



National Consortium on Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response for People with Disabilities

Executive Summary of the Second
Working Meeting on Disaster
Preparation and Emergency Response for
People with Disabilities

Hyatt Regency Crown Center Hotel
Kansas City, Missouri

July 25-26, 2005

History

In June 2004, the Consortium convened in its first working group meeting of 21 experts in the field of disabilities and disaster and emergency planning and response in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Consortium's final report of the meeting identified seven focus areas that needed to be addressed at the national, state, and local levels to ensure effective emergency planning and response for persons with disabilities. Ten recommendations were proposed to address the specific concerns identified in the focus areas. The recommendations are:

1. Communicating and advocating with policy makers at the federal, state and local levels about incorporating disability related issues in emergency preparedness and disaster planning.
2. Providing disability-related technical assistance to funding agencies that are developing grant programs on emergency preparedness and response.
3. Partnering with and serving as a resource for national, state and local organizations.
4. Establishing a coordinated Information Clearinghouse containing materials on emergency preparedness and disaster planning for people with disabilities.
5. Monitoring and disseminating emergency preparedness and disaster planning research.
6. Developing a coordinated education plan for first responders, emergency managers, health care professionals and others that incorporates planning for people with disabilities in national, state and local state plans.
7. Assisting in the development of training materials, including developing case specific training scenarios and simulations, a "train-the-trainer" program, and talking points and tip sheets for first responders, primary health care providers and other emergency preparedness personnel.
8. Reviewing current and future training materials for disability cultural sensitivity and best practices.
9. Increasing awareness among people with disabilities and disability advocacy organizations.
10. Working with the Department of Homeland Security to develop a response-specific Annex that addresses the needs of persons with disabilities and integrate an Annex as a part of the National Response Plan.

Second Working Meeting Summary

In June 2005 in Kansas City, Missouri, the Consortium convened a second working meeting of thirty experts from health departments, university settings, emergency management offices, disability organizations, and advisors for a two-day meeting to address a combination of the previously identified recommendations in the areas of education and training; increasing involvement on the national, state and local levels; establishing a clearinghouse, and research.

These recommendations were selected prior to the meeting in the order of the participants' ranking of importance. From the group discussions and conclusions presented at the meeting, the Consortium developed action plans to assist in directing and prioritizing future activities within each category of recommendations from the first working meeting.



Action Plans

Education and Training

To develop a coordinated education plan that incorporates disaster preparedness and emergency response for people with disabilities at the local, state, and federal levels for first responders, emergency managers, health care professionals, and others.

To increase the awareness among people with disabilities and disability advocacy organizations about emergency preparedness and disaster planning.

Action Plan

- Write letters encouraging disability organizations to unite and educate their consumers.
- Develop a user-friendly educational tool and culturally-sensitive training materials such as case specific training scenarios and simulations, a “train-the-trainer” program, and talking points and tip sheets that incorporate best practices.
- Develop a measure that ensures changes have been implemented.
- Provide national disability organizations with a master checklist to share with their stakeholders.
- Create a sample directory that can be used as a template for emergency service agencies to identify the common types of disability-related organizations and providers in their county and state level jurisdictions.
- Encourage organizations to band together to seek additional funding and attention from policy makers at the national level.

Increase Involvement

To encourage disability and other organizations at the federal, state, and local levels to communicate and advocate on disability-related issues in disaster preparedness and emergency response, provide disability-related technical assistance to funding agencies developing programs on preparedness and response, and partner with and serve as a resource to develop and present workshops regarding disaster preparedness and post incident response for individuals with disabilities.

Action Plan

- Determine which people and organizations will be influencing funding agencies.
- Consider working with established emergency management framework before changing framework.
- Recommend implementation actions.
- Develop technical assistance resources to support implementation actions.



Action Plans

Clearinghouse

To establish a coordinated information clearinghouse containing materials on disaster preparedness and emergency response for people with disabilities.

Action Plan

- Seek initial seed money to allow the American Association on Health and Disability to build upon the annotative bibliography and to direct the clearinghouse establishment efforts.
- Enlist clearinghouse partners such as disability advocacy and service providers, National Home Safety Council, Center for High Risk Outreach, national and state social service organizations, and others to provide input, material, and more.
- Conduct literature reviews and collect products.
- Develop checklist of review criteria to ensure quality products.
- Develop national marketing plan to inform audience of clearinghouse and its benefits.

