

# Metro Healthcare Role's in Mass “Reunification”: The First 12 hours

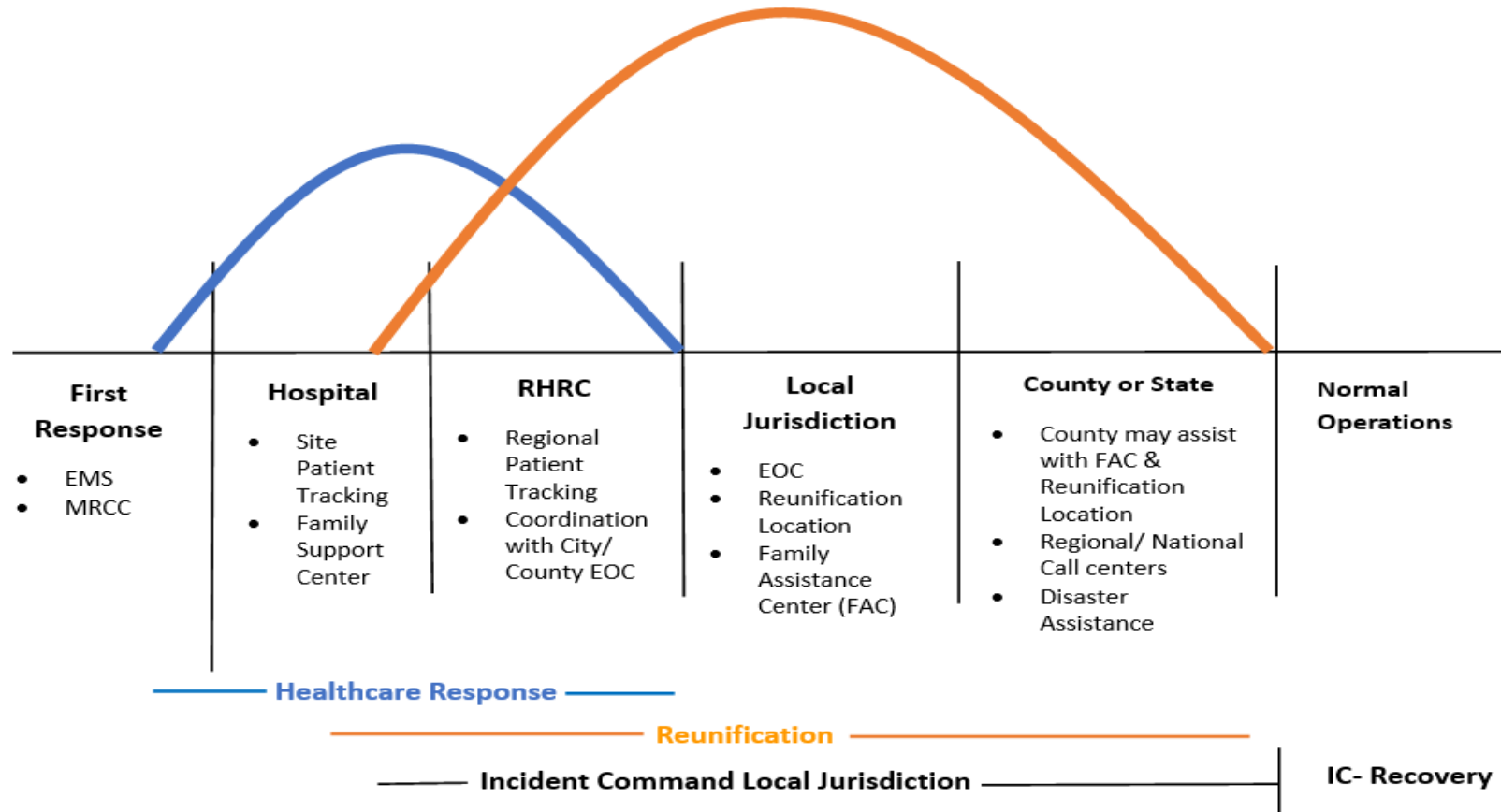
Jonathan Bundt, Masa Consulting

*Preparedness Practicum*

*February 12, 2024*

# Concept of Operations

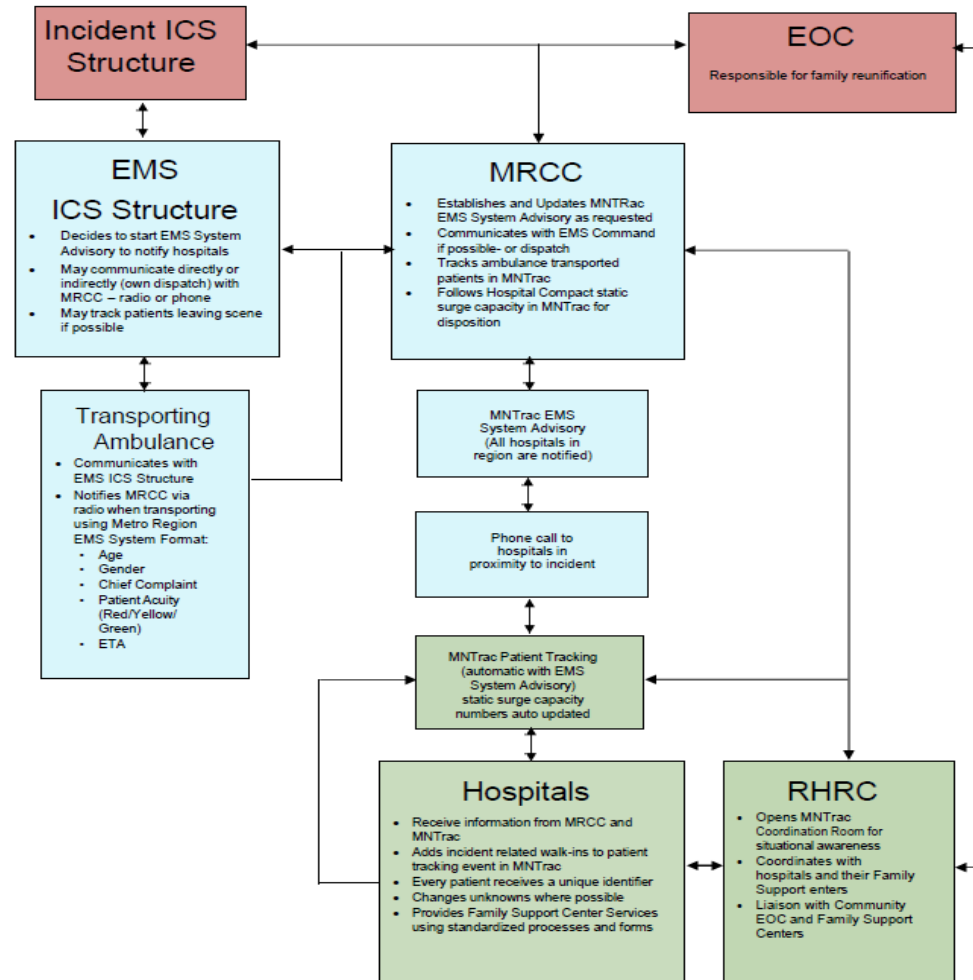
## Reunification Response Continuum



# Overview of the Patient Tracking Process



## Metro EMS Patient Tracking Flowchart



1.22.24

# Emergency Operations Center

## Roles and Responsibilities

- MCI Event – Response and Recovery Discussion and Planning
- Consistency in our understanding of who, what, when, and where
- Guided by ICS principles

