

LOUISIANA
January 2007 Quarterly Report

I. General Information

Report Period: Oct – Dec, 2006

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State: Louisiana

FEMA Region: VI

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II. State Delegation Meetings/Teleconferences

Date: 10/12/06-11/2/06

Outcome: Provided suggestions re: assisting people with disabilities and the elderly for the Red Cross shelter manager's manual and the general Red Cross shelter volunteer manual.

Date: 11/1/06

Outcome: Organized groups with chapters/organizations/agencies statewide to agree to respond to the Red Cross if assistance is needed in an emergency. The emergency can be single family or area wide disaster. Organizations that agreed to send letters to chapters/agencies/membership/organizations are Families Helping Families of LA, The Arc of LA, NAMI of LA, and the Federation of Families. In addition the Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs is sending information to each of the parishes' Council on Aging.

III. Emergency Planning Highlights

Activity: Provided requested feedback on the document used by the Louisiana OEP to look at local plans. The Louisiana OEP offers suggestions to local OEPs after reviewing their plans.

Outcome/Product: Increased opportunity to have local plans include in their plan mechanisms to assure people with disabilities are served by the EOP.

OUR REPORT: ACCORDING TO THE LOUISIANA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, THEY DO NOT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO FORCE LOCAL OEPs TO INCLUDE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THEIR PLANS OR PLANNING PROCESS. CONSEQUENTLY, WE WILL BE WORKING WITH EACH PARISH IN LOUISIANA TO OFFER INFORMATION TO THE OEP REGARDING INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THE ELDERLY IN PLANS AND THE PLANNING PROCESS.

IV. Emergency Preparedness Highlights

Activity: Meeting of state delegates.

Outcome/Product: Collaborative effort to respond to people with disabilities and the elderly in an emergency.

OUR REPORT: DELEGATES ORGANIZED AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS/CHAPTERS THAT PRIMARILY SERVE THE ELDERLY AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES SO THAT THE AGENCIES CAN ASSIST THE RED CROSS TO SERVE THIS POPULATION. THE AFFILIATED AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS AND CHAPTERS WILL RESPOND TO SMALL ONE FAMILY EMERGENCIES AS WELL AS LARGE AREA DISASTERS.

V. Emergency Response Highlights

Activity: Meeting of state delegates

Outcome/Product: Changes to the Red Cross shelter manager manual and shelter tool kit.

OUR REPORT: PROVIDED INFORMATION THAT NEEDED TO BE ADDED TO THE SHELTER MANAGER'S MANUAL TO ASSIST THEM TO BEST SERVE PEOPLE WITH DISABILITES AND THE ELDERLY. IN ADDITION, A REQUEST WAS MADE TO ADD ITEMS TO THE SHELTER TOOL KIT SUCH AS, WHEELCHAIRS, WALKERS, SHOWER BENCHES, ACCESSIBLE SHOWER STALLS, TAPE, DYCEM PAPER, ETC.

VI. Emergency Recovery Highlights

Activity:

Outcome/Product:

NOTHING TO REPORT AT THIS TIME.

VII. Next Steps

Significant Planned Activities: Meeting with the Red Cross to discuss training the volunteers to better respond to the elderly and people with disabilities.

Products under Development: Training module for Red Cross volunteers

VIII. Other

Points of Interest:

Challenges:

OUR REPORT:

The Louisiana delegates have had very little response to the issues from the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Any suggestions to engage this office and gain their interest in responding to the needs of people with disabilities and elderly would be appreciated.