

NJ GAINED Meeting

Location: Alliance Center for Independence

April 25, 2016

Participants: Joseph Amoroso- Division of Disability Services, Rachel Trapman-Division of Children and Family OEM, Mary Lamielle, Cynthia McGetigan-Dept of Aging, Luke Koppish-Alliance Center for Independent Living, Thelma _____, Julie Petix-Department of Health, Jim Flemming-FEMA, Bill _____-FEMA, Anne Gordon-Goodwill Home Medical, Brett Michelson-OEM, Yessi Cubillo-Renal Network, John Ferguson- Middlesex County OEM, Denise Lyles-Department of Aging, Rico Alexander-FEMA, Jonathan Sabin-Division of Disability Services, Kelly Boyd-NJSP, Christine Hines-Alliance Center for Independence, Stan Soden- Moceans Center for Independent Living, Norman Smith-Project Freedom, Ina White-Boggs Center, Megan