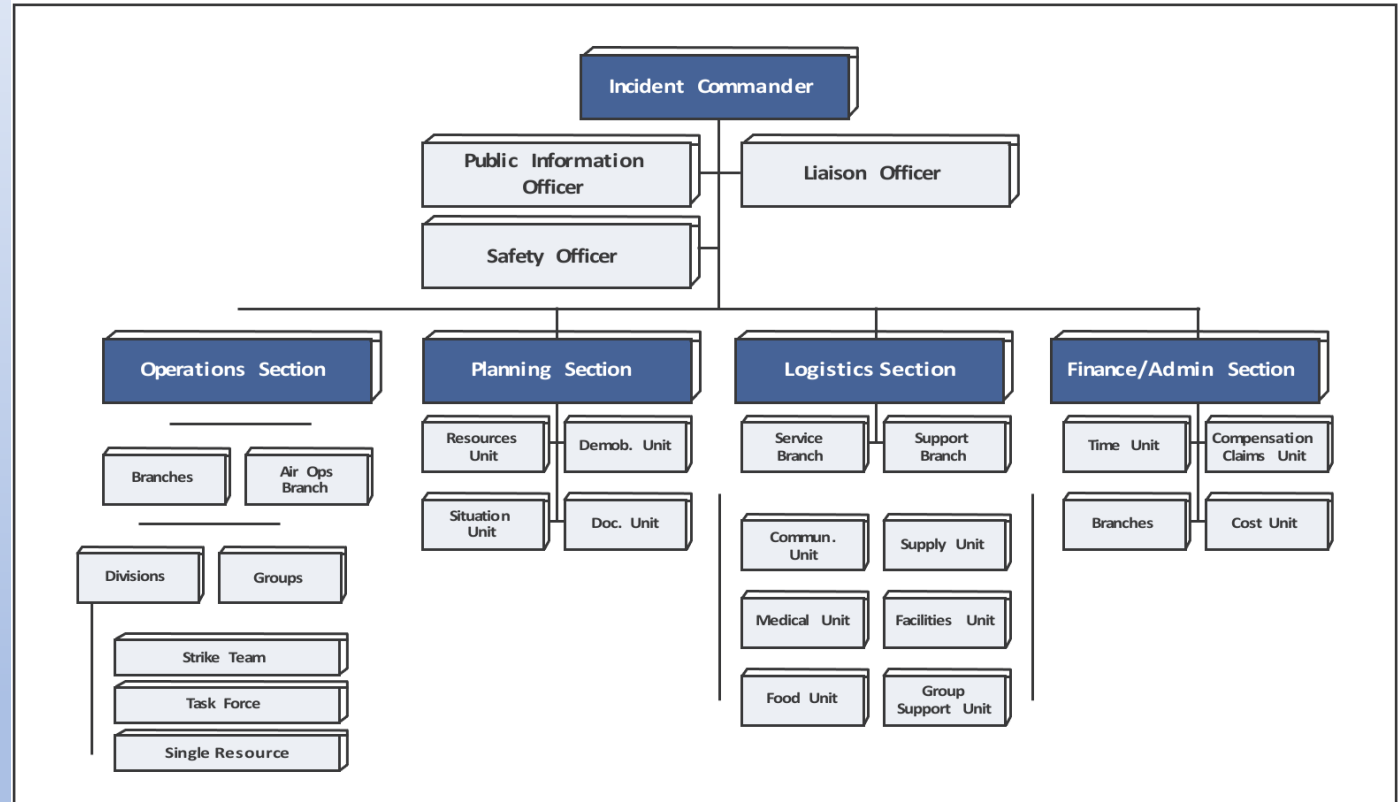
Doug Berglund

Director, Washington County Sheriff's Office Emergency Management

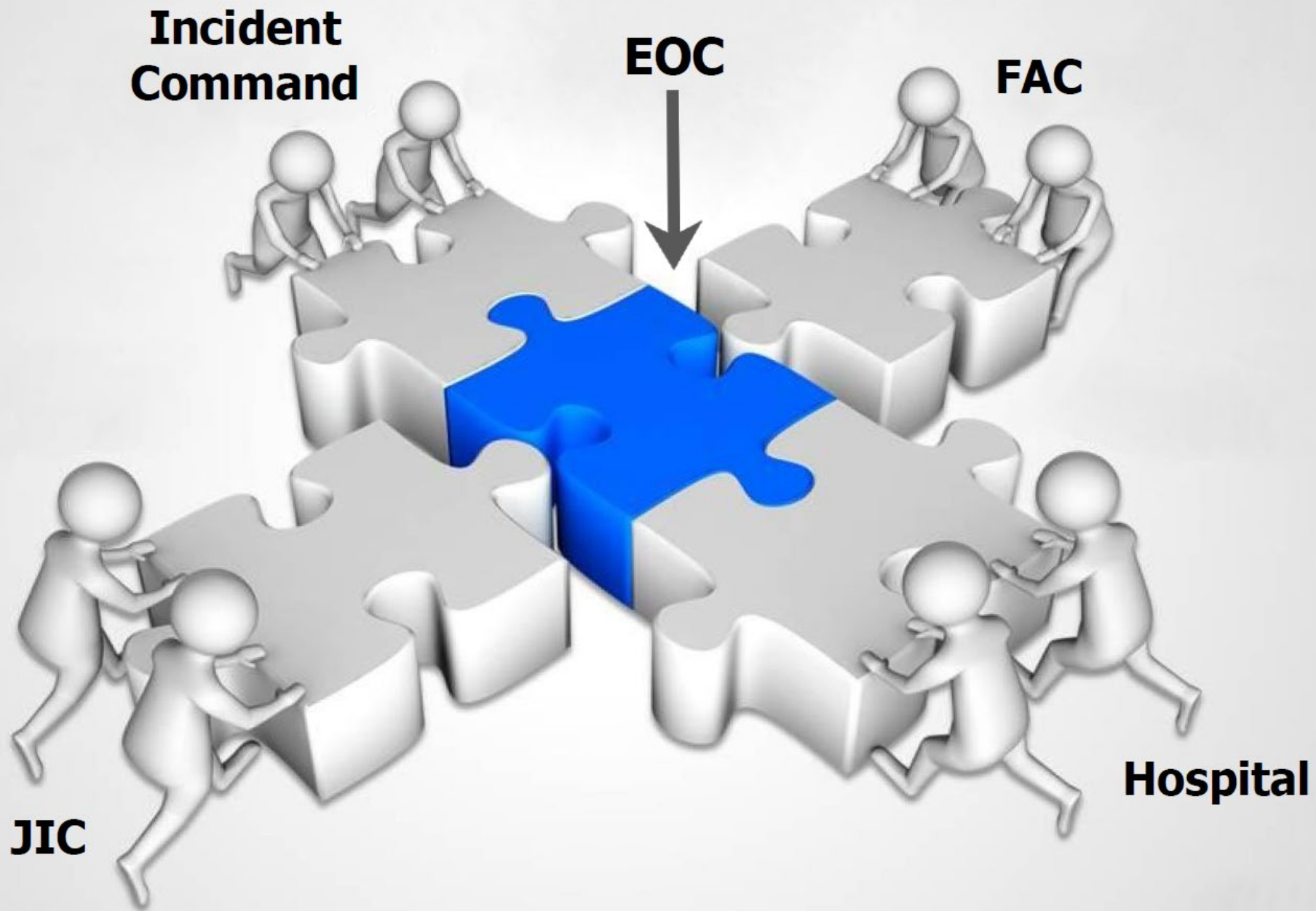
The EOC is the nucleus for response operations to critical incidents. It is the physical location where the coordination of information and resources to support incident management occurs.

