

# **Inclusive Collaborative Local Emergency Planning For and With Individuals with Disabilities**

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**American Public Health Association**

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## **Presenter Disclosures**

Susan Wolf-Fordham

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(1) The following personal financial relationships with commercial interests relevant to this presentation existed during the past 12 months:

No relationships to disclose

## Emergency Preparedness Initiative: Close Policy and Practice Gaps

Disability Community:  
Equal Access & Equity

Responders/Managers:  
Efficiency

Community:  
Public Health & Resilience

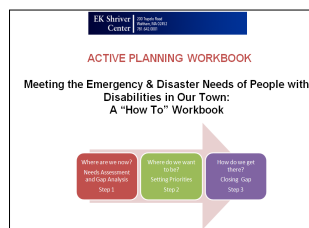
## Background: Policy/Practice Gap

- History of negative impacts
  - Lost access to health care, social services
  - Lost independence
- Legal rights violations (ADA)
  - Gaps in emergency plans
  - Individual instances of discrimination
- Legal enforcement
  - Class action lawsuits
  - DOJ Project Civic Access
- Emergency planning guidance; philosophy

## 2011-2013: Responder Training & Community Stakeholder Meeting

- Developed curriculum and CSM process with strong stakeholder input
  - Stakeholder advisory committee
  - Expert review
  - Field test and feedback session
- Participants: Responders and disability community members
- IRB determination not human subject research
- Responder training in 29 localities. CSM in 21 localities (overlap). 854 participants.

## Workbook to Guide CSM Process



- CSM is a meeting to assess gaps in local emergency plan and response practice and develop a remediation plan
- Workbook
  - Outlines **3 step process using 3 tools**
  - Sparks discussion and problem solving
  - Records gaps, decisions, accomplishments

## *Text of Workbook Cover Graphic*

Active Planning Workbook

Meeting the emergency and disaster needs of people with disabilities in our town: A "how to" workbook.

3 tools and 3 steps:

- 1: Where are we now? Needs assessment/gap analysis tool
- 2: Where do we want to be? Setting priorities
- 3: How do we get there? Closing the gap

## *Step 1: Analyze Plan/Practice Gaps*

Complete topical checklists

- Local disability demographics and needs
- Emergency planning process
- Public preparedness education
- Alerts/warnings
- Transportation/evacuation
- Shelter set up/operation
- Hazmat decontamination
- Emergency dispensing sites
- Recovery

## Sheltering Checklist Example

- Our community's shelter layout plan takes into account the likely needs of people with disabilities
  - accessible cots placed near accessible restrooms
  - accessible cots placed adjacent to a wall when needed
  - privacy issues and need for quiet space addressed

## Step 2: Set Priorities

Count checkmarks and blank spaces from Step 1

- Identify areas of greatest need (blank spaces)
- Determine areas for quick and inexpensive solutions
- Identify successes

## Step 3: Develop Action Plan

### Complete action plan template

- Summarize priority gaps/areas of need
- Record gap closing strategies
- List responsible person(s)
- Establish timeline

## CSM Results

- SAS 9.3 statistical software
- **Responders** (N=113): High level of satisfaction/usefulness. Mean satisfaction score 3.62. Mean usefulness score 3.60 (S.D.=.43 for both, max. possible score of 4)
- **Disability Community** (N=70): Mean satisfaction score 3.7 (S.D.=.47, max. possible score of 4). 95% reported increased motivation to prepare and 69% reported learning something new

## Workbook Assessment

Question (Likert scale 1-4; 1=do not agree at all; 4=agree very much)	Responder Mean (S.D.) N=113	Disability Community Mean (S.D.) N=70
Workbook useful in identifying gaps	3.59 (.58)	3.59 (.58)
Workbook useful in setting priorities and developing plan	3.54 (.57)	3.65 (.87)
Workbook useful in helping improve emergency plan	3.64 (.55)	3.76 (.43)

## CSM Results

- 100% of localities (N=21) found at least 5 gaps and developed generally low cost gap closing strategies *during* CSM
- 8 localities reported continuing work after project end
- Common gaps and priorities:
  - Communication
  - Disability community needs assessment
  - Inadequate resources, services

## Sample Gap Closing Strategies

- Add congregate care settings to plan
- Disability providers to disseminate public education info to constituents
- Revise shelter service animal policy
- Outreach re Personal Care Assistants
- Identify local resources
  - Expertise - local tech company (website support)
  - Equipment - local special ed. class (Hoyer Lift); Council on Aging (wheelchairs); library (CCTV video magnifier)
  - Personnel - hospital (ASL interpreters)

## 2013-2014: Evolution

- Requests for CSMs continued after initial funding ended
- Regional public health emergency planning coalitions requested CSMs and individual strategies tailored to their communities
- 162 participants (responders and disability community); very limited data collection
- Team began thinking about a more efficient “train the trainer model” to deliver online instruction re CSMs



## 2014-2015: Online Course

- To teach CSM process
- Participants: Local public health and safety emergency planners (change agents)
- Expert curriculum review
- Format: Interactive role play simulation; ongoing storyline
- Learners queried re attitudes about and perceived obstacles to CSMs
- Technology: Moodle LMS; accessible
- IRB determination not human subject research
- Progress: Small pre-pilot completed. 2<sup>nd</sup> pre-pilot, pilot scheduled

## Limitations and Future Projects

- Limitations
  - Phase 1 data only from MA
  - Phase 2 limited data collection
  - Phase 3 online course limited to those with internet access and relevant computer skills
- Future Plans
  - Open course to all responders and disability community members in U.S.
  - Develop and implement CSM quality evaluation tool
  - Develop and implement tool to evaluate local emergency plan revision process

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## For More Information

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