

Coastal Health District 9-1

Special Medical Needs Planning

Presentation Topics

- Current Status of Planning
- Civil Rights and Emergency Management
- New Planning Initiatives



Coastal Georgia Evacuation

Homebound Medical Special Needs

- CHD Database
- Triage
- Level 1-5 system
(1 = self-care to 5 = hospital care)



Special Medical Needs Shelter

- Augusta, Macon, Warm Springs
- Evaluation, placement in more appropriate setting



**U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties**

**The Paradigm Shift in Planning
for Special Needs Populations**

Katrina



Executive Order #13347: Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness

- Policy: To ensure that the Federal Government appropriately supports safety and security for individuals with disabilities in all hazard situations.



DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

Federal Collaboration

- Lead “Special Needs” workgroup for NRP/NIMS revision
- Provide Federal guidance on use of phrase “Special Needs”
- Develop disability accommodation reference guide for disaster services.
- Provide guidance to Emergency Support Functions 6 and 8 and Target Capability working groups.

Defining Special Needs

No singular definition of the term “special needs” exists although “special needs” is a widely used term within the disaster services and emergency management world.


Special Needs - Functional Based Definition

Establishes a flexible framework to address a broad set of common function-based needs irrespective of specific diagnosis, status, or label

Special Needs – A Functional Based Definition

Medical Care

Includes individuals who do not have or have lost support from caregivers, family, or friends and need assistance with: managing unstable, terminal or contagious conditions that require observation and ongoing treatment; managing intravenous (IV) therapy, tube feeding, and vital signs; receiving dialysis, oxygen, and suction administration; managing wounds; and operating power-dependent equipment to sustain life. These individuals require support of trained medical professionals.



**FEMA's Guidance on Planning
for Integration of Functional
Needs Support Services in
General Population Shelters**

Purpose

- Planning guidance to augment existing shelter plans to meet access and functional needs in general population shelters
- Not designed to establish local government as single shelter operator or establish a new tier of sheltering

Scope

- **Functional Needs Support Services**
 - Services that enable individuals to maintain their independence in general population shelters
 - Includes reasonable modification to policies, practices, and procedures; durable medical equipment, consumable medical supplies, personal assistance services, other goods or services as needed

Who May Benefit From FNSS?

- Individuals with physical, sensory, mental health, and cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities affecting their ability to function independently without assistance
- Temporary conditions
 - Women in late stages of pregnancy
 - Post-surgical
 - Injuries
- Elders
- Individuals needing bariatric equipment

Applicable Laws

- Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Fair Housing Act
- Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act
- Homeland Security Act of 2002
- Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act

Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) 2006

- Address preparedness for at-risk individuals in public health and medical emergencies

Before, during and after an incident members of the special needs population may have additional needs in one or more of the following functional areas:

- *Maintaining independence*
- *Communication,*
- *Transportation,*
- *Supervision, and*
- *Medical care*

Civil Rights and Emergency Management

Key Principles of Disability Law

- **Self-Determination** – People with disabilities are the most knowledgeable about their own needs.
- **No “One Size Fits All”** – People with disabilities do not all require the same assistance and do not all have the same needs.
- **Equal Opportunity** – People with disabilities must have the same opportunities to benefit from emergency programs, services, and activities as people without disabilities.

Civil Rights and Emergency Management

Key Principles of Disability Law (continued)

- **Inclusion** – People with disabilities have the right to participate in and receive the benefits of emergency programs, services, and activities provided by governments, private businesses, and nonprofit organizations .
- **Integration** – Emergency programs, services, and activities typically must be provided in an integrated setting.
- **Physical Access** – Emergency programs, services, and activities must be provided at locations that all people can access, including people with disabilities .
- **Equal Access** – People with disabilities must be able to access and benefit from emergency programs, services, and activities equal to the general population.