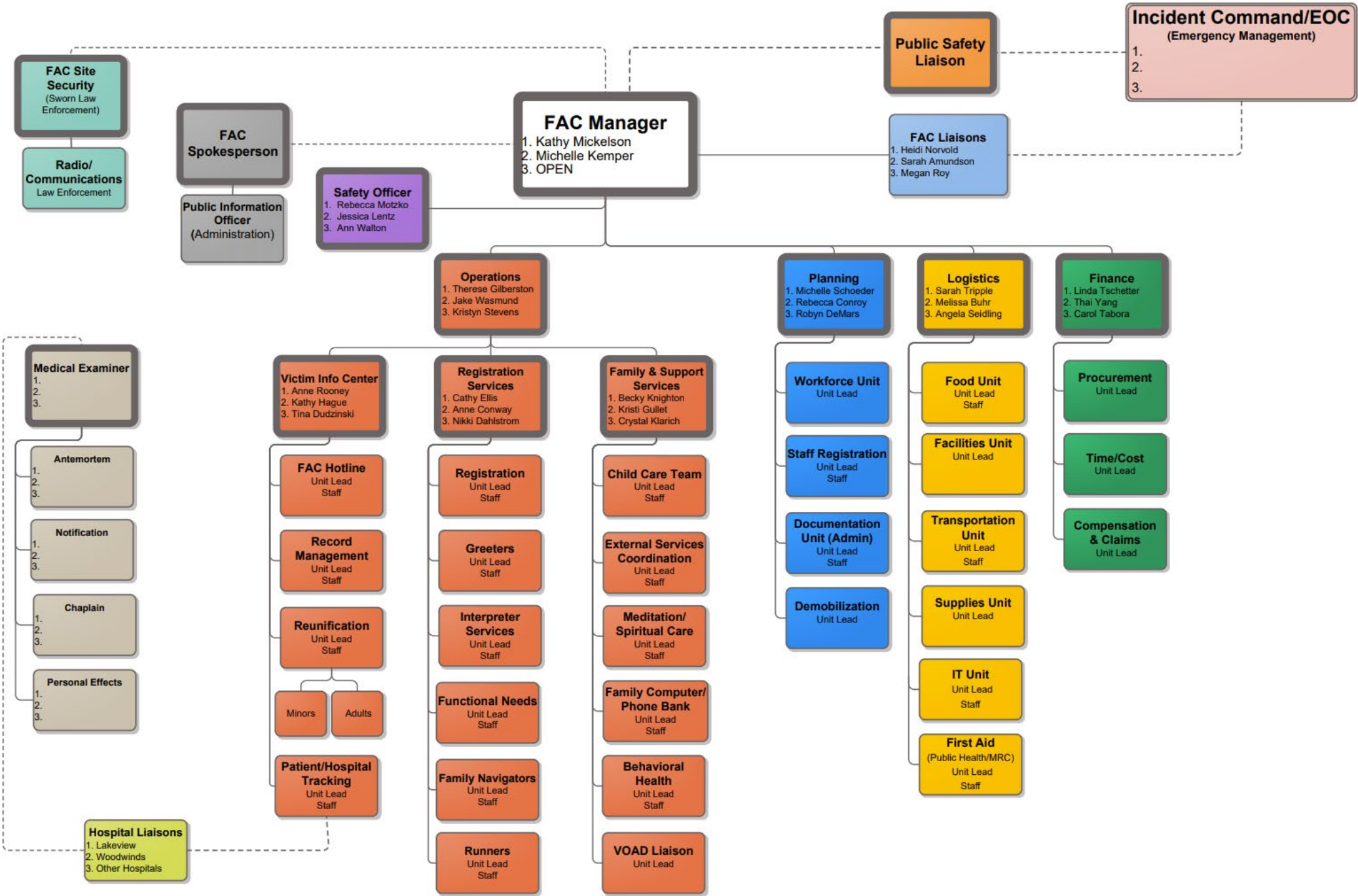
- FEMA and Doug

No one-person runs the show  
UNIFIED COMMAND



The EOC is not Incident Command, does not takeover response operations, or make strategic or tactical decisions.





Questions?



