37% important)
2. Convene stakeholders and other partners to raise awareness of and resolve challenges related to backup power and address power restoration issues. (50% very important, 42% important)
3. Participate in national dialogues on backup power and power restoration issues (46% very important, 50% important)
4. Identify and disseminate best practices (46% very important, 46% important)
5. Develop mechanisms such as a website for sharing resources and tools, including technical methods and information (42% very important, 42% important)

Powered for Patients Moving Forward: An Emerging Framework for Success

In assessing the outcome of the Stakeholder Meeting, and analyzing post-meeting survey results, Powered for Patients leaders developed the following suggested workgroups to help advance the most important work identified by stakeholders. (Additional detail on the focus of these workgroups is provided on page 19)

Suggested Workgroups:

1. Power Restoration and Prioritization
2. Situational Awareness
3. At Risk Individuals
4. Emerging Technologies & Codes and Standards
5. Disaster Response Challenges (including fuel shortages and access to fuel)

In addition to proposed workgroups, Powered for Patients leaders also suggest the creation of a Powered for Patients Steering Committee or Leadership Body to help guide the overall work of the organization. Survey respondents indicated their willingness to serve on such a body and follow-up discussions will be held to finalize details on this front.

With a suggested framework in place for Powered for Patients to advance its important work in protecting backup power and expediting power restoration for critical healthcare facilities, the next step is securing the necessary resources to move the initiative forward. On this front, ASTHO has said it expects to be able to devote some additional resources but does not expect to be able to fund the full range of potential activities. Several organizations represented at the Stakeholder Meeting indicated that providing financial support to augment past and future funding is a possibility. At this time, two organizations are seeking approval from their governing bodies for financial appropriations to support the work of Powered for Patients.

Organizations or individuals interested in a full copy of the Stakeholder Meeting report or information about working with Powered for Patients can email Project Director Eric Cote at cote@disastersafetystrategies.com.