

**KENTUCKY**  
**March 2007 Quarterly Report**

**I. General Information**

*Report Period:* Jan thru March

*Date Submitted:* 3/30/07

*State:* Kentucky

*FEMA Region:* IV

*Person Submitting Report:*

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## **II. State Delegation Meetings/Teleconferences**

*Ongoing.*

## **III. Emergency Planning Highlights**

The *Council on Developmental Disabilities* has continued to be the lead organizing agency for the delegation. The Council coordinates meetings, completes notes and coordinates the quarterly report.

The delegation is in the final stages of completion of a report following a one-day summit on Emergency Management. The report will include an overview of the events, the findings and ‘next-step’ actions. The action steps will include developing a list of targets to address areas identified by the summit attendees. These will include but not limited to the sharing of ‘promising practices’, information dissemination and training to first responders, support personnel, individuals with disabilities, the elderly and their families.

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

The booklet “Tips for First Responders” has been distributed to Regions 1, 2 and 4. Regions 4 and 2 have requested additional booklets and will be distributed to Louisville in April.

The Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) has developed the following materials to increase awareness of and educate Kentuckians, including special populations about what to do during an emergency:

- *Kentucky Emergency Guide* - a folding pocket card in both English and Spanish, that illustrates action steps to take and not to take during typical emergency scenarios that are common to Kentucky. The guide also includes an “I Speak” card to allow the non-English speaking individual to alert others of his native tongue.
- *Be Safe. Be Prepared* - a children’s coloring book that contains similar information as the *Kentucky Emergency Guide*, including information on taking care of farm animals and items to put in an emergency disaster kit that was developed by economically-disadvantaged, rural children.

Both materials feature pictograms to address these areas and avoid the need for translation into other languages and to address the illiterate or those individuals with low literacy levels. The materials contain bold black and white text to allow access for visually-impaired individuals.

- *Get Ready, Get Set, Know – Preparing for Pandemic Flu* – a folding, informative pocket-sized brochure describing pandemic flu. The brochure contains valuable information for those with special needs, including a detailed listing of materials to include in a pandemic flu kit for those with special needs.

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

In January of 2007, a delegation of state employees whose role within state government includes supporting the state in the event of a disaster and supporting individuals with disabilities and the elderly held a summit addressing support to individuals with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable populations in Kentucky during disasters.

The targeted outcome for the summit was to bring together individuals with disabilities, the elderly and their support network and emergency service personnel and others who provide support services to vulnerable populations to:

- a. Reduce duplication of and provide easy access to information on emergency disaster services in order to enhance emergency support.
- b. Provide information and support to those who provide emergency disaster support to vulnerable population.
- c. Gather information on current activities and services provided around the state.

The one day summit hosted over 130 people representing 20 state and local agencies and individuals with disabilities and the elderly. Those participating were asked to explore, comment and make recommendations on each area of emergency management – preparedness, response and recovery.

Local communities are beginning to invite individuals with disabilities to attend meeting. The Red Cross has demonstrated more interest in the topic of supporting individuals with disabilities

## **VI. Emergency Recovery Highlights**

As part of the Wolf Creek Dam repair the Office of Homeland Security will be distributing weather radios the week of March 26<sup>th</sup>. Below is a press release.

Governor Ernie Fletcher will be in Burkesville this Saturday, March 24, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Central time to distribute emergency alert weather radios to residents and businesses in the Cumberland River flood inundation area. The event will take place at the Veterans Memorial Community Center located at 213 Upper River St.

This week, residents and businesses in the affected areas will receive cards via mail providing them with distribution information. Each individual receiving a card must bring the card and a proof of residency (photo ID or utility bill) to receive a radio. Individuals who are disabled or have special needs and are unable to pick up their radio may call the Lake Cumberland Community Action Agency at 1-800-928-6382 and a radio will be delivered to them.

A non-emergency testing of the Kentucky Outreach and Information Network (KOIN) was performed on 3/21/07 to test the effectiveness and efficiency of the network for passing information to vulnerable populations within the state and surrounding states.

## **VII. Next Steps**

Two roundtable discussions have been scheduled for May 2007, focusing on the elderly and faith-based communities. The goal of the roundtables will be to introduce the KOIN and its function, receive feedback on issues, and to address barriers and recommendations for KOIN use across the spectrum, including expansion to the local level in order to improve communications for the elderly and faith-based organizations.

The Kentucky Department for Public Health will conduct four KOIN training workshops in designated locations (Louisville, Lexington, Bowling Green and Somerset) in September 2007. The purpose of the workshops will be to provide individuals with updates on CHFS/DPH activities and materials, to improve KOIN member relationship building, to improve understanding of KOIN, to build capacity of members to move the collaboration to the local level, and to gather input on how materials can be adapted or new materials developed to better meet needs of special populations.

The Council on Developmental Disabilities will continue to support the activities of the delegation.

The summit report will be completed and the delegation will begin to prioritize the action steps. Once this is completed implementation of the plan will begin.

## **VIII. Other**

Continue to hold delegation meetings. Continue sub-group meetings – 1) Special Needs Registry template, 2) preparation for May Mental Health and Mental Retardation Conference presentation.

Members to the delegation will be providing a session on emergency management to a large statewide conference in May. The conference originates from the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. The target audience will be not only individuals with disabilities, their support staff and families, but all others interested in support and services to this specific population.

Kentucky Department for Public Health is sponsoring the Mather Lifeways Institute on Aging **“PREPARE: Bioterrorism and Emergency Preparedness Training for the Long-Term Care Workforce”** in April. Sixty Long-Term Care providers will be attending this Train-the-Trainer course and each of those will then be responsible for training sixty LTC providers. By year end, approximately 3,000 Long-Term Care and Home Health providers will be trained in writing and executing disaster plans.

The delegation continues to grow as individual members determine that other agencies need to be involved in the discussions of the group. This has expanded our resource expertise and cross communication.

The Summit was a successful event. The evaluations provided positive feedback on all aspects of the event. The evaluations noted that there is a willingness to expand their knowledge base on this topic. The delegation was encouraged to hold other events both regionally and statewide and to develop methods of communication and information sharing.