# REUNIFICATION

## Considerations for Children

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Nita Gupta, MD  
Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician





# Region V for Kids Organizational Capability

NUMBER OF...  
**PEDIATRIC BEDS**

**3,115**

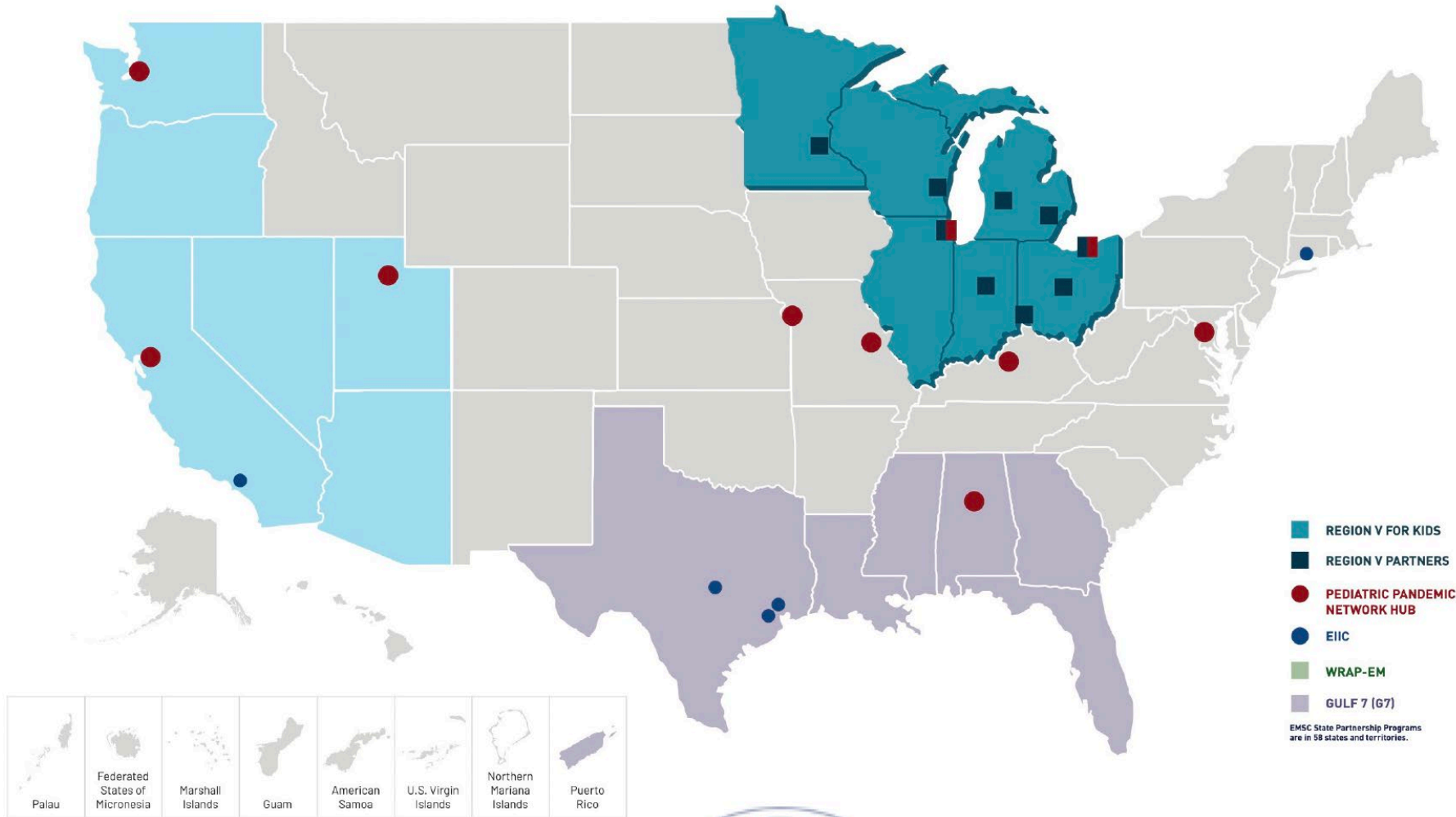
NUMBER OF...  
**ANNUAL ED VISITS**

**630,000**

**AREA SERVED:**

**INDIANA ILLINOIS MICHIGAN MINNESOTA OHIO WISCONSIN**

# Federally Funded Networks for Children in Disasters



# AAP Family Reunification Toolkit

American Academy  
of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



In Collaboration With



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL

CENTER FOR  
DISASTER MEDICINE



**Family Reunification Following Disasters:**  
*A Planning Tool for Health Care Facilities*

Version 1: July 2018

# Pediatric Considerations

## Vulnerability

- Age developmental differences
- Special healthcare needs
- Baby/toddler safe areas

## Specialized equipment

- Weight-based medication dosing
- Pediatric formula, breast milk, Pedialyte
- Diapers, bassinets, cots, cribs

# Key Personnel

**Pediatrics**

**Family medicine**

**Child life Services**

**On-site childcare**

**Security**

**Psychiatry/Behavioral  
health**

**Nutrition/food  
services**

**Chaplaincy**

**Interpreter services**

**Patient relations**



# Unaccompanied Minor Registration

---

Name, guardian name, nickname

---

Date of birth, gender, race/ethnicity, languages spoken

---

Allergies, medical conditions, medications, height, weight, eye/hair color

---

Distinguishing marks: birthmarks, clothing, belongings worn at time of event

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**Take picture of patient at time of presentation**

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Personal questions such as: favorite toy, pet name, teacher's name, school/daycare name

---

Event information (incident location, mechanism of arrival)

---

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Pediatric Patient Identification and Tracking Form

**Purpose:** To assist in identifying, tracking and reunifying pediatric patients during a disaster

**Note:** All information within this form is *confidential* and should not be shared except with those assisting in the care of the patient. Developed by the Illinois Emergency Medical Services for Children.

Contact Information		
Tracking Number:	Date of Arrival:	Time of Arrival:
Minor's Name (Last, First, Middle):		DOB:
Address:		Age: Mo / Yrs Check if Estimated <input type="checkbox"/> Circle One
Minor's Cell Phone:		
Parent/Guardian Name(s):		
Parent/Guardian Phone Number(s):		



# Confirmation of Identity

1

Person verbally identifies self or has identification

2

Photograph

- Child-caregiver pair have a photograph together
- Registration of child-caregiver with protective services

3

Match on registration sheets

4

Biometrics

- DNA samples
- Palm-printing
- Fingerprinting

# Pediatric Safe Area

## Short-term

- Hospital-based operation
- Secured area and away from ED, media, FRC
- Age-appropriate activities and food
- Secured and easily accessible restrooms
- Pediatric Safe Area Unit Leader

## Long-term

- Community-based operation
- Child and family services should be contacted for temporary custody and will work with law enforcement for continued reunification efforts



