

GEORGIA

July 2007 Quarterly Report

I. General Information

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State: Georgia *FEMA Region:* IV

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II. State Delegation Meetings/Teleconferences

Date: May 17, 2007

Outcome: Seven working group members attended this meeting. The group discussed the revision and duplication of the customized TIPS book for first responders. Due to wildfires in Georgia, GEMA public affairs staff had not had the opportunity to work on the book. The State ADA Coordinator and staff volunteered to work on the book. The group discussed having the book printed in alternative media for various groups. The group discussed coastal medical special needs evacuation plans in anticipation of hurricane season. We discussed preparation of a goal tracking worksheet under development by Mike that will assist the group stay on track with objectives and planned activities. Mike is also working on getting checklists from the Dept. of Justice regarding shelter accessibility. We discussed the American Red Cross/DHR levels of care document used for special medical needs

shelter. The group also discussed a survey that DHR was conducting to determine vulnerable populations and needs across the state.

Date: June 21, 2007

Outcome: Eight working group members attended this meeting. The group reviewed the revised TIPS book and included comments and suggestions that members had submitted via email. We discussed the need to use consistent and common terminology in the guide book, and try to focus on our audience – first responders. We were told that the CDC grant that we submitted did not get funded. The group had further discussion regarding the DHR survey for individuals with special needs. The draft survey was handed out for the group to review. It is random sampling of Georgia residents.

Date: July 19, 2007 (Teleconference)

Outcome: Nine working group members participated on the conference call. The conference call was dedicated to a final review and revision of the TIPS book for Georgia. Members went through the book page by page, line by line to make sure all members were comfortable and satisfied with language.

Date: August 16, 2007

Outcome: Eleven working group members participated in this meeting, ten in person, one on conference call. The beginning of the meeting included discussion regarding a statement and issue of discussion from the previous meeting. The issue was the need to understand the position that mobility equipment, including wheelchairs, are an extension of the individual, and that in evacuations and other emergency situations, this equipment should stay with the person. Much discussion took place regarding this issue, and it was determined that it is the role of the working group to provide this type of clarification and information to first responders, the general public and others so that they have a better understanding and awareness regarding individuals' needs. It was determined that a statement clarifying this would be placed in the TIPS book. The group discussed the distribution of the TIPS books once the next batch is printed. At the next meeting, further discussion will take place regarding distribution. There was much discussion about developing a certified and recognized training class for first responders. GEMA is going to begin identifying existing programs in other areas (California) that could be customized and brought to Georgia. The group discussed efforts of local governments, specifically Cobb County, that could be highlighted as best practices and exported across the state. We will be inviting representatives from local government to upcoming meetings. We received the checklists from the Dept. of Justice for shelter accessibility. The chair will forward email with links to the members to access those checklists.

III. Emergency Planning Highlights/Coordination

Checklist of coordinating agencies in your delegation response to disability, elderly, and/or emergency management at various levels.

State	Region	County	City	Service Providers	Emergency Response	NGO	Other
GEMA							
DHR- Public Health							
DHR – Aging							
DHR – Mental Health							
DHR – Environmental Health							
State ADA Coordinator							
						American Red Cross	
Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities							
						Disability Resource Group	
						Statewide Independent Living Council of GA	
							Emory Center for Public Health Preparedness
							Georgia Advocacy Office

One of the working group members participated on a conference call with dialysis sites in Georgia. This call was coordinated by the Southeastern Kidney Council and National Disaster

Coalition. The purpose of this call was to ensure that facilities understand what is expected of them during a disaster, the Network's role and resources available to patients and staff.

The State ADA Coordinator, one of the working group members, delivered a class regarding special needs planning at the Governor’s Emergency Management Conference. The class was offered twice, and approximately 100 people attended. Copies of the TIPS book were provided to those in attendance.

IV. Emergency Preparedness Highlights/Products

Checklist of products e.g., plans, guidance, system, database, technology, policy changes and procedures

<u>PRODUCTS</u>	State	Region	County	City	Service Providers	Emergency Response	NGO	Other
Plans	√							
Guidance					√		√	√
System								
Database								
Technology								
Policy	√							
Procedures	√							
Other								

A link to the ada.gov website that includes all the accessibility checklists and other valuable shelter information was added to the GEMA website and distributed to all working group members.

DHR Division of Public Health, Office of Nursing conducted a survey of all of the District Nursing and Clinical Directors to determine what progress was being made with SNP planning. They also continue to work on the Volunteer management system. This system will be a vital back-up to staffing of any medical needs shelters that are opened, and for registering those persons who have some expertise with assisting those who have sight, hearing, and cognitive challenges. The system went live 8/24 and the Assistant Chief Nursing is working closely with the Volunteer Coordinator to work out procedures. This office also serves as Liaison with the Commissioner's Homelessness Council to enlist the assistance of health departments in surveying a sample of suburban and rural areas to determine the extent of their homeless populations. The Office of Nursing is also working to develop a standardized orientation and in-service education program for public health nurses in Emergency Preparedness. Course outlines developed that will include education on planning for the needs of the elderly, and individuals with physical, mental and medical challenges in community emergency preparedness planning.

V. Emergency Response Highlights/Focus

	State	Region	County	City	Service Providers	NGO	Other
Drills							
Training	√					√	
Education	√					√	√
Register	√					√	√
Transportation	√					√	√
Screening							
Sheltering	√					√	√
Long-Term Housing							
Long-Term Health Care							
Case Management							
Access to Benefit Programs	√					√	√
Rehabilitation							
Other							

DHR's DMHDDAD has a FEMA Crisis Counseling Program grant to provide crisis counseling, outreach and education services to the survivors of the March 1, 2007 tornadoes in Sumter and Taylor counties located in South Georgia. This program, called Project C.A.R.E., is being delivered to the local community through Middle Flint Behavioral HealthCare (MFBH). Due to the severe damage to Sumter Regional Hospital and the impact that is having on healthcare in the community, Project C.A.R.E. is targeting caregivers in order to provide them with additional support. As part of this effort, MFBH has contracted with the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) in Americus, GA. RCI is going to sponsor a caregiver workshop on disaster mental health needs and recovery at the RCE 20th Anniversary Conference in October 2007 and develop specialized materials dealing with disaster preparedness and recovery for community caregivers, healthcare providers and the people they care for.

VI. Emergency Recovery Highlights

	State	Region	County	City	Service Providers	NGO	Other
Drills							
Training	√					√	√
Education	√					√	√
Register							
Transportation	√					√	√
Screening							
Sheltering							
Long-Term Housing							
Long-Term Health Care							
Case Management	√					√	√
Access to Benefit Programs	√					√	√
Rehabilitation							
Other							

VII. Next Steps

Monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. Continue refining goal worksheet; develop training program/class

VIII. Other

Nothing to report at this time.