

Functional Needs Planning

Greene County Ohio

Emergency preparedness and
Response

Where we started

* Defining Functional Needs –

FEMA document “*Interim Emergency Management Planning Guide for Special Needs*” version 1.0 (August 15, 2008)

Where we started

- * Definition of Special Needs population includes:
 - * **Maintaining independence**
 - * **Communication**
 - * **Transportation**
 - * **Supervision**
 - * **Medical care**

Individuals who may need additional assistance include those who have disabilities, living in institutional settings, elderly, children, those from diverse cultures, limited English proficiency, transportation disadvantaged.

Further defining of the Functional areas

- * **Maintain Independence** - access to electricity, accessible housing, personal assistance, DME, Interpreters, prescription meds, medical supplies
- * **Communicate** – Support to hear verbal announcements, see directional signs, read printed direction, communicate needs, to understand and respond to information or instruction, comprehend English
- * **Transport** – Lift equipped, power source for oxygen support, mass transportation for those without access.

Further defining of the Functional areas

- * **Supervise** – dependent children, impaired elderly, behavioral issues, cognitive or psychiatric disorders, intense anxiety, assistance with daily living activities
- * **Medical Care** – Managing acute and chronic conditions that require treatment or medication, wounds or ostomy sites, temporary medical situations, dialysis, oxygen or suction administration.

Establishing A Shared vision

* The group worked on:

A Mission Statement

“To enlist community resources to aide in preparedness and response efforts to appropriately address and plan for the integration of functional needs support services in Greene County.”

ESTABLISHING GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- * Identify & Evaluate Potential Shelter sites new & existing that meet the new federal criteria in each jurisdiction in Greene County.
- * Resource Typing of Shelter sites according to the capacity/capability/ect.
- * Identify Community Resources and create a resource directory to be available at shelters
- * Identify training needs to enhance our preparedness and response capacity as a community of responders and care agencies.

ESTABLISHING GENERAL OBJECTIVES

- * Identify training resources that already exist in the county which address identified training needs.
- * Written document to be included in the County Emergency Operations Plan (ESF 6) for Functional and Access Needs in Mass Care.
- * Facilitate the development of or identify needs for MOUs, MOAs or contracts between various agencies, businesses or organizations to ensure staffing, resources, services and equipment can be in place as needed.
- * Identify appropriate staffing needs to serve Functional Needs Population in general shelters and potential staffing resources in the community.

categorizing THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED:

- * **Sheltering** –Facilities, Staffing, Equipment & Supplies, and Resources. General health and safety for staff and the population served.
- * **Transportation** - Getting people evacuated to shelters, transported for medical services if needed. What resources do we have? What are the needs for safe transport concerning functional needs?
- * **Medical Care** -The challenge of maintaining specialized medical care and or equipment during power outages, during evacuations, and in shelters. Effective medical assessment, staffing and supplies.
- * **Communication** - How do we ensure vital emergency response information gets to everyone in a way that they actually receive it, understand it, and can act on it? (Notification) What mechanisms, tools, or devices may be needed in shelters or otherwise to facilitate effective communication?

categorizing THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED:

- * **Personal Preparedness/Education** - What individuals, family members, or service providers can do to be better prepared to meet the challenges an emergency may present. How can we get the word out? What mechanisms are there to be able to educate and raise awareness?
- * **Sheltering – in – Place** - What challenges this may present, how do we communicate in an effective and practical manner instruction/direction to ensure the functional needs are addressed?
- * **Evacuation** -What plans are currently in place, how do we communicate the information, and what’s available to assist those who may not be able to evacuate quickly without transportation assistance or special consideration for medical equipment, mobility ect.

Attempted to address some general questions

- * How many people fall into the categories in the county?
- * Where are they located within the county?
- * What Agencies or Organizations serve these populations?
- * What would the emergency preparedness and response needs be?
- * What resources are available in county to address the needs?
- * Where are the gaps?
- * What information and resources are available to help guide us?
- * Who should be involved in the planning?

Who is around the planning table and who else should be

- * Greene County Emergency Management Agency
- * American Red Cross
- * Public Health – Acting as Facilitator
- * Local Council on Aging
- * Local Hospital – Greene Memorial
- * Greene Co. DDS
- * Greene CATS
- * Fairborn EMS
- * Wright State University (MPH Program, Disability Office)
- * Access Center for Independent Living

Sought Resources and guidance

- * **Guidance on Planning for Integration of Functional Needs Support Services** in General Population Shelters Integrating Functional Needs Support Services *(November 2010)*
http://www.fema.gov/pdf/about/odc/fnss_guidance.pdf
- * **FEMA Course - IS-197.SP** “Functional Needs Planning Considerations for Service and Support Providers
<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is197SP.asp>
- * State Office of Emergency Management’s ESF-6 Mass Care of the Emergency Operations Plan http://ema.ohio.gov/EOP_Detail.aspx
scroll down and click on ESF #6 Mass Care

Sought Resources and guidance

- * Ready Materials Free Downloads – the order form is attached <http://www.ready.gov/america/publications/allpubs.html>
- * <http://www.disabilitypreparedness.gov/>
- * **An ADA Guide for Local Governments: Making Community Emergency Preparedness and Response Programs Accessible to People with Disabilities.** A 11-page illustrated publication that provides guidance on preparing for and carrying out emergency response programs in a manner that results in the services being accessible to people with disabilities.
[Emergency Preparedness Guide – HTML \(http://www.ada.gov/emergencyprepguide.htm\)](http://www.ada.gov/emergencyprepguide.htm)

Where are we now ?

- * Red Cross is evaluating existing shelter sites against the current federal and ADA standards.
- * A team has been identified assist with shelter evaluations (Fire, Law Enforcement, public health, EMA)
- * Establishing small work groups (Shelters, Transportation, Education)
- * Working within the West Central Ohio region those regional resources and shared planning (triage protocol, shelter staffing standards, hospital involvement)

Where are we now ?

- * Trying to identify medical and personal assistance care personnel to supplement Shelter staffing.
- * Drafting a functional needs addendum to the County Emergency Operations plan's ESF-6 (Mass Care) Annex.
- * Discussing ways to get the emergency preparedness message out to individuals, families, and agencies that provide services and care to the population.

ICE STORM 2/11: Lessons Learned

- * All shelter situations should be operated under ICS protocols so all necessary personnel can work together to resolve the problems as efficiently and effectively as possible. COMMUNICATION!!
- * Red Cross needed to have identified shelters that can accommodate special needs PRIOR to an incident occurring and work with the local EMA to carry through
- * Be prepared with a plan to address special needs population needs such as bariatric patients, psychologically unstable clients, medical needs

ICE STORM 2/11: Lessons Learned

- * Identify where/how to obtain needed equipment (both for the client and for the medical staff to use), emergency supplies of medications, caregivers, etc prior to an incident
- * Make plans for transportation that can be available at all hours of the day. Local transportation ended at 6 pm and clients were unable to get back to their homes when the shelters closed. Specifically address the bariatric patients and those needing to use specialized wheelchairs.

What we have learned

- * There are many existing resources already in the local communities.
- * Agencies and organizations are willing to help when they know what the needs are.
- * A notification and communication plan for when a shelter is going to be opened is key.
- * There is never a need to reinvent a wheel.

Contacts

* **Rich Schultz, Executive Director of Greene CATS**

Rschultze@co.greene.oh.us, 937-304-6333

* **Sheryl Wynn, MSPH, Greene Co. Emergency
Response Planner**

swynn@gcchd.org, 937-374-5670

* **Shari Martin, LSW, MPH, Social Worker**

smmartin@gcchd.org, 937-374-5664