## Pediatric Safe Area Registration Sheet

### FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Yes	No	Item
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Needle boxes at least 48 inches off the floor?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Plug-in covers for electrical outlets?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Strangulation hazards removed (cords, wires, tubing, curtain/blinds drawstrings)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can you contain children in this area (consider stairwells, elevators, doors)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Games and distractions available? (age and gender appropriate movies, games, toys)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ingestion hazards removed? (cleaning supplies, Hemocult developer, choking hazards should be removed or locked away)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Med carts and supply carts removed or locked?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you need to create separate areas for various age groups?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do all relevant departments understand the role of the PSA and its activation?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have a plan for security for the area?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have a plan to identify the children?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have a plan for assessing mental health needs of these children?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there any fans or heaters that pose a danger?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have an onsite or nearby daycare that could help you?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have enough staff to supervise the number of children? (Younger children require more staff) <sup>1</sup>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have a sign-in, sign-out sheet for all children and adults who enter the area?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Will children need to be escorted away from safe area to bathrooms?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are age-appropriate meals and snacks available?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are wipes and various-sized diapers available?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the PSA have hand hygiene supplies?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are there cribs, cots or beds available for children who need to sleep?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are blankets available for warmth and comfort?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Does the PSA have a policy/protocol for handling minor medical needs in children (Tylenol dosing, administering routine meds, Band-Aid replacement, etc.)?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have wrist bracelets for recognized severe food allergies?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you know how to summon medical assistance (both emergently and non-emergency) to the PSA?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have an EpiPen® available for allergic reactions?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you know the evacuation plan for the PSA?