Civil Rights and Emergency Management

Key Principles of Disability Law (continued)

- **Effective Communication** – Given information comparable in content and detail to that given to the general public, as well as accessible, understandable, and timely
- **Program Modifications** – Equal access to emergency programs and services, which may entail modifications to rules, policies, practices, and procedures .
- **No Charge** – No charge to cover the costs of measures necessary to ensure equal access and nondiscriminatory treatment

Special Needs – Functional Based Definition

Maintaining Independence

Supports for independence in daily activities such as durable medical equipment or mobility devices



Special Needs – A Functional Based Definition

Communication

Limitations that interfere with the receipt of and response to information. They may not be able to hear verbal announcement, see directional signage, or understand how to get assistance all because of hearing, vision, speech, cognitive or intellectual limitations, and limited English proficiency



Special Needs – A Functional Based Definition

Transportation

Individuals who cannot drive due to the presence of a disability or who do not have a vehicle or knowledge of how/where to access mass transportation used in evacuation



Special Needs – A Functional Based Definition

Supervision

Individuals may lose the support of caregivers, family, or friends or may be unable to cope in a new environment; have conditions such as dementia, Alzheimer's and psychiatric conditions; and unaccompanied children will require supervision to make decisions affecting their welfare.

Aging Population Trends

- In 2011, the “baby boom” generation will begin to turn 65.
- By 2030, it is projected that one in five people will be age 65 or older.
- The size of the older population is projected to double over the next 30 years, growing to 70 million by 2030.
- The population age 85 and older is the fastest growing segment of the older population.
- Over half of the population lives in coastal region

Planning Considerations

Sheltering and Mass Care

- Life safety issues are first priority
- Provision of appropriate level of care based on functional need
- Shelter intake assessment process
- Resource management
- Service animals
- Planning for individuals living at home requiring home health care and/or personal care assistance

Key Components of Planning

- Dietary
- Service animals
- Communication (strategies and devices)
- Bathing and toileting needs
- Quiet area
- Mental health services
- Medical services

Key Components of Planning

- Medication (access, storage, disposal)
- Transportation services
- Assistance locating, securing, and moving to post-disaster alternative housing
- Assistance with activities of daily living
- Transitioning back to the community
- Closing the shelter

Operational Tools

- Excerpts and examples from various agencies and jurisdictions
- 37 different tools

Operational Tool #19 Dietary-Menu

One Day Menu for General Population Shelter	Menu for general population shelters, including modifications for persons who are diabetic, required reduced sodium, pureed diets and infants and children
Source	BCFS; www.bcfs.net/fnssrecommendations ; One Day Menu for General Population Shelters Providing Functional Needs Support Services; Appendix 6

Appendices

- Appendix 1: ADA Checklist for Emergency Shelters
- Appendix 2: FORM: Contact Information for Shelter Services Providers
- Appendix 3: Durable Medical Equipment Sample List
- Appendix 4: Consumable Medical Supply Sample List
- Appendix 5: Guidance on Providing Personal Assistance Services

Appendices - Continued

- Appendix 6: One Day Menu for General Population Shelters Providing Functional Needs Support Services
- Appendix 7: FORM: Resident Health Care Information
- Appendix 8: FORM: Medication Administration Record
- Appendix 9: FORM: Transportation Request Information
- Appendix 10: FORM: Resident Discharge Information

Planning Considerations

Evacuation

- Transportation resources identified, coordinated, and incorporated at all levels of government with consideration of mobility limitations.
- Keep individuals with disabilities who have mobility devices, other durable medical goods, and service animals together
- Establish a system to evacuate pre-identified individuals
- Evacuate medically fragile prior to the general population when time permits
- Sustain people over the course of an evacuation

CDC PH Target Capabilities: Mass Care

- Coordinate with partner agencies to address the public health, medical, and mental/ behavioral health needs
- Coordination of ongoing surveillance and assessment to ensure that health needs continue to be met as the incident evolves

Collaborative Partnerships



Questions?

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