

NEW MEXICO
January 2007 Quarterly Report

I. General Information

Report Period: 10/13/2006 – 12/31/2006 *Date Submitted: 1/09/07*

State: New Mexico

FEMA Region: VI

Person Submitting Report:

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II. State Delegation Meetings/Teleconferences

Date: October 18, 2006

Outcome: Membership identified

Determination to obtain sanction of Governor's Office of Homeland Security
Outline of identified Vulnerable Populations Workgroups

Date: November 15, 2006

*Outcome: Finalization of the New Mexico Ad Hoc Task Force on Targeted Populations and
Emergency Preparedness Goals and Responsibilities
Operation of the Work Groups*

Date: December 15, 2006

*Outcome: Continued Planning for Statewide Task Force Meeting with all four Work Groups
on January 10, 2007*

III. Emergency Planning Highlights

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**Targeted Populations: Emergency Preparedness and Response
Ad Hoc Task Force**

Genesis

In June 2006, representatives from NM's Department of Health, Aging and Long-Term Services Department, the Office of Emergency Management and UNM's Center for Development and Disability served as state delegates to a Working Conference on Emergency Management and Individuals with Disabilities and the Elderly in Washington DC co-sponsored by DHS and HHS.

When back in New Mexico, the participants from that meeting set up an ad hoc Task Force to define what needs to be done in New Mexico to ensure that "special populations" are supported during an emergency. This activity dovetails with DHS/FEMA's concern and mandate following Katrina.

Goals

- Assess existing plans to determine whether they adequately incorporate needs of groups requiring functional and/or medical support during an emergency;
- Recommend modifications where necessary
- Ensure implementation through training and exercise activities integrated into existing emergency management activities.

Schedule

1. Recognition of Ad Hoc Task Force mission (November 2006)
2. Selection of statewide members for the following 4 work groups (December 2006)
 - Individuals housed in institutions and wards of the State of New Mexico
 - People with disabilities
 - People with chronic mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders
 - Other vulnerable populations (i.e., elderly and children)
3. All-Member meeting with orientation and task assignments (January 2007)
4. Individual work group sessions to develop recommendations (February-April 2007)
5. Preparation and release of Final Report (May-June 2007)

Tentative Organizations For Inclusion In The
New Mexico Work Group on Disability and Preparedness

Adelante (or other local developmental disability provider)

Brain Injury Association of New Mexico

Independent Living Resource Center of Albuquerque

New Mexico Aging and Long Term Services Department

New Mexico Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons

New Mexico Commission on Disability (Mary Beresford)

New Mexico Commission for the Blind (Greg Trapp)

New Mexico Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

New Mexico Department of Health
Developmental Disabilities Supports Division
Long Term Services Division
Office of Disability
Office of Health Emergency Management

New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

New Mexico Emergency Management Association (Dwayne “Bubba” Merritt)

New Mexico Human Services Department, Medical Assistance Division (MAD)

New Mexico Long Term Care Association

New Mexico Public Education Department, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (Gary Beene)

New Mexico State Office of Emergency Management

New Mexico Statewide Independent Living Council

Santa Fe Health Care Network

University of New Mexico, College of Nursing

University of New Mexico, School of Medicine, Center for Disaster Medicine

University of New Mexico, School of Medicine, Center for Development and Disability, Medically Fragile Case Management Program,

The following is a survey that was developed by Anthony Cahill for inclusion at the New Mexico Emergency Managers Association meeting:



SURVEY OF INFORMATION NEEDS OF NEW MEXICO EMERGENCY MANAGERS ABOUT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

*Please take about five minutes and tell us how we can help you as we develop plans to serve people with disabilities when an emergency occurs.
All your responses will be anonymous.*

1. In general, how much information would you say you have about people with disabilities in your county or service area?

None
(Please skip to question 2)

A Little A Fair Amount A Lot

(Please answer question 1A)

1A. For each of the specific kinds of information about people with disabilities or other disability-related resources listed below, please tell us how much information you currently have.