Research

To monitor emerging disaster preparedness and emergency response research and disseminate the results to people with disabilities, advocacy organizations, national, state and local governments, task force partners and the public at large.

Action Plan

- Ask organizations (1) what do service providers know in order to plan to meet the needs of people with disabilities in emergencies? and (2) what do service providers identify as their greatest needs in this area?
- Determine what disability-related information about emergency provider response and recovery is currently collected, how it is disseminated, and how this information can be used to improve emergency provider services to people with disabilities.
- Discover existing disability-related resources such as oxygen and ramp vans in geographic areas; best practices among emergency management programs that address the needs of people with disabilities; factors and mechanisms determining successful outcomes; and methods to promote universally accessible design.
- Ask city planners, health planners, and architects how they collaborate and translate universal design into existing structures.
- Disseminate results to people with disabilities; advocacy organizations; national, state and local governments; task force partners, and the public at large.

The Future

From 9/11 to Hurricane Katrina, current national and global events have shown local communities, states and the nation that it is urgent to effectively respond to the needs and priorities of people with disabilities in disaster preparedness and emergency response. Essential to the success of this effort is the inclusion of people with disabilities and those familiar with disability issues in all emergency-planning efforts. These include developing disability culturally appropriate training materials; maximizing funding streams; and reducing the damaging levels of duplication and fragmentation that currently exist.

Who We Are

The National Consortium on Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Response for People with Disabilities consists of the American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD), the University of Kansas Research and Training Center on Independent Living, and the University of New Mexico Center for Development and Disability.

The Consortium's mission is to promote emergency preparedness inclusion, research, education, awareness and planning for people with disabilities at the local, state, and national level through a variety of means. They have developed several products to that end:

The University of Kansas has conducted a research study, called *Nobody Left Behind*, curriculum development and training, and *Do's and Don'ts Checklist* posters on emergency preparedness for persons with mobility impairments.

The University of New Mexico has produced field-durable tips sheets for first responders on procedures to assist persons with disabilities.

The American Association on Health and Disability has compiled an extensive annotative bibliography on emergency preparedness and response for people with disabilities.

Joint efforts of the Consortium members underway involve curriculum development—ranging from training emergency receivers to emergency responders—and the creation of a national task force body for consultation, networking, awareness raising and education.

National Consortium and Co-Chairs of the Meetings

Glen W. White, University of Kansas

Roberta Carlin, American Association on Health and Disability

Anthony Cahill, University of New Mexico

Meeting Participants

- Mary Beresford, New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability
- Donald Betts, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Tom Brown, Iowa Department of Public Health
- Vince Campbell, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Keith Christensen, Utah State University
- Alan Clive, Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Michael Collins, California State Independent Living Council
- Nick Crossley, Johnson County Emergency Management
- Elizabeth Davis, Emergency Management Special Needs Consultant
- Alexandra Enders, University of Montana
- Michael H. Fox, University of Kansas
- Becca Gagliano, University of Kansas
- Richard Gist, Kansas City Missouri Fire Department
- Kathy Hargett, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
- Martha Hodgesmith, University of Kansas
- Judith Holt, Utah State University
- Anna Johnston, North Carolina Office on Disability and Health
- Edwina Juillet, Advocate Fire & Life Safety for Persons with Disabilities
- June Issacson Kailes, Disability Policy Consultant
- Karen Luken, North Carolina Office on Disability and Health
- Erin E.S. Lynch, Mid America Regional Council
- Theresa Paeglow, New York State Department of Health
- Paula Phillips, Douglas County Emergency Management
- Catherine "Cat" Rooney, University of Kansas
- Jennifer Rowland, University of Kansas
- Sandy Sands, Montana Department of Health and Human Services
- Jeff Sheen, University of Utah
- Stacy Robarge-Silkner, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Michael Spoerri, Rhode Island Department of Health
- Darlene Sparks Washington, American Red Cross

For More Information

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Funded in part by a grant to the University of Kansas Research & Training Center for Independent Living from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine (TS#-0840) and through a cooperative agreement to the American Association on Health and Disability from the Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, NCBDDD (U59/CCU321860-02-04)

Prepared by the University of Kansas, Research and Training Center on Independent Living, September 2005.