



Phoenix Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Disability Stakeholder Work Group

ADA Accessibility Training & Site Assessments

On April 19 and 20, 2016, BCFS HHS staff conducted a training session and site assessments for City of Phoenix staff using information from the U.S. Department of Justice Americans with Disabilities Act Checklist for Emergency Shelters. BCFS HHS led site assessments for two of the five identified shelter sites, training and modeling for the City of Phoenix site assessment team, who assessed the remaining three sites. The assessed facilities were Goelet Beuf Community Center, Deer Valley Community Center, Paradise Valley Community Center, Desert West Community Center, and South Mountain Community Center.



BCFS instructing City of Phoenix staff

Many of these sites can accommodate over 150 guests. BCFS HHS provided recommendations to the City after assessments of the sites.

The Deer Valley Community Center Assessment Survey Summary Report was provided at the Disability Stakeholder Meeting held May 24th, 2016.

Disability Community Highlight

Doing Better Together: Modernizing Community Involvement

On May 24th, 2016, the Disability Stakeholder Workgroup received a whole community presentation from June Isaacson Kailes, Disability Policy Consultant.

June Isaacson Kailes operates a Disability Policy Consulting practice and is the Associate Director, at the Center for Disability and Health Policy, at Western University of Health Sciences, Pomona, California. In the early 1980s, June became one of just a handful of people with disabilities who focused on disability and aging related emergency issues.



June is well known for her pioneering work in conceiving, promoting, and moving the emergency management world from the vague "special needs" focus to operationalizing an access and functional needs approach to planning and response.

June presented on the meaning of whole community planning, public engagement, and building partnerships. She also conducted a tabletop (discussion-based) exercise focusing on organizations that provide direct services for people in the disability community. The objective was for these agencies to think about their roles in an emergency and how they would continue to support their community and/or consumers during a local incident.

BCFS HHS Update

The plan review and revision process has remained fluid and evolved as BCFS HHS continues to receive new information from both government and stakeholder groups. The project team has drafted the Population Protection Annex and portions of the ESF #6 Mass Care Annex for the City's review and revision. Stakeholder feedback was provided to the project team after requesting input on the Concept of Operations Section within the Population Protection Annex. These comments and/or recommendations will be assessed to ensure whole community planning as these plans enter into the functional needs support services (FNSS) review.

During development of the Mass Care Annex draft, the project team continued to further define gaps and provide recommendations for remediation. BCFS HHS developed a mass care strategy document to guide City of Phoenix staff and accompany the development of the ESF #6: Mass Care Annex. This document includes information, tools, methodologies, and sources that the City of Phoenix can employ to address the identified gaps. Successful meetings, including the Mass Care Strategy Workshop were conducted with many community partners including the American Red Cross (ARC), Maricopa County Emergency Management, and Arizona State Mass Care Coordinator in attendance. Participants in the discussion identified gaps in shelter capacity, accessibility, and staffing, to name a few. Planning efforts with these partners are ongoing and will continue to close identified gaps using the mass care strategy document as a guide.

After gathering considerable information from recent mass care meetings and the mass care strategy workshop, several standard operating procedures (SOP) have been drafted and provided to the City of Phoenix for review. They include: Shelter Assessments SOP, Shelter Site Selection SOP, Shelter Activation SOP, and Shelter Set-up SOP. In addition, initial drafts of the Warning Annex and ESF#15 External Affairs have also been developed and are under BCFS review which will be shared with the City of Phoenix by July 30th, 2016.

Need to Know:

There are two (2) trainings being offered by the American Red Cross (ARC) and Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management (MCDEM) in the months of July and September 2016. The Whole Community Sheltering courses are *How to Support Sheltering* and *The Function of Red Cross Shelters*. If interested in attending these courses, please go to www.erma.az.gov for online registration.

Thank you again for your continued assistance.

- BCFS HHS Inclusionary Planning Project Team

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Send questions, comments
or suggested topics
to City of Phoenix
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