

# WORKING CONFERENCE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND THE ELDERLY

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE DELEGATION FEMA Region 1 QUARTERLY REPORT December 2006



*Together, we can save a life*



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES COUNCIL**

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION  
ON DISABILITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**



**NHAMI** New Hampshire  
New Hampshire's Voice on Mental Illness



*New Hampshire*  
**Department of Safety**

**Homeland Security  
and Emergency Management**



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Date Submitted: December 14, 2006

FEMA Region: 1

State: New Hampshire

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## **SPECIFICS**

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### ***PLANNING, OUTREACH, AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES***

#### **A. PLANNING MEETING DATES:**

September 26, 2006  
Walker Building / NHDDC  
NH Working Conference on Emergency Management  
and Individuals with Developmental Disabilities and the  
Elderly

September 27, 2006  
Governor's Commission on Disability  
Conference Review

October 16, 2006  
Governor's Commission on Disability  
Next steps planning

October 31, 2006  
Governor's Commission on Disability  
Project Planning

November 20, 2006  
Governor's Commission on Disability  
Project Planning

December 5, 2006  
New Hampshire Council on Development Disabilities.  
Project Planning

#### **B. QUARTERLY REPORTS:**

The delegation reviewed and analyzed the reports from other states to utilize information in our state plan. We would like to thank the Missouri delegation for their help and support. We would also like to thank the Connecticut Developmental Disabilities Network for support they gave us with our "Guide for Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness Planning".

	REGIONS										Total
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	
<b>Recurrent Themes</b>											
1. Conference on needs of persons with a. Disabilities and chronic health care needs b. “Wards of the State” c. Chronic Mental Illness/Substance Abuse d. Persons with disabilities	*		*	*	*	*	*		*	*	<b>8</b>
2. County Emergency Management Agencies (EMA): a. Developing plans and procedures with functional needs stakeholders b. EMA assessments c. Create guide for planners d. List city resources e. Workshop for emergency managers f. GIS mapping (PA and IA) g. Toolkits (Missouri) i. Pediatric ii. Senior and disability iii. Cultural competency iv. Child care v. Long term care	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	<b>9</b>
3. Trainings a. Self-preparedness b. First responders c. Media kit d. ARC-Hawaii, Serving People with Disabilities Following a Disaster course e. Drills and exercises	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	<b>10</b>
4. Evacuation & Shelter guidance a. Service animals b. Assistive Technology c. Mutual aid	*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	<b>9</b>
5. Accessible electronic information			*				*		*		<b>3</b>
6. Citizen Corps outreach and volunteer opportunities for vulnerable individuals			*		*				*		<b>3</b>
7. School-based projects to assemble 72-hour readiness kits and deliver them to people who are not able to assemble their own kits. (Hawaii)									*		<b>1</b>
8. Transportation a) Database of Section 5310 vehicles b) Establish interagency action plan			*						*		<b>2</b>

	REGIONS										
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	Total
<b>Recurrent Themes</b>											
focused on transportation needs											
9. Policy changes					*	*	*	*	*		<b>5</b>
a. Adopting “functional needs” model											
b. All new State buildings and facilities, as appropriate, have the capacity to serve as an emergency evacuation shelter. (Hawaii)											
c. Provide a 4% tax credit and/or other incentive for costs incurred for the plan, design, construction and equipment related to new construction alterations, or modification to a qualified facility that retrofits, updates or hardens the existing structure or structures to permit sheltering in place. (Hawaii)											

**C. WORKING CONFERENCE ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FUNCTIONAL NEEDS PLANNING – September 26, 2006**

On September 26, 2006 the delegation held a working conference on Emergency Preparedness. Enclosed are the results from that conference.

# Working Conference on Emergency Preparedness Functional Needs Planning

## FACILITATED DISCUSSION TOPICS:

### *A Working Guide of State Agencies Perspectives*

September 26, 2006

#### **Conference Planning Committee Members:**

John Capuco, Developmental Services Bureau

Cheryl Killam, Governor's Council on Disability

David Ouellette, Developmental Disabilities Council

Susan Lombard, Elderly and Adult Services

John Disko, Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Carole Totzkay-Sitar, Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Richard Verville, Homeland Security and Emergency Management

## **INTRODUCTION**

Destructive forces of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita wreaked an emotional and physical toll on residents of the Gulf Coast region. The New Hampshire 2005 and 2006 floods devastated several communities in our state. One of the key lessons learned from these events is that all levels of government, working closely with the private sector, must ensure that the emergency management process integrate the needs and talents of individuals with a full range of functional abilities. With the national priority to prepare for flu pandemic, now is the time to bring together state and local emergency management, public health, and functional needs stakeholders to identify how state and regional plans may be strengthened with regard to this population.

On September 26, 2006, a free working conference was jointly sponsored by New Hampshire's Department of Safety (DOS) Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Departments of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Developmental Disabilities Council, and the Governor's Commission on Disability. The *Working Conference on Emergency Preparedness Functional Needs Planning* brought together emergency management officials with experts in the fields of health and functional needs. This was a first meeting with State agencies to address statewide all hazard public health emergency preparedness and response with functional needs individuals. Selected State agencies were requested to send one or two individuals representing the knowledge, authority, and responsibility to contribute to the emergency preparedness and planning process related to individuals with functional needs. Fourteen individuals representing 17 State agencies/bureaus/councils attended. Further discussions will be scheduled with State agencies unable to attend.

Unique in its content and structure, this conference included welcoming remarks from the State Commissioner of Health and Human Services and State Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management on the complex issues facing populations with functional needs in the face of natural or man-made disasters. Results of a 2005 needs assessment conducted with statewide emergency management directors and select groups of special needs residents was presented by the State Special Populations Coordinator. Facilitated working group sessions addressed emergency preparedness, response and recovery issues for functional needs planning.

This document reflects State agency participant comments and recommendations that have been reviewed for correct representation of their perspectives. This document will be provided to each of the 19 all hazard region points of contact by November 5, 2006 for conducting regional workshops with local functional needs stakeholders. Facilitation by the State conference planning committee members will be available if requested. Regional comments will be returned to the State Planning Committee by December 15<sup>th</sup> for inclusion into statewide draft guidance. Formal approval of the State guidance on all hazard public health emergency preparedness and response to protect the health and safety of our citizens with functional needs is scheduled for early 2007.

