

## January 2007 Quarterly Report

### I. General Information

*Report Period:* October 2006 to December 2006

*Date Submitted:*

*State:* MA

*FEMA Region:* One

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### II. State Delegation Meetings/Teleconferences

The Massachusetts delegates (listed above) have met several times to form a planning group to develop the framework for a “Statewide Task Force on Emergency Management to Include Populations with Special Needs”. The planning group has broadened its partners to include the MA Department of Mental Retardation and the MA Office on Disability. Meetings have happened face to face, as well as by teleconference to plan the upcoming Task Force Summit.

### **III. Emergency Planning Highlights**

For more information about the task force, please see the attached 'task force invite letter' and 'task force workgroup descriptions' documents. The delegation summit, February 22, 2007, will convene cross disability stakeholders and agencies involved in emergency preparedness and management. Invitations have been extended to over 100 people statewide including advocates, state agency representatives and folks with disabilities.

MDPH is working to develop a long-term care facility all-hazards guide along with an 'Emergency Management Planning Guide for Populations with Special Needs'.

Additionally, the MA DMR and Shriver Center participate on the Advisory Committee of the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS) initiative to develop a Self-Assessment Tool for its members agencies to assess emergency planning in all phases from preparation, response and recovery. See attached excerpt from the NASDDDS project scope of work describing the objectives of the effort. Massachusetts' representatives have reviewed and contributed to the content of the tool, and will participate in the usability testing of the instrument in March 2007. The pilot of the tool will occur in April/May 2007 in MA and several other states. Several of the DD providers have volunteered to participate in piloting the tool and applying it to the COOP plans that have been developed to date.

In October 2007, the New England Consortium of DD state agency representatives, gathered in Massachusetts to address many agenda items of common interest, including Emergency Preparedness. States shared resources in the EP area and discussed the feasibility of collaborative efforts and agreements to support one another in the event of an emergency. Participating were DD executive leadership staff from MA, CN, ME, VT, RI, and NY.

### **IV. Emergency Preparedness Highlights**

Continuity of Operation Planning (COOP) and Continuity of Government (COG) work is being carried out in MA. Please see the following website for details:

<http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eohhs2subtopic&L=6&L0=Home&L1=Provider&L2=Guidelines+and+Resources&L3=Guidelines+for+Services+%26+Planning&L4=Emergency+Preparedness+and+Planning&L5=Pandemic+Flu+Planning&sid=Eeohhs2>

### **V. Emergency Response Highlights**

### **VI. Emergency Recovery Highlights**

## **VII. Next Steps**

Convene the February 22 Summit, establishing the state-wide Task Force. Launch the work groups seeking co-chairs and cross disability membership in each of the 5 workgroups. Reconvene the Task Force in several months, target date, June 2007, and pull together the recommendations of the workgroups (Communications, Registry(s), Sheltering, Evacuation and Personal Preparedness) into one report. Review by state agency Executive Leadership for submission of recommendations to the Governor.

## **VIII. Other**