

**Working Conference on Emergency Management and
Individuals with Disabilities and the Elderly
June 28-30, 2006**

Session Summary Form

**Send Completed *Session Summary Forms* to Glenda Harden at glenda.harden@acf.hhs.gov by
COB July 7, 2006.**

Session: State Working Group Regional Working Group Other _____

Date of Session: Wednesday, June 28 Thursday, June 29 Friday, June 30

State: **Regionwide Session**

Region: IX – day 2, June 29, 2006

Facilitator Name: Cynthia Frankel

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- 1. List and describe in narrative at least the three most important issues that were addressed during the session. (Please note the delegate teams were trying to respond to some questions provided by the facilitator in power point slides. She may have handed out a set to each table. Recorders, to my knowledge, did not get these so we could follow the questions.**

Hawaii:

- ✓ **Has not identified Level 2 shelters; will identify shelters that can accommodate people with special needs along with equipment and personnel.**
- ✓ **Working on Level 2 shelters which will have nurses and respiratory therapists (will look at agreements with nursing registries).**
- ✓ **Currently, they have no system for getting information out (idea is to have translators for TV); considering a buddy system; do a reverse 911 (call people on a registry); emergency system being developed for the deaf.**

Guam:

- ✓ Uses schools (kindergarten rooms) for shelters because they are equipped with bathrooms and other classrooms are not.

State Emergency Leads:

- ✓ HI – State Civil Defense
- ✓ Guam – Territorial Civil Defense
- ✓ American Samoa – Territorial Emergency Office

Gaps:

- ✓ HI - their emergency plan needs to include the disabled.
- ✓ AS – need generators, emergency equipment, staffing

In narrative form report on what was said about each issue identified above, please number (1, 2, 3).

California:

- ✓ A lot of Departments in CA are involved. There are a lot of plans. Need to embed the needs of the disabled into their emergency plan(s).
- ✓ There are a lot of communication channels that support SIMS (standard information management system) which should be reviewed.
- ✓ They need to leverage existing emergency mechanisms – do not need new communities. Need to ensure inclusion of the disability community in what exists.
- ✓ They have MOUs.
- ✓ They are in the process of refining their care/shelter plan. They are looking at principles and standard guidance (e.g., equipment) necessary for all shelters; assessment teams; training, etc. Need pre-identified, trained team ready for deployment. Once they define, push out to all levels of government and community organizations (marketing campaign).
- ✓ They need to develop a working strategy with the Red Cross due the autonomy of individual chapters in the state.
- ✓ Look into an emergency credentialing program.

Nevada:

- ✓ Explore for their state plan whether special programs may be necessary (e.g., southern NV/Las Vegas where the State's population is concentrated). NV has 17 counties and one has 500 people.
- ✓ Need to determine what is needed, who has, how to get, and how to pay.
- ✓ Need to round up the stakeholders.
- ✓ State's emergency plan says its purpose is to "save lives". Need to articulate what that means –who is responsible for what for operations. No special needs are addressed in the current plan.
- ✓ Will need to find out from the stakeholders their needs to update the plan.

Arizona:

- ✓ The State does not have a lot of natural disasters with the exception of wild fires and flash floods.
- ✓ Concern about shelters and how to make information available to people with disabilities (e.g., blind and deaf).
- ✓ Local health departments are to plan and develop/coordinate local shelters.
- ✓ For long term care (nursing) facilities in the state, a plan is needed for sheltering (required by law).

Gaps/Shortages:

- ✓ Trying to involve Native Americans in the planning process; there are 21 federally recognized tribes in the state.
- ✓ Concerned about children with special needs and kids being separated from their families.
- ✓ Concerned about care givers with disabilities.
- ✓ Concerned about people with "multiple chemical sensitivity disorders."
- ✓ Shortage of interpreters (e.g., Spanish speaking).
- ✓ Concerned about older people with dual or multiple impairments.

2. List and describe in narrative at least the three biggest challenges or barriers discussed.
[In select cases may mean that you repeat something you reported under #1]

- ✓ **HI has not tackled transportation during disasters. The City/County of Oahu has a fixed route system and paratransit in place...**

In narrative form report on what was said about each of the challenges/barriers identified above (Identify as 1, 2, or 3).

- 3. List and describe in narrative at least three “next step” action items identified during the session.**

- 1.**
- 2.**
- 3.**

In narrative form report on each of the action items identified above (Identify as 1, 2, or 3).

- 4. Report on other important issues that were discussed during Working Group.**

HI shared a slide presentation on Emergency Services Program (June 8, 2006) with emergency strategies and initiatives. It spoke to hub shelters, using large high schools (e.g., Farrington) for special needs.