Through the integration of planning efforts within region's all-hazards emergency management framework, the capability to assist individuals with functional needs in an emergency at the state and local level will be improved.

The September 26, 2006 New Hampshire State Agencies Working Conference on Emergency Preparedness Functional Needs Planning was called to order by Richard Verville at 08:30 hours.

John Stephen, Commissioner, Department of Health and Human Services was introduced and spoke about State Pandemic Influenza planning efforts. He stressed the seriousness of this probable pandemic and the importance of preparedness planning with our at risk and vulnerable populations, e.g., senior citizens, children, nursing homes, individuals with disabilities, etc.

Christopher Pope, Director, Homeland Security and Emergency Management was introduced. He provided a brief summary of his background in firefighting and his new role now within the Department of Safety. Director Pope facilitated introductions around the room and expressed his appreciation for their commitment to attending this working conference. He referenced the two recent State floods and his role with local emergency management. Director Pope stated that New Hampshire is making great strides for emergency planning with our functional needs population and looks forward to working with the State Functional Needs Planning Committee.

Carole Totzkay-Sitar introduced the members of the working conference planning committee to the audience.

A letter from Governor John Lynch, who was unable to attend, was read by Cheryl Killam.

The New Hampshire Special Populations Emergency Preparedness Needs Assessment results were presented by John Disko. The PowerPoint presentation is available for review. The formal report will be made available by November, 2006.

Facilitated discussion was provided by at various intervals throughout the day by Susan Lombard, Carole Totzkay-Sitar, Cheryl Killam, Richard Verville, David Ouellette, John Capuco, and John Disko.

This document reflects various State agencies representatives' comments to the facilitated discussion topics: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery. Further discussions with agencies not in attendance will occur over the next several months. The intent of this document is to generate a dialogue between all hazard public health emergency preparedness and response planners and various functional needs stakeholders within the State. The outcome will be a collective guidance document for State and Local emergency planners.

## **Preparedness**

### **Points for Discussion:**

- A. Are individuals with disabilities stakeholders in state emergency operations planning? Please explain.
- 1. Currently not much involvement / inclusion.*
  - 2. One was the participation of BBH consumers in a Mutual Aid Drill in June, 2006. A scenario was developed whereby there was a train derailment with a potential gas leak compounded by staff shortages due to an outbreak of pertussis. The drill entailed evacuating the residents of a CMHC group home in Greenland to another CMHC catchment area in Rochester. The residents participated in this drill, and identified some additional areas to be considered in a mass evacuation situation. This feedback is being utilized by the CMHC. This drill was shared at a recent meeting with the CEOs of the ten CMHCs in the state and they were strongly encouraged to participate in similar drills of their own in order to increase staff and consumer awareness and preparedness. The other activity is the Peer Support Agencies have sent representatives to a presentation sponsored by Public Health on pandemic flu planning, in order for them to begin thinking about their needs and the process involved should a pandemic occur.*
- B. How are the various needs of "special populations" determined within the state?
- How effective is this process in accurately serving the individuals?
  - How do you know?

1. *Understanding needs leads to better planning, more comprehensive and inclusive.*
2. *Lack of understanding at local levels of local resources that are/are not available for evacuation sites.*
3. *Planning for a wide range of functional needs benefits everyone.*

C. What current methods are used by the state for defining, identifying and locating "special populations"?

- What are the parameters used?
- Who is included and who is excluded? And why?

1. *Accommodating for ethnic, religious diversity.*
2. *United States Postal Service – good resource for identifying people who may need assistance.*
3. *Meals on Wheels deliverers know the needs of people on their routes.*
4. *State agencies have a variety of databases.*
5. *Consider a public awareness effort such as, “Know your Neighbor”.*
6. *Develop a consistent message for PSAs.*
7. *Organizations advocate for different interests. The State can pull advocate groups together.*
8. *City of Lebanon poles general population regarding planning needs overall.*
9. *Home-based care agencies and local EMS know many of the medically needy folks in a community.*

D. Are registries used at the state level?

- If not, should this be a recommendation? Why or why not?
- If so, how effectively have registries worked? What kind of changes need to occur to improve them?
  - i. How has this information been made readily available to first responders and other emergency personnel?

1. *Changing nature of all contact information – local lists may be more likely to be accurate.*
2. *Self-identification may not be reliable. People may not consider themselves as being in need of assistance.*
3. *State could collate its information and supply it to area [local planning regions] that needs it.*
4. *Provide information, such as HIPAA, regarding ability to disclose information in an emergency.*
5. *Encourage people to complete phone information for E-911 Supplemental ALI as relevant.*
6. *Highlight the need for ongoing communication between State and local agencies to reduce duplication and be as current as possible.*
7. *Be open-minded to fact that needs change moment to moment.*
8. *In Agriculture, we have a number of contact lists (farms in various health programs, veterinarians, animal shelters, livestock dealers/haulers, etc) which we would use in an emergency preparation or response mode, and do use in animal health events. The access to this information and the contact of the individuals is not efficient.*
9. *Availability of current data during an event is required. The type of data to be made available to emergency personnel should be pre-approved and formatted for timely distribution during an event. All agencies, medical providers and entities that will provide such data during an event should be made aware of “HIPAA PRIVACY and DISCLOSURES IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS” to facilitate availability of information during an event.*

