

Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness

SUCCESS STORY

NORTHEAST OHIO

Practicing Meta-Leadership on a Regular Basis

Contributor: Deanna Harris

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Deanna Harris attended the Northeast Ohio Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness in March 2011 and has been surprised at how often she uses Meta-Leadership concepts in her everyday life

Meta-Leadership in daily practice

As a medical flight nurse for Metro Life Flight, Harris has a job that allows her to use her nursing and critical care skills while assisting fire, police, and ER personnel during an emergency. She serves a diverse group of people, from a preemie born at a hospital without the level of care she needs to elderly victims of house fires. Deanna uses her medical and leadership skills everywhere from a hospital to a roadside ditch or pasture.

"It's easy to 'go to the basement' (Meta-Leadership short-hand for a state of panic) in situations where multiple victims and distraught bystanders are part of the scene, or there is equipment failure. You have to get your own adrenaline in check, stop the momentum, regroup and gather your resources," she says. "And even in the field, I can use 'gaps, gives and gets'* to see how we can organize who and what we have at the scene."

Spreading Meta-Leadership principles

Harris also serves on the EMS Board for the State of Ohio. In that capacity, she uses Meta-Leadership to help colleagues strengthen their emergency planning by opening doors to new possibilities. "Meta-Leadership gave me a wider range of resources. It's amazing how using Meta-Leadership principles can help you identify and find what you really need."

By using Meta-Leadership, Harris is able to help her colleagues to address a situation from different angles and find resources in unexpected places.

*A technique by which leaders assess where preparedness or response gaps exist, what is at hand to assist, and what is still needed.

The Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness empowered business, government and nonprofit leaders to act together in times of crisis. The five-year initiative connected 5,000 business, government and nonprofit leaders in 36 communities. For resources and more information about Meta-Leadership visit the [CDC Foundation Meta-Leadership Website](#).



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