

MISSOURI
January 2007 Quarterly Report

I. General Information

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State: Missouri

FEMA Region: VII

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II. State Delegation Meetings/Teleconferences

Date: October 24, 2006

Outcome: To assist in local planning for emergency preparedness needs of special populations, the Department of Health and Senior Services worked with the State Emergency Management Agency in October 2006 to provide all local emergency managers checklists and templates from CDC's Public Health Workbook to Define, Locate and Reach Special, Vulnerable and At-Risk Populations in an Emergency. The complete workbook is available at <http://www.bt.dc.gov/workbook>.

III. Emergency Planning Highlights

OUR REPORT:

- Updates to various listserves have been made regarding resources and SEMA training opportunities related to disaster preparedness for persons with disabilities. The lists have the potential to reach at least 2,000 individuals with disabilities, family members, providers of services and other advocates. As a result of the outreach and personal contact, several providers of services to those who have developmental disabilities have participated or are scheduled to complete SEMAs course on Disaster Preparedness for Special Needs Populations. Several self-advocates have sought out more information and plan to contact their local emergency managers regarding their willingness to be resources for their local planning teams.
- Created a Special Needs Population emergency-planning template for local jurisdictions to use in formulating community emergency operations plans.
- Created a task force that established an emergency-planning template for nursing facilities.
- Created a guide for outreach to faith communities regarding public health issues including special needs populations issues.
- DHSS, Division of Community and Public Health published a report “Emergency Planning to Address Chronic Health Conditions in Missouri” which entails predisaster rates of selected chronic diseases and estimates of the population affected for the state of Missouri and seven regions, utilizing information from the 2005 MO Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. This information is provided to assist in planning and preparing for the control of chronic diseases should a natural disaster occur.
- A new video was produced to aid facilities and providers that care for Missouri’s adult population to be better prepared for emergencies. The 20-minute video includes interviews with St. Louis leaders discussing the needs of special populations during the Summer 2006 storm damage and power outage. A step-by-step planning guide for adult care facilities has been developed and will accompany the video. The long-term care disaster preparedness team, which included DHSS, State Emergency Management Agency and private providers, worked on the plan template for the past six months. Outreach efforts will begin in early 2007. The Ready in 3 resources are available at www.dhss.mo.gov/Ready_in_3.
- In October 2006, several DHSS staff attended the Train-the-Trainer class for State Emergency Management Agency’s (SEMA) training, Emergency Planning for Special Needs Population, and are now certified to train others. State and local public health staff attended the December 11-13, 2006, SEMA Emergency Planning for Special Needs Population. DHSS presented information on its special needs communications database and its Ready in 3 emergency preparedness materials for special needs populations. These include Family Safety Guides and emergency checklists in Spanish, Bosnian and Braille; videos for seniors and for adult care facilities; and a video for persons who use American Sign Language.

- In December 2006, the DHSS Department Situation Room was activated during the St. Louis Winter Storm and Power Outage. The response team worked closely with the local public health agencies to ensure the health and safety of the special needs population. This included identifying long-term care facilities, hospitals, dialysis centers, elderly residents and persons with disabilities that were without electricity so that the electric company could be notified. The health departments coordinated messages to the public on food safety, generator safety and candle safety.

IV. Emergency Preparedness Highlights

OUR REPORT:

- Presentation made on December 19, 2006, to 10 participants and 8 staff of an MericCorps grant through UMKC – Institute of Human Development regarding Disaster Preparedness. Topics covered included Mitigation/Community Participation/Personal Preparedness. Since the Missouri Planning Council is also a funding source for this grant, the AmreiCorps participants were asked to develop their own personal preparedness plans and report back when they are completed. As the AmeriCorps volunteers provide resources to families and individuals with disabilities in their counties, they were asked to share information about disaster preparedness with those they support.
- A new video was produced to aid facilities and providers that care for Missouri’s adult population prepared for emergencies. The 20-minute video includes interviews with St. Louis leaders discussing the needs of special populations during the Summer 2006 storm damage and power outage. A step-by-step planning guide for adult care facilities has been developed and will accompany the video. Outreach efforts will begin in early 2007. Additional Ready in 3 resources for special needs populations are available at www.dhss.mo.gov/Ready_in_3.
- The Department of Health and Senior Services developed a 12-page booklet, titled *Preparing for Pandemic Flu: A Community Guide*. The easy-to-read booklet is designed around a three-step process to help the reader (1) learn more about pandemic flu, (2) plan for when a pandemic strikes, and to (3) help protect against getting and/or spreading the pandemic flu virus. Included in the Community Guide are practical tips for creating family response plans, and helpful lists for developing emergency supplies of food, water, and other necessities in case a pandemic forces people to stay at home for several days. Also included is information specifically for people with special needs and their caregivers, as well as a description of the differences between seasonal flu, pandemic flu, and avian flu.

V. Emergency Response Highlights

Nothing to report at this time.

VI. Emergency Recovery Highlights

Nothing to report at this time.

VII. Next Steps

Significant Planned Activities:

Products under Development:

OUR REPORT:

- Training scheduled for Central Missouri Targeted Case managers regarding disaster preparedness. Will request that they assist individuals with developmental disabilities they support, in the development of personal preparedness plans.

VIII. Other

Nothing to report at this time.