## **Response**

### **Evacuation**

#### **Points for Discussion:**

- A. How does your agency define functional needs?
- 1. Regulatory definitions of “special” functional needs*
  - 2. Four criteria within DHHS Mental Health. One addresses ability to adapt to situation.*
  - 3. Training issue (exposure, awareness) on disabilities to State Police and Standards. (Cheryl has provided some training already on service animals and basic communication.)*
- B. What are existing evacuation strategies for people with functional needs within your agency? How do these strategies meet the needs?
- 1. “Homes” with 1-3 residents have no evacuation plans.*
    - a. Help identify essential functions as supporting agencies.*
    - b. Still need to remind all “Homes” to have evacuation plans.*
    - c. “Homes” should send their plans to local community EMD*
    - d. Will require policy change that mandates all facilities have emergency plans*
    - e. Suggest annual fire inspections. (task force exists with some local fire departments)*
  - 2. State agencies request point of contact list that has subject matter experts that can provide training seminars to local first responders (police and fire). Perhaps include animal control in this as they will be the local experts in a particular town.*
  - 3. Vehicles to help with evacuation. Need to match type of transportation with functional need.*
  - 4. School emergency plans should include curriculum on personal preparedness and what to do in an emergency.*
- C. Who are the essential participants in decision-making around evacuation of people with functional needs?
- A. How are people with functional needs included in this decision-making?
- 1. Functional needs individuals and their caregivers.*
  - 2. Include Easter Seals and People First on State Functional Needs planning committee*
- D. How are necessary individual services delivered and maintained during the evacuation?
- A. How is the effectiveness of these strategies determined?
- 1. Need to promote more community awareness on Personal Preparedness!!!*
  - 2. Need to provide guidance to employees expected to work 24/7 during emergencies that their families will be assisted during the crisis. “How we are going to help you with your families.” Employers should consider staff redundancy in the event that essential personnel are unable to report to work during an event.*

E. How are State alert and notification communications about evacuation inclusive of the unique needs of individuals with functional needs, i.e., the messenger, the medium, and the message content?

1. *Alert and Notification: Channels 6, 8, 9, and 13 provide alerts*
2. *Public TV and Public Radio*
3. *Reverse 911, very limited throughout New Hampshire and does not work for deaf and hard of hearing.*
4. *Reliable? Not unless locals have paid \$\$ for database updating and TTY.*
5. *Comprehensive Information and Referral. United Way.*
6. *311, 411, 211, 911*
7. *Need to ask functional needs recipients how do they obtain information?*
8. *MOU with Verizon, T-Mobile, etc. Text message to users during an emergency.*
9. *Collaborate with Satellite and Cable companies regarding emergency messaging.*
10. *Need to have representative from State OIT on planning team.*
11. *In-home quarantine plan. Communities need to establish a system for communicating to the public, i.e., residents display color code near the front door. Red=help, white=Ok, blue=a resident died, etc.*

## **Sheltering**

### **Points for Discussion:**

- A. Are there different levels or types of shelters in the State such as “animal, medical needs” shelters or “co-located” units? Please define.
1. *Do they all accept pets vs. service animals? The Commission to Study the Evacuation and Housing of Animals During an Emergency (HB 1435, Ch. 230.3, Laws of 2006) has been working toward developing and providing guidelines in the form of a resource manual for towns to follow in developing and implementing animal measures into their general emergency response plans. Specific inclusions deal with co-sheltering versus separate shelter availability versus pet-friendly hotels. The benefit of co-shelters is that owners provide the labor and often supplies for their own pets, minimizing the need for the town / state to provide personnel and resources which may be better deployed elsewhere.*
  2. *Do communities have staff for the shelters that can assist persons with functional needs? There are over 70 licensed animal shelters / rescues in NH, so many towns likely have access to someone with animal shelter experience. Absent that expertise, the state has access to a number of groups that could provide personnel with the expertise, and much of the equipment, necessary.*
  3. *What other services can a given shelter provide?*
  4. *Liability!! Individuals that are in the shelters. (ARC assumes liability for mass care ARC shelters.) An issue that needs to be addressed specifically, though generally, NH RSA 508:12-b and 508:17-a likely cover this concern as animals are considered property under the law.*
  5. *Major forensic issues at the shelters!*
  6. *Need ARC list that explains who can access ARC shelters and what services can be provided within the scope of liability.*
  7. *Specific non-ARC organizations/agencies that host shelters are held liable.*
  8. *DHHS has access to the number of available beds in various facilities state-wide for use during diversions. Question remains about staffing availability.*
  9. *State to provide AHRs with information regarding sheltering for adjudicated individuals.*
    - a. *How does the local region shelter sex offenders? What is the guidance for this?*
  10. *Temporary shelter of out-of-state evacuees arriving in New Hampshire during an event. How will the state provide shelter and supplies?Funding?Private-Public partnerships?*

- B. How does the State address populations with care needs requiring specialized personnel/equipment/supplies that are not available at general shelters?
1. *Need more public and private partnerships for emergency planning, especially if quarantine is invoked.*
- C. How is sheltering information communicated and inclusive of the unique considerations for people with functional needs?
1. *All EMDs have secure access to the FEMA website for most current listing of American Red Cross shelters in the State.*
  2. *Need more detailed information on shelters in NH.*
- D. What are the shortages/gaps in the State regarding shelters or co-located units?
- What resources are necessary (e.g., fully powered facilities, animal handlers, skilled medical staffing, medical equipment and supplies)?
  - What are some possible strategies for accessing resources?
1. *Where are the shelters in NH located? Is there a listing of them?*
  2. *What services can these shelters provide to functional needs individuals?*
  3. *Credentialing of individuals involved in animal rescue, sheltering, etc. Messaging / education to public about animal evacuation planning. Security at animal shelters proved to be absent and an enormous problem in Louisiana, and should be considered early in the process.*

## **Recovery**

### **Coordination/Restoration of Services**

#### **Points for Discussion:**

- A. How will the State ensure rapid restoration of services, provision of new services, and continuum of care (e.g. medical care, benefits, home based care, etc.)?
1. *Fiscal year drives capacity for restoration.*
  2. *Need more MOUs with vendors!*
  3. *Medical reimbursement for day service providers is questionable.*
    - a. *What happens after the 45-day window?*
    - b. *How can State ensure Medicaid reimbursement during recovery phase?*
    - c. *Suspend criminal checks for providers filling in for other agencies, etc.?*
    - d. *Establish more MOAs and/or MOUs!*
  4. *Need more MOUs with licensed vendors of DMEs.*
  5. *Need to compare lists of functional needs with ARC shelter services.*
- B. How does the State plan to assist localities with tracking people who move prior to or during, or do not return after, an event?
- Which parties - State, local and private sector - are involved in this process?

