

MASSACHUSETTS
April 2007 Quarterly Report

I. General Information

Report Period: January 2007 to April 2007
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State: MA
FEMA Region: One

Person Submitting Report:

- Name: Erica Heidelberg
- Agency: MA Emergency Management Agency
- Title: Planner
- E-mail: Erica.Heidelberg@state.ma.us
- Phone: 508-820-2033
- Fax: 508-820-2030

State Delegation Members:

- Name: Louise Goyette
- Agency: MA Dept. of Public Health, Center for Emergency Preparedness
- E-mail: Louise.Goyette@state.ma.us

- Name: Mary Kay Browne
- Agency: MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs
- E-mail: Mary.K.Browne@state.ma.us

- Name: Ben Hiltunen
- Agency: MA Emergency Management Agency
- E-mail: Benjamin.Hiltunen@state.ma.us

- Name: Lynda Kahn
- Agency: Umass Shriver Center
- E-mail: Lynda@inclusion.com

- Name: Jeff Timperi
- Agency: MA Executive Office of Public Safety, Homeland Security
Division
- E-mail: Jeff.Timperi@state.ma.us

Non-Delegation Members:

- Name: Christine Packard
- Agency: MA Emergency Management Agency
- E-mail: Christine.Packard@state.ma.us

- Name: Myra Berloff
- Agency: MA Office on Disabilities
- E-mail: Myra.Berloff@state.ma.us

- Name: Erin McGaffigan
- Agency: University of Massachusetts Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center
- Email: erin.mcgaffigan@umassmed.edu

- Name: Gail Toti
- Agency: MA Department of Public Health, Center for Emergency Preparedness
- E-mail: Gail.Toti@state.ma.us

- Name: Diane Enochs
- Agency: Department of Mental Retardation
- Email: Diane.Enochs@state.ma.us

- Name: Dawn Clark
- Agency: Center for Living and Working, Inc.
- E-mail: dclark@centerlw.org

- Name: Deborah Orzack
- Agency: REDD Group/ Disability Policy Consortium
- E-mail: windriderch@charter.net

- Name: Connie Gallant
- Agency: Independence Associates Center for Independent Living
- E-mail: cgallant@iacil.org

- Name: Mike Kennedy
- Agency: Center for Living and Working, Inc.
- E-mail: mkennedy@centerlw.org

- Name: Basil Maurice
- Agency: Stavros Center for Independent Living
- E-mail: bmaurice@stavros.org

- Name: Larry Raymond
- Agency: Cit of Worcester Disability Commission
- Email: raymondrl@ci.worcester.ma.us

- Name: Kurt Kuss
- Agency: Access Umbrella
- E-mail: info@accessumbrella.com

- Name: Kathleen Simpson
- Agency: Governor's Advisory Commission on Disability Policy
- Email: musicfortisimo@aol.com

- Name: Paul Spooner
- Agency: Metrowest Center for Independent Living
- Email: pspooner@mwcil.org

II. State Delegation Meetings/Teleconferences

Date: February 22, 2007

Outcome: Over 140 stakeholders, representing scores of organizations from across MA, participated in this event. The Task Force began its work in earnest, focusing on 5 key areas of emergency planning: Evacuation, Sheltering, Communications, Personal Preparedness, and Identification/Registries. Task Force members assigned to each of these sub-committee areas will work to identify and address issues as they relate to individuals requiring unique assistance during times of emergency. A Steering Committee was established, consisting of chairs from each of the working groups and the state delegation. The full Task Force will reconvene this Fall to report their findings.

Date: March 13, 2007 – Shelter Workgroup Conference Call

Outcome: Continued discussion to identify areas in sheltering planning in need of enhancement.

Date: March 15, 2007 – Evacuation Workgroup Conference Call

Outcome: Continued discussion to identify areas in evacuation planning in need of enhancement.

Date: March 22, 2007 – Personal Preparedness Workgroup Meeting

Outcome: Continued discussions about personal preparedness and discussion of what that consists.

Date: April 4, 2007 – Steering Committee Meeting

Outcome: The Task Force Steering Committee expanded to include representatives from each of the workgroup focus areas. The general discussion of the meeting identified the need:

- for representation from local emergency management officials and first responders.
- for state oversight and coordination in local planning and response efforts. Members suggested a standardized approach across communities for universal access to emergency preparedness information and assistance.
- to establish parameters for the planning process to ensure

- manageable and effective goals
- to clarify the roles and responsibilities of entities in emergency planning to identify where change can and should take place.

Date: April 19, 2007 – Evacuation Workgroup Meeting
Outcome: Continued discussion to identify areas in evacuation planning in need of enhancement.

Date: April 27, 2007 – Registries Workgroup Meeting
Outcome: Continued discussions on whether self-identifying registries should be created and maintained.

III. Emergency Planning Highlights

Activity: February 22, 2007 - Task Force Kick Off Conference

Outcome/Product: This conference began in earnest the work of the Special Populations Task Force on Emergency Preparedness. At this conference, members – consisting of state partners and stakeholders from numerous disability, elderly, immigration and other organizations - came together to learn more about how emergency planning is being conducted in the Commonwealth. The Task Force separated into five different workgroups that continue to evaluate five critical emergency preparedness issues: evacuation, sheltering, personal preparedness, registries and communications. Each workgroup identified two chairs – one from the state and one from the stakeholder community. The work continues among each of the workgroups, to identify and document gaps in planning and associated recommendations to address those gaps. These efforts will ultimately culminate in a report to the Governor, to be submitted in the Fall.

IV. Emergency Preparedness Highlights

See III

V. Emergency Response Highlights

See III

VI. Emergency Recovery Highlights

See III

VII. Next Steps

Significant Planned Activities:

Workgroups will continue meeting. The Steering Committee will begin to review recommendations from the workgroups and compile a draft report. The draft report will be reviewed by the entire Task Force membership at a follow-up summit this fall, with a final report being submitted to the Governor shortly thereafter.

Products under Development:

Report including recommendations from each workgroup to the Governor.

VIII. Other

Points of Interest:

Finally getting the state in the room with stakeholders and having productive discussions has been a large accomplishment. Since the February 22 meeting, local emergency management, first responder, and private sector representatives have been incorporated into the Task Force.