<i>How much would you say you currently know about....</i>	None	A Little	A Fair Amount	A Lot
The location of institutions (nursing homes, group homes, etc.) where people with disabilities are located				
The locations of specific individuals living in their homes with disabilities (not in institutions)				
The specific types of disabilities that individuals in your county have				
Services or goods that people with disabilities in your communities will need in the event of an emergency such as medications they're taking or equipment they use (wheelchairs, etc.)				

2. Does your office have any formal written plans in place to assist people with disabilities when an emergency happens?

Yes

No Not Sure } *Please skip to question 3 on the reverse side.*

Please answer question 2A.

2A. Is the plan: For specific disabilities? Which ones? _____ For disability in general - not for any specific type(s) of disabilities

Over, please.....

3. Does your office have any informal arrangements or agreements (e.g., oral agreements or understandings) with disability organizations in your county or service area about planning for emergencies or actions to take when an emergency happens?

Yes No Not Sure } *Please skip to question 4*
 ↓ *below.*

Please answer question 3A.

3A. Which organizations? _____

4. As far as you know, do any local groups (including your office) maintain a register of people with disabilities and key information about them (where they live, type of disability, etc.)

Yes No

5. Have you taken any training courses in working with people with disabilities in the event of an emergency?

No Yes (Please tell us which course(s):
 ↓ G197 FEMA Course
 University of Minnesota or Columbia University on-line course
 Training/course offered by the state
 Training/course offered locally
 Other:

6. For each of the specific kinds of information about people with disabilities or other disability-related resources listed below, please tell us how helpful each would be to you.

<i>How helpful would these be to you?</i>	Not At All	A Little	Somewhat	Very
The location of institutions (nursing homes, group homes, etc.) where people with disabilities are located				
The locations of specific individuals living in their homes with disabilities (not in institutions)				
Written information about how to work successfully with people with different types of disabilities during an emergency				

situation				
Services or goods that people with disabilities in your county or service area will need in the event of an emergency such as medications they're taking, equipment they use (wheelchairs, etc.), service animals, etc.				
Training on how to work successfully with people with different types of disabilities during an emergency situation				
The specific types of disabilities that individuals in your county or service area have				

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

OUR REPORT [USE AS MUCH SPACE AS YOU NEED]:

IV. Emergency Preparedness Highlights

(For example, promoting the: a) development of individual preparedness plans for use by individuals with disabilities, their families and providers; and b) establishment of government agency and provider procedures for continuation of operation and service delivery to the target population during a disaster.)

Activity (e.g., training, conference, drill):

Outcome/Product (e.g., policy change, guidance, procedures, MOU, increased capacity):

OUR REPORT [USE AS MUCH SPACE AS YOU NEED]:

**NEW MEXICO AD-HOC TASK FORCE
ON TARGETED POPULATIONS AND EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

I. PURPOSE

The Ad-Hoc Task Force has three goals:

- to assess the extent that existing plans for preparedness and response adequately incorporate and are responsive to the needs of multiple groups that will require additional functional and/or medical support during an emergency;
- to make recommendations for changes to these plans where necessary in order to better meet the needs of citizens who will require such support; and
- to ensure implementation capacity through identifying specific parties accountable, action steps required, and training and exercise integrated into existing emergency management activities.

II. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TASK FORCE

To accomplish this, the Task Force will utilize four workgroups, each co-chaired by a member of the Task Force and a topic expert in one of the target areas of the workgroup. These workgroups are:

- ***Individuals Housed in Institutions and Wards of the State***: individuals incarcerated in state and local penal institutions; individuals incarcerated in juvenile detention centers and other youth centers; foster children in foster homes; and children in group homes managed by the Children, Youth and Families Department;
- ***People with Disabilities***: individuals with a variety of cognitive and physical disabilities residing in the community and in institutions such as nursing or group homes who will require additional functional and/or medical support;
- ***People with Chronic Mental illness and/or Substance Abuse Disorders***: people living in the community and group homes who have a chronic mental illness or are substance abusers; and
- ***Other Vulnerable Populations***: groups including elderly individuals living in the community who may require additional assistance during an emergency; children under the age of consent not living at home or not with their parents or legal guardians at the time an emergency occurs; and pregnant women. .

The Task Force will:

- identify leaders of each workgroup;
- develop and disseminate their scope of work;
- ensure they have a basic understanding of emergency operations before beginning their work;
- determine any common areas of assessment between the groups to avoid duplication of effort;
- serve as a resource for workgroup chairs and members; and
- integrate recommendations into a final report and implementation plan. The final report of the Task Force will identify who is responsible for the implementation of action steps recommended by the workgroups and what steps are needed to ensure integration of the recommendations into existing plans.

III. OPERATION OF THE WORKGROUPS

The four workgroups will be co-chaired by a member of the Task Force and a topic expert. The Chairs will identify key participants of their workgroup and oversee the development of a report that addresses the following.

- **Needs Assessment:** do existing plans (i.e., evacuation, sheltering) address the needs of the target populations of the workgroup and what gaps exist in those plans?
- **Recommendations:** what recommendations to existing plans would bridge identified gaps? These recommendations should be actionable and have measurable indicators.

IV. KEY DATES AND MILESTONES

November - December, 2006: Preparation

Task Force members will identify potential members and co-leads of each workgroup, secure their agreement to participate and prepare materials for an orientation session for workgroup members. Co-chairs will identify members of their respective workgroup.

January 10, 2007: Initial All-Workgroup Meeting and Orientation

The initial meeting of the workgroups will be held in Albuquerque on January 10, 2007. Workgroup members will be given an orientation to basic emergency planning at the federal, state and local levels, review the scope of work for each workgroup and timelines; and set dates for future meetings of each workgroup.

February - April, 2007: Workgroup Meetings

Each workgroup will meet on a regular basis to review existing plans, identify gaps in those plans relative to the populations for which they are responsible, and develop recommendations to address those gaps. Task Force co-leads will also meet regularly during this period to monitor the progress of workgroups and identify overlapping issues and provide guidance to the workgroups as appropriate to avoid duplication.

April 2007: Second All-Workgroup Meeting

The second meeting of the workgroups will be held early in April, 2007. Workgroup co-leads will make brief presentations on key findings and recommendations, and all workgroup members will have the opportunity to raise questions and make suggestions for further modification.

April-May 2007: Preparation of Final Report

The Task Force will integrate the products of the workgroups into a final report.

June, 2007: Release of Final Report

The Task Force will release its final report.

September, 2007: Presentation to New Mexico Emergency Management Association

Members of the Task Force will present their findings and recommendations to attendees at the annual meeting of the Association and will conduct follow-up technical assistance to ensure integration and implementation of action steps.

Task Force Members

Marjolaine Greentree

Deputy Director, Office of Emergency Management,
New Mexico Department of Public Safety

Anne Pascarella Barraza

Population Outreach Manager, Office of Health Emergency Management,
New Mexico Department of Health

Jeffrey Phillips

Chief, Response and Recovery Bureau, Office of Emergency Management,
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Susan Eastman

Senior Planner, Office of Emergency Management,
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Joan Murphy

Population Outreach Coordinator, Office of Health Emergency Management,
New Mexico Department of Health

Anthony Cahill

Director, Division of Disability and Health Policy,
Center for Development and Disability, UNM School of Medicine

Lynne Anker-Unnever

New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department

V. Emergency Response Highlights

None to report at this time.

VI. Emergency Recovery Highlights

None to report at this time.

VII. Next Steps

Significant Planned Activities: Meeting of the Task Force with co-chairs and members of the Task Force on January 10, 2007

Products under Development: Products to be defined at the above meeting

VIII. Other

Challenges: Cross Cutting themes and how to address and populate them, given the shortage of staff working on the project.