1. *Provided people register with FEMA's DRCs and/or the ARC.*
2. *Extensive phone trees within DHHS' service agencies.*
3. *Need to involve guardianship agencies in the State planning process for functional needs individuals. Joint sharing of emergency plans needed.*

## **Medications/Durable Medical Equipment (DME)**

### **Points for Discussion:**

- A. Does the State have a method for assessing needs for Durable Medical Equipment or medication at shelters? Please explain.
  1. *Shelters. Need resource list of Durable Medical Equipment needs for ARC and non-ARC shelters that are able to provide for individuals with functional needs.*
- B. How will the State ensure that there is adequate Durable Medical Equipment and medications in shelters and for others impacted by the disaster?
  1. *How do State DHHS service agencies interface with hospital and community emergency plans? Same vendors, same MOUs, who gets resources first?*
  2. *Need more discussion with health insurance plans regarding 3-month availability of medications.*
  3. *Need state-wide MOU with DME vendors.*
  4. *How do we provide for medication dispensing within shelters for those who do or do not have their medications with them? Need to have representative from Board of Pharmacy on planning committee.*
  5. *Need big binder of hard copy database lists from all DHHS service agencies for State EOC and Local AHRs as it pertains to individuals with functional needs.*

## **D. ANIMALS IN DISASTER RESOURCE DIRECTORY:**

We recognized from past experiences that people refuse to go to shelters and leave their pets. Some people that require service animals or support animals are being turned away from designated general shelters. The delegation is currently working with the state veterinarian of the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture to help with emergency planning for “Animals in Disaster” and build it into our Functional needs plan.

# **Draft #4**

## **Please note this is only a DRAFT**

### **ANIMALS IN DISASTER RESOURCE DIRECTORY**

#### **Purpose:**

Government at all levels has recognized the need for Emergency Management agencies to address issues relating to “Animals in Disasters.” The experience during recent major disasters when people would not evacuate their homes, keeping themselves in a place of danger because their pets could not also be evacuated, has brought this issue to the fore.

In New Hampshire, the State Emergency Operations Plan (SEOP) has an Emergency Support Function (ESF) of “Animal Health,” with the Department of Agriculture as the lead agency. The State Veterinarian of the Department of Agriculture has been involved with the concepts for emergency planning for “Animals in Disaster” to build into the ESF on “Animal Health.

([http://agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/animal\\_industry/AnimalsinDisaster.htm](http://agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/animal_industry/AnimalsinDisaster.htm))

In addition, the New Hampshire House of Representatives charged a Legislative Commission “to study the evacuation and housing of animals during an emergency.” This Animals in Disaster Resource Directory is one of the outcomes of this Commission. Its intent is to assist towns, cities and the state with the emergency preparedness planning and management for this issue.

In October, 2006, the **Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (PETS)** was signed. This amendment to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act mandates that local and state emergency management officials “take into account the needs of individuals with household pets and service animals prior to, during, and following a major disaster or emergency” when developing emergency preparedness operational plans. It also allows FEMA to make financial contributions to programs or projects “for animal emergency preparedness purposes, including the procurement, construction, leasing, or renovating of emergency shelter facilities and materials that will accommodate people with pets and service animals.”

#### **Facts:**

“All emergencies are local,” is the basis of emergency planning. It is recognized that public safety personnel, i.e., police and fire, will initially be involved with their primary missions of saving human lives and property and may not immediately be able to address the rescue and evacuation of pets/companion animals in their efforts.

Planning for, and implementation of, animal evacuations/rescue, sheltering and reunification follows most of the same tenets as planning for, and implementation of, human evacuations/rescue, sheltering and reunification.

Disaster Animal Response Teams (DARTs) have proved to be a most effective and organized resource and means of evacuating animals and ensuring they are delivered to a place of safety, i.e., pet shelter. An Animal Response Team is usually made up of volunteers who have received training and, in some cases, certification in this area. The formation of Animal Rescue Teams and the integration of their use in LEOPs are encouraged. They become the operational arm of the Animals in Disaster portion of the EOP.

### **Discussion of Disaster Animal Response Teams (DART) Formation and Use:**

Disaster teams have become an integral part of emergency planning and response. They are specialized in nature and are trained, certified and/or licensed to perform within that specialty area. Many of these teams are regional in concept, operating with Memorandums of Understanding between the respective jurisdictions. Regionalization also helps to address staffing needs and the needs of more than one jurisdiction. However, a team can also be specific to a particular jurisdiction. In any case, they become the resource for responding to this specific need during an emergency.

Disaster Animal Response Teams are no exception. Although some have been formed solely by a group of dedicated volunteers, others have aligned with national, state or local groups sharing the same concerns, e.g., the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and The NH Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NHSPCA). Aligning DARTs with such organizations often helps to ensure a consistency in team development, training and planning, as well as assistance with obtaining other resources that are needed in the overall response to assisting animals in disasters, e.g., shelters, cages, supplies, equipment, etc. Such agencies also have existing emergency preparedness and management plans in place and often offer training to first responders.

In following the Incident Command System (ICS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS), DARTs should address operations, internal and external communications, logistics, donations management, and volunteer management (at a minimum) in their planning. They, or the umbrella organization, should establish partnerships and coordinate with other organizations which provide services during and following an emergency. A strong partnership with veterinarians or their professional organization, the NH Veterinary Medical Association (NHVMA), is also suggested. After being activated by the involved EOC, the team would interact with that EOC either through the related ESF or through another identified level, such as Operations.

### **Emergency Planning Considerations and Resources:**

Planning for Animals in Disaster should be a cooperative effort between the State of NH, towns and cities, as well as organizations and persons with an interest and an expertise in this area of emergency preparedness and planning. Plans for Animals in Disaster should be formatted in a manner in which to integrate with the respective Local EOP (LEOP) or State EOP (SEOP). They should follow the requirements of the ICS and NIMS.

Domestic pets should be defined by communities to help set parameters for the development of plans for rescuing, evacuation and sheltering of different types of animals.

## **I. INDIVIDUAL PREPAREDNESS**

*The single best way to address “animal issues” in emergencies is to give community members the tools they need to evacuate safely with their animals **before** disaster strikes. Personal planning for all family members, animals included, will go a long way toward ensuring that there won’t be a need to rescue animals . . . along with their owners . . . after the fact.*

### **A. Sample Planning Documents**

*These materials were developed to give families the tools they need to include pets in their family disaster plan.*

**Planning brochures for pets, livestock and horses (HSUS):**

[http://www.hsus.org/hsus\\_field/hsus\\_disaster\\_center/resources/disaster\\_preparedness\\_brochures.html](http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/resources/disaster_preparedness_brochures.html)

**Animal Disaster Kit Considerations (HSUS):**

[http://www.hsus.org/humane\\_living/living\\_in\\_harmony\\_with\\_animals/pack\\_up\\_your\\_troubles\\_in\\_a\\_disaster\\_kit\\_baq.html](http://www.hsus.org/humane_living/living_in_harmony_with_animals/pack_up_your_troubles_in_a_disaster_kit_baq.html)

**On High Alert: Emergency Preparedness for You and Your Pets (HSUS):**

[http://www.hsus.org/hsus\\_field/hsus\\_disaster\\_center/resources/on\\_high\\_alert\\_emergency\\_preparedness\\_for\\_you\\_and\\_your\\_pets.html](http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/resources/on_high_alert_emergency_preparedness_for_you_and_your_pets.html)

**Protecting Pets in Everyday Emergencies (HSUS):**

[http://www.hsus.org/hsus\\_field/hsus\\_disaster\\_center/resources/disaster\\_preparedness\\_for\\_pets/protecting\\_pets\\_in\\_everyday\\_emergencies.html](http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/resources/disaster_preparedness_for_pets/protecting_pets_in_everyday_emergencies.html)

### **B. Local Listings of Potential Housing for Pets**

*Providing your community members with a list of pet-friendly lodging and boarding locations will help to ensure that they make these plans ahead of time.*

#### **1. Pet-Friendly Lodging**

**PetsWelcome.com:**

<http://www.petswelcome.com/>

#### **2. Boarding Kennels**

**American Boarding Kennel Association Pet Service Locator:**

<http://www.abka.com/abka/findAFacility/default.aspx>

### **C. Pet First Aid**

*Encouraging pet owners to know basic first aid procedures for their own animals will help them be self-sufficient during the first 72 hours.*

**American Red Cross Pet First Aid Course & Link to purchase Pet First Aid book:**

<http://www.redcross.org/services/hss/courses/pets.html?WT.srch=1>

**HealthyPet.com First Aid Advice (American Animal Hospital Association):**

[http://www.healthypet.com/library\\_view.aspx?ID=81&sid=3](http://www.healthypet.com/library_view.aspx?ID=81&sid=3)

**Cat First Aid Kit (HSUS):**

[http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet\\_care/cat\\_care/keys\\_to\\_a\\_healthy\\_cat/your\\_cats\\_firstaid\\_kit.html](http://www.hsus.org/pets/pet_care/cat_care/keys_to_a_healthy_cat/your_cats_firstaid_kit.html)

**II. COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS:**

**A. Organizing DARTs**

*Individuals or groups responding to animal needs in emergencies should have extensive experience in disaster response, animal handling, first aid for humans and animals, and knowledge of local and state laws regarding animals. They should be able to provide proof of training and should agree to work within the local community animal disaster plan. In considering who should be involved, think inclusive, not exclusive. Some examples of agencies and organization to involve in your planning process include:*

- animal control authorities
- humane society and rescue organizations
- veterinarians and veterinary technicians
- law enforcement/fire/rescue
- animal groups or clubs (kennel clubs, bird clubs, horse association, etc.)
- cooperative extension service
- wildlife agencies and wildlife rehabilitators
- pet supply industry (pet supply stores, feed stores, etc.)
- livestock associations

**Position descriptions for DART members (HSUS)**

<http://www.ndart.org/library>

**B. Risk Analysis**

*Your DART will want to work closely with you as their local emergency management director to determine the most common risks for natural and man-made disasters in your community, and plan for animals accordingly. Your community may also serve as a host community, in which case the impact of an incoming population of people with their pets will need to be considered.*

**C. Assessment of Animal Population**

**i. Companion Animals**

*Using a simple formula developed from national studies on animal populations, the number of animals that might potentially be affected by a local event can be determined.*

See pg 5-7 in HSUS Community Planning document, [http://www.hsus.org/hsus\\_field/hsus\\_disaster\\_center/resources/hsus\\_disaster\\_planning\\_manual\\_for\\_animals.html](http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/resources/hsus_disaster_planning_manual_for_animals.html)

**ii. Agricultural Animals**

*Your community may be home to a variety of agricultural operations such as dairy, poultry, hog or cattle farms. A few sources for information on these include The NH*

Department of Agriculture, the Cooperative Extension Service, large-animal veterinarians, farriers and feed stores.

**iii. Small Exotic Pets**

The animal population of any community is made up of many types of animals, not just dogs and cats. Nontraditional, or exotic, pets include reptiles, ferrets, birds and pocket pets like gerbils, hamsters and guinea pigs.

**iv. Exotic Wildlife**

Of special consideration is the handling of exotic, more dangerous animals that could get loose in an emergency. These animals may belong to an animal facility, research facility, game farm, or belong in a private collection (both legally and illegally).

**v. Native Wildlife**

A serious challenge is what to do with displaced or injured wildlife. After a natural disaster, the number of calls about wild animals can skyrocket at a time when the community is having difficulty caring for domestic animals. State Fish and Game Departments generally recommend **(check with NH Fish & Game)** that all apparently uninjured wildlife be left alone. Injured wildlife should be transported to licensed, qualified wildlife rehabilitators for treatment or euthanasia.

**NH Fish and Game Department's List of Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitators:**

[http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/wildlife\\_rehabbers.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/Wildlife/wildlife_rehabbers.htm)

**D. Resource development**

Animal response teams need to acquire or have access to an array of equipment, safety gear, clothing and vehicles. The team will also need to have access to four-wheel drive vehicles, boats, and trailers. This may be accomplished through local emergency management or agreements with local companies owning such vehicles. Ideally, each community or region would develop and train its own animal rescue team. However, in disasters of a larger scale, teams from surrounding communities, the state, or other parts of the country may be called in to assist.

Link to HSUS Personal Protective Equipment List,  
[http://www.nh.gov/agric/divisions/animal\\_industry/AnimalsinDisaster.htm](http://www.nh.gov/agric/divisions/animal_industry/AnimalsinDisaster.htm)

**Sample Interagency Memorandum of Understanding (FRG):**

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&PID=13564&Category=2198&O=Generic>

**Suggested Packing List For Animal Response Group Disaster Service Workers (FRG):**

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&PID=pr13584&Print=1&O=Generic>

**E. Plan development**

Your animal disaster plan will address the same four phases of disaster planning as your plan for humans.

## **1. Mitigation**

*In order to eliminate or minimize the impact of disasters on farmers, pet owners and animal facilities, this may include such activities as encouraging animal facilities to locate out of flood plain or storm surge areas, or requiring owners of dangerous exotics to have disaster plans for evacuating their animals or confining them safely on-site. Another example would be educating residents with livestock to work with their fire officials to develop fire-safety plans.*

## **2. Preparation**

*Taking steps to prepare for specific emergencies may include purchasing generators, additional caging or other supplies, training volunteers, finding sites for temporary animal shelters or pet friendly shelters, and including DART teams as part of the local emergency response protocols.*

## **3. Response**

*Taking action when disaster is imminent may include the activation of animal response teams under the direction of the Incident Commander or EOC, the opening of pet friendly shelters, the distribution of animal feed and supplies, and the operation of emergency veterinary clinics.*

## **4. Recovery**

*Setting guidelines for helping the community return to pre-disaster state may include activities like setting up contingencies for the long-term fostering of animals whose owners have lost their source of income or may be seeking housing that will allow them to keep pets.*

### **III. EVACUATION:**

*Pet owners will delay leaving or stay in harm's way if they don't have the means to evacuate safely with their animals. In rapid-onset events, pet owners may be unable to return home to retrieve their pets, and operators of some animal facilities may be unable to evacuate large animal populations quickly. The owners of special-needs animals, large numbers of animals, and livestock should be encouraged to evacuate early.*

#### **A. Self-evacuation**

*A pet or farm owner with a good plan and enough warning should be able to evacuate themselves and their animals safely out of the area, as long as they know which routes are safe to take, and what equipment, supplies and medical records they need to bring.*

1. Where to go
2. Supplies & equipment
3. Medical records

#### **Sample Community Information Sheet (FRG):**

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&PID=pr13567&O=Generic>

#### **B. Assisted evacuation**

*Pet owners with special needs and/or without the means to evacuate themselves may need assistance with transportation.*

1. Who to contact
2. Where to go

3. Supplies & equipment
4. Medical records

**Sample Roadblock Evacuation Procedure (FRG):**

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&PID=pr13566&O=Generic>

## IV. RESCUE

### A. Trained personnel

*For their own personal safety and the safety of the animals, as well as the protection of your community from liability, only trained personnel should be tasked with rescuing animals within the scope of their own expertise and available equipment.*

#### 1. Disaster Animal Response Teams (DART)

*Your town may wish to identify and train your own DART, or sign a memorandum of understanding with another town with this resource.*

**Sample Interagency Memorandum of Understanding (FRG):**

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&PID=13564&Category=2198&O=Generic>

#### 2. First Responders

*Many first responders will address the needs of animals in need (example firefighters rescuing animals from a burning building), however they may face greater risk without the proper training or equipment, so they may need to work in concert with animal response teams.*

#### 3. Animal Control Officers

*Your local animal control officer is often trained in animal rescue techniques and is familiar with the local animal populations, however their training and handling experience may be limited to domestic animals like dogs and cats. In addition they may have to focus on public health issues like rabies and other zoonotic diseases. Depending on the community needs and level of expertise of your local ACO, an animal response team may be necessary to assist with the rescue and housing of animals.*

### B. Equipment

*Safe and appropriate equipment for capturing, handling, housing and transporting a variety of animals (companion, livestock and exotics) is essential for the health and safety of both responders and animals. Below are just a few examples of potential equipment and supplies to consider.*

#### 1. Vehicles

- a. animal control trucks
- b. four-wheel drive trucks
- c. horse trailers
- d. recreational vehicles
- e. boats (pontoon, jon, air, canoes)
- f. helicopters

#### 2. Restraint & Capture Equipment

- a. capture poles
- b. horse halters

- c. snappy snares
  - d. nets
3. **Animal Housing**
    - a. cages
    - b. aquariums
    - c. portable fencing
  4. **Communications**
    - a. mobile radios
    - b. portable radios (hand sets)
    - c. cellular phones
    - d. base station equipment
    - e. ham radios
    - f. family service radios
    - g. fax machines
    - h. pagers
    - i. fresh batteries
  5. **Veterinary Supplies**

## V. SHELTERING

*Potential temporary animal shelter sites can include empty buildings, fairgrounds, barns, school gyms, or buildings with fenced-in areas. It's beneficial to find locations near or adjacent to established human shelters. Facilities for temporary sheltering of livestock and horses might include fairgrounds, ranches, or boarding stables. If possible, the plan should identify several sites in different parts of the community.*

### A. Local shelter/rescue groups

*If your community is home to a licensed animal shelter and/or rescue organization, they may be able to assist with the housing of animals. However, they may be impacted themselves and unable to provide this service. In this case, local or regional DARTs may be the recommended solution.*

#### **NH Federation of Humane Organizations:**

<http://www.nhfho.org/members.asp>

#### **NH Department of Agriculture, Food and Markets:**

[http://www.nh.gov/agric/divisions/animal\\_industry/AnimalsinDisaster.htm](http://www.nh.gov/agric/divisions/animal_industry/AnimalsinDisaster.htm)

*There are over 70 licensed shelters in NH but only 12 in the NHFHO. Dr. Crawford said he could look into posting the list on the department's website, but until then, we could include their office as a contact for the complete and current list.*

### B. Local Veterinarians

#### **NH Veterinary Medical Association:**

<http://www.nhvma.unh.edu/>

### C. Local Kennels and breeders

### D. Local Farms

**NH Farm Bureau:**

<http://www.nhfarmbureau.org/>

**E. Pet-Friendly Shelters**

*These are shelters that put animals and their owners in close enough proximity that the owners can provide the majority of care for their pet(s). As public education campaigns are more successful in convincing animal owners not to leave their pets behind during disasters, more families are seeing safe haven with their animals in tow. While temporary animal shelters fill the need by providing a safe place for pets, some owners resist being separated from their animals.*

**Louisiana State University Emergency Animal Shelter Disaster Response Manual:**

<http://www.lsuemergencyanimalshelter.org/>

**Pet Friendly Sheltering Resources:**

[http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=disaster\\_evacuation](http://www.asPCA.org/site/PageServer?pagename=disaster_evacuation)

**Pet Friendly Shelter Checklist:**

<http://72.14.209.104/search?q=cache:VaLQFzPSyCsJ:www.hssm.org/downloads/stormprepflyer4c.pdf+pet+friendly+shelter&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=18>

**Sample Pet Friendly Shelter Agreement:**

<http://72.14.209.104/search?q=cache:mEtpIBzWRz0J:www.scgov.net/AppDocuments/1/1493/PetAgree1.pdf+pet+friendly+shelter&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=8>

**Pet Friendly Shelter Pre-Registration Instructions:**

[http://72.14.209.104/search?q=cache:4zUwpL3L\\_uAJ:www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/pubsafety/animal/Documents/Three%2520Forms%2520for%2520WEB.pdf+pet+friendly+shelter&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=22](http://72.14.209.104/search?q=cache:4zUwpL3L_uAJ:www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/pubsafety/animal/Documents/Three%2520Forms%2520for%2520WEB.pdf+pet+friendly+shelter&hl=en&gl=us&ct=clnk&cd=22)

**F. Pet-Friendly Lodging (see I.B)**

**G. Shelter-in-Place (See IA, On High Alert)**

**H. Foster Care**

*Foster care means that an animal is cared for in a private home/stable within the community on a temporary basis. In smaller events, temporary shelters may be able to handle displaced animals. However, if the scope of the disaster is very large a foster program may be considered until animals can be returned to their owners or the owners are located.*

**Foster Care Agreement (FRG)**

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&PID=pr13608&O=Generic>

**Foster Care Agreement Between Pet Owner and Friend (HSUS- pdf)**

## VI. REUNIFICATION/DISPOSITION OF ANIMALS

### A. Registration and Record-Keeping

*Good record-keeping is essential when housing arrangements are made for displaced pets. Tracking animals from their rescue, to their admission into the animal shelter, to their ultimate disposition with their former or new owner, is an important piece.*

i. Intake forms

ii. Owner identification

**Assisting an Owner in Finding and Identifying Their Animal (FRG)**

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&PID=pr13574&O=Generic>

iii. Rescue request forms

**Liability Release Form (FRG)**

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&PID=pr13611&O=Generic>

iv. Relinquishment form

**Relinquishment Form (FRG)**

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&PID=pr13613&O=Generic>

## VII. TRAINING

### A. ICS (IS-100) and NIMS (IS-700)

**FEMA Independent Study Courses:**

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslst.asp>

### B. CPR and First Aid for Humans and Animals

**American Red Cross Pet First Aid Course & Link to purchase Pet First Aid book:**

<http://www.redcross.org/services/hss/courses/pets.html?WT.srch=1>

### C. Disaster Animal Response Training

**HSUS Disaster Training Page:**

[http://www.hsus.org/hsus\\_field/hsus\\_disaster\\_center/disaster\\_training\\_dates\\_2006.html](http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/disaster_training_dates_2006.html)

### D. Large and Small Animal Handling

Local shelters, rescue organizations, national organizations, etc.

**Animal Handling Documents (FRG)**

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&Category=2200&O=Generic>

NHSPCA

ARL of Boston

New England Animal Control/Humane Academy

SMART (Maine and Mass)

These groups will need to be contacted to find out what types of training they can typically offer.

E. Emergency Animal Sheltering

*HSUS Disaster Training Page:*

[http://www.hsus.org/hsus\\_field/hsus\\_disaster\\_center/disaster\\_training\\_dates\\_2006.html](http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/disaster_training_dates_2006.html)

F. Technical Animal Rescue (e.g., ice rescue, swift water rescue, etc.)

*Code 3 Associates:*

<http://www.code3associates.org/>

**ASPCA?**

F. FEMA independent Study Courses

*FEMA Independent Study Courses:*

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslst.asp>

G. Large Animal Rescue

<http://www.clemson.edu/lart/>

H. Other

*American Humane's Animal Emergency Services Volunteer Training*

[http://www.americanhumane.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ev\\_professionals\\_aes\\_training](http://www.americanhumane.org/site/PageServer?pagename=ev_professionals_aes_training)

*United Animal Nation's Volunteer Training Workshops:*

<http://www.uan.org/index.cfm?navid=35>

*First Responder's Guide Training Recommendations:*

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&PID=pr13561&O=Generic>

## VIII. VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

*Volunteers are essential to community disaster plans for animals. If volunteers are not properly screened and trained, they can create additional management problems. The key is training in advance (see also VII. Training)*

### *Finding Volunteers (FRG)*

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&PID=13560&Category=2197&O=Generic>

### *Recommended Volunteer Training Requirements (FRG)*

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&PID=13561&Category=2197&O=Generic>

**Sample Volunteer Contract (FRG)**

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&PID=13568&Category=2198&O=Generic>

**Guidelines for Animal Response Team Volunteers (FRG)**

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&PID=13578&Category=2199&O=Generic>

**Resource Typing Information Form (FRG)**

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&PID=pr13615&O=Generic>

**IX. DONATIONS MANAGEMENT**

*Donations can range from animal food and supplies to offers of the use of helicopters or boats.*

**A. Storage Facility**

*A storage facility should be located where donations of material goods can be cataloged and organized. Ideally, it should be near animal relief sites so that supplies can be acquired quickly, but not so close that it interferes with the operation of the animal facility*

**B. Record-Keeping**

*A master list should be maintained so that an overabundance or shortages of necessary items doesn't occur. Some items, such as veterinary supplies, may need refrigeration.*

**D. Acknowledgement**

*Once the community has entered the recovery phase, those agencies or companies that provided goods and services to the animal effort should receive special recognition for their donation.*

**X. RESOURCE LINKS**

**A. Sample Local & Regional Disaster Plans for Animals**

[http://www.nh.gov/agric/divisions/animal\\_industry/AnimalsinDisaster.htm](http://www.nh.gov/agric/divisions/animal_industry/AnimalsinDisaster.htm)

**B. Additional Planning Documents**

***HSUS Disaster Planning Manual:***

*Information on planning for animal facilities, community planning, and sample forms. Community planning chapter includes information on how to assess your local animal population.*

[http://www.hsus.org/hsus\\_field/hsus\\_disaster\\_center/resources/hsus\\_disaster\\_planning\\_manual\\_for\\_animals.html](http://www.hsus.org/hsus_field/hsus_disaster_center/resources/hsus_disaster_planning_manual_for_animals.html)

***First Responder's Guide (FRG) to Animal Care (2006)***

*First-hand, practical information on issues ranging from starting a response group, to sample documents, general training, animal handling, sample forms and recommendations.*

<http://www.vin.com/proceedings/Proceedings.plx?CID=DISASTER2006&O=Generic>

***American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Emergency Preparedness and Response Guide***

[http://www.avma.org/disaster/responseguide/responseguide\\_toc.asp](http://www.avma.org/disaster/responseguide/responseguide_toc.asp)

## **E. REQUEST FOR NEW TERMINOLOGY:**

**The New Hampshire delegation is requesting to change the term “Special Needs” to “People with Functional Needs”.**

### **Emergency Preparedness – State of New Hampshire (NH) Special Populations: A request for new terminology**

Recommendation: replace phrases such as “special needs” and “special populations” with the phrase “people with functional (special) needs.”

The following justification for revision of State “special populations” terminology is supported by key findings outlined in the “*Post Conference Report of the Working Conference on Emergency Management and Individuals with Disabilities and the Elderly*” held June 28-30, 2006 in Washington, DC.

“In July of 2004, President Bush signed Executive Order #13347 directing that federal agencies must include people with disabilities in all levels of national preparedness and established the Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) to oversee this initiative. Among its primary purposes, the ICC, chaired by U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), facilitates coordination among federal agencies and departments while energizing work concerning disability and aging issues.”

#### **Conference Key Findings:**

***“We have got to work together; we have got to go into this as a partnership. We can't go into it as a state doing it by themselves or the local [government] doing it by themselves or the federal government coming in and taking over, because that is not what we're going to do. But if we go into it as partners, if we go into it hand in hand, there are a lot of these issues we can resolve and we can make sure that people's lives will be much better off when we finish at the end of the day.” David Paulison, DHS, Keynote Address at the 2006 Working Conference on Emergency Management and Individuals with Disabilities and the Elderly.***

“The key findings are issues repeatedly identified by state delegates, discussants, and speakers over the course of the conference. The findings have implications for the federal government, and indicate priority areas where efforts can be focused in further integrating disability and elderly issues into emergency plans. While many of these issues are consistent with what has already been observed by other entities/reports and are already being addressed by DHS, HHS, and other ICC member agencies, this conference further demonstrated the benefit of the cross-pollination of ideas, actions, and meaningful outcomes across agency and state lines.”

One particular guidance and policy recommendation identified states:

“Develop a federal term, definition, or model to signify “special needs populations” that can be used as a guide for state and local authorities in emergency planning. The definition should be based on a functional model rather than a medical model, and be flexible and adaptable to accommodate state/local planning.”

June Isaacson Kailes, Associate Director, Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions presentation outlined the importance of moving beyond using “special needs” and to embrace a more “functional based” approach in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery planning.

Source documents provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency during the conference denoted that special populations are “individuals unable to respond in their usual manner during an emergency.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention displayed a recent public health workbook entitled: “Define, locate and reach special, vulnerable, and at-risk populations in an Emergency.

The evolution and movement of the conference key findings continues to be a work in process across all state and federal agencies.

### **NH State Functional Needs Guidance Committee**

The Committee currently is approaching this topic collectively. People with functional needs include, but are not limited to, people who are/have:

- Medically or chemically dependent
- Emotional impairments
- Blind or visually impaired
- Cognitive impairments
- Deaf or hard of hearing
- Chronic conditions
- Homebound
- Limited mobility
- Homeless

Also identified are Isolated Groups:

- Culturally
- Geographically
- Linguistically
- Socio-economically

Other populations to be considered are:

- Children
- People who are Institutionalized
  - Correctional
  - Half-way Houses
  - Religious Orders
- The Elderly
- Faith-based organizations
- Immigrants
- Refugees
- Vacationers

## **F. CURRENT PROJECTS AND TIMELINES:**

<b>PROJECT:</b>	<b>PROJECTED DATE OF COMPLETION</b>
NH Guide for Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness Planning	12/31/06
New Hampshire Guidelines for Including People with Funcional Needs.	12/31/06
Evacuation Centers for Including People with Funcional Needs.	Ongoing

## **CHANGES IN LOCAL CAPACITY TO ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND THE ELDERLY IN AN EMERGENCY**

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- The committee is currently working with each of the nineteen all hazards region to include people with funcional needs in the planning process.
- The committee is currently working with the ARC on evacuation centers.

## **NEXT STEP**

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- PLANS FOR THE NEXT QUARTER
  - Develop New Hampshire state guidelines for all hazards public health emergency preparedness and response.
  - Continue relationship building and planning with the nineteen (19) all hazards region stake holders.
  - Planning committee (delegates) will continue meeting regularly.
  - NH Guide for Including People with Disabilities in Disaster Preparedness Planning.
  - Resource List for State and Fedrial agencies.
- SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES
  - The delagation is planning to meet regularly.

**A Very Special Thank You:**

The committee would like to acknowledge Carole Totzkay-Sitar for her hard work, leadership and support she gives the group. Thank You.

Respectfully submitted:

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