Reviewer's report

Title: Business and public health collaboration for emergency preparedness in Georgia: a case study

Version: 1 Date: 31 October 2006

Reviewer: Cindy Parker

Reviewer's report:

General
This is a well written paper comprehensively describing a successful partnership between Georgia public health and a subset of Atlanta business leaders. The authors have done an outstanding job of elucidating not only the successes of this partnership, but also the challenges and the process of forming the partnership, its strengths and weaknesses. The paper holds much information that will be useful to others wanting to consider forming similar partnerships in their region.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
1) Page 6, line 4: “This SS project...” Did you mean SNS? If not, please spell out what SS refers to.
2) Page 21, line 12: “...who I am and they’ll take may call” should be “my call”

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
1) Page 17, last paragraph before Facilitators to Collaboration: This seems a very important conclusion, perhaps you could emphasize it more greatly here and in the discussion or conclusions section of the paper.
2) Page 19, last sentence of first paragraph: “... has enabled public health leaders to better understand the role of businesses in community continuity as essential to disaster response and recovery.” You mention this concept a couple of times, which is good. This is such an important concept, though, that you might want to consider emphasizing it by including some of the literature, particularly the growing disaster mental health literature, that discusses how the mental health recovery of a community after a disaster or any kind of a critical incident is not complete until economic recovery has been achieved. This, of course, depends on the recovery of the business community, and that recovery may depend largely on business continuity. Thus, the role of business is absolutely essential to disaster response and recovery and to the public health of the community.

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.