Contact Information	
<b>Minor's Name</b> (Last, First, Middle):	<b>DOB:</b>
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Age:</b> Mo / Yrs Check if Estimated <input type="checkbox"/> Circle One
<b>Minor's Cell Phone:</b>	<b>Home Phone:</b>
<b>Parent/Guardian Name(s):</b>	
<b>Parent/Guardian Phone Numbers(s):</b>	
<b>Parent/Guardian Inpatient?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown; if yes, <b>Location</b> (Hospital, Unit, Rm):	
<b>Other Relative:</b>	

Age Category	Minimum Staff-to-Child Ratio	Maximum Group Size
Infant	1:4	8
Toddler	1:7	14
Preschooler	1:10	20
School-age child	1:15	30



## Pediatric Safe Area Registry

Name	Parent / Guardian Name	Contact Phone	Category*	Time in	Time out	Released to:	Notes

# Family Reunification Center

Secured area and away from ED, media and PSA

Sign-in and sign-out sheets with name and contact information

Upload photos of missing child from family

Psychological and spiritual support

Interpretive services

Restrooms and food

Private rooms for confidential discussions

# Family Reunification Site

Separate area  
for actual  
reunification of  
family and child

Secured and  
away from FRC,  
ED, media and  
PSA

Prevent trauma  
for families still  
waiting for  
reunification

US HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS TO MANAGE UNIDENTIFIED  
 INDIVIDUALS AND REUNITE UNACCOMPANIED MINORS  
 WITH FAMILY MEMBERS DURING DISASTERS:  
 RESULTS FROM A NATIONWIDE SURVEY

Terri Rebmann, Nita K. Gupta, and Rachel L. Charney

# Planning & Exercises

Table 3. Predictors of Having More Developed Plan for Managing Unidentified Patients by Multivariate Linear Regression

<i>Factor</i>	<i>Preparedness<sup>a</sup></i>			<i>Family Reunification Center Preparedness<sup>b</sup></i>		
	$\beta$	<i>SE</i>	<i>P Value</i>	$\beta$	<i>SE</i>	<i>P Value</i>
Having a pediatrician on the hospital disaster planning committee	6.4	1.4	< .001	NIM		
Conducting a disaster exercise that simulated an unaccompanied minor scenario in the past year	3.6	1.3	< .01	NIM		
Has started implementing AAP Reunification Planning Tool	3.5	1.6	< .05	8.7	3.3	.01
Hospital plan addresses pediatric patient care during a mass casualty event	NIM			8.5	4.1	< .05

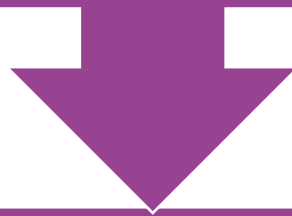
<sup>a</sup>Hospital preparedness to manage an unidentified patient during a disaster (score range: 0 to 21)

<sup>b</sup>Hospital preparedness to manage reunification onsite (score range: 0 to 35)

Abbreviations: AAP, American Academy of Pediatrics; NIM, not in model; SE, standard error.

# Demobilization & Recovery

Consider when fewer than 3 families or no unaccompanied minors



After-action reports

families/caregivers

children in discussion



# ASPR Region V for Kids

## Contact Information:

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region-v-for-kids-coe/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/region-v-for-kids-coe/)

**Twitter:** [@RegionVforKids](https://twitter.com/RegionVforKids)





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