Inclusive Emergency Management
Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

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Session Outline

• Background on AUCD
• Interviews with Territories
  • Themes
  • Recommendations
• Panel Discussion
AUCD

- Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) is a membership organization that supports and promotes a national network of university-based interdisciplinary programs.

- Network has 67 UCEDDs (University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities), one in at least every US state and territory
  - Work with people with disabilities and members of their families
  - State and local government agencies
  - Community providers
Public Health Team

- Works to create health promotion and public health efforts that include people who have disabilities
- Focus on areas of greatest health disparity
- Aim to build capacity of the network in public health
- Encourage public health partners to include people who have disabilities
Territory Interviews

- 4 Interviews UCEDDs
  - Emergency preparedness in the territories
  - Disaster impact on children and adults with disabilities
  - Role each center plays during and after a disaster
  - American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands
    - Disaster aftermath
Population of the Territories

Puerto Rico

3,337,177 residents

Connecticut

3,588,184 residents
Need for Adequate Funding

- What if Territories were states or cities in the US
  - Americans Samoa
    - Bowie, MD
  - Guam
    - Alexandria, VA
  - CNMI
    - Glen Burnie, MD
  - Puerto Rico
    - Connecticut
  - US Virgin Island
    - West Palm Beach, FL
Impact of People with Disabilities

• Lack of accommodations
  • Access to medical equipment
  • Special diets
  • Low stimulation rooms/sections
Impact of People with Disabilities

- Accessibility
  - Shelters aren’t meant for long term use
Impact of People with Disabilities

- Food insecurity
- Lack of prioritization
- Lack of accessibility to distribution
Interview Themes

- Preparedness

Self-Assessment Checklist
Interview Themes

• Partnerships
Interview Themes

• Communication and Recognition

UCEDDs

Planning table for recovery
Interview Themes

- Mental Health
Recommendations for Moving Forward

Recommendation 1.
Build Capacity of regional Disability Network

“Responding to people with disabilities should go beyond durable medical equipment”
Recommendation 2.
Create and Build on Relationship with FEMA

“There needs to be information sharing in the beginning and an agreement on what the role of UCEDDs could be during recovery”
Recommendations for Moving Forward

Recommendation 3.
Utilization of UCEDDs in all Phases of Emergency Management

“UCEDDs and other disability agencies (i.e. DD Networks, Protection and Advocacy, etc.) should be present during the respond and recovery stages as well”
Recommendations for Moving Forward

Recommendation 4.
Intentional Regional Approach

“Needs of people with disabilities needed to be a priority after a disaster”
Panel Discussion

- American Samoa UCEDD- Tafaimamao Tua-Tupuola, MEd
- Guam UCEDD- Heidi San Nicolas, Ph.D.
- Puerto Rico UCEDD- Carol Salas Pagan, PsyD.
- US Virgin Islands UCEDD-Kimberly Mills, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Panel Discussion

In your perspective, how can involving UCEDDs in all phases of emergency management in the US territories benefit people with disabilities?
Panel Discussion

What role would you like to see your organization have in emergency management?
Wrap Up

Interview Themes

• Preparedness
• Partnerships
• Communication and Recognition
• Mental Health

Recommendations

• Build Capacity of regional Disability Network
• Create and Build on Relationship with FEMA
• Utilization of UCEDDs in all Phases of Emergency Management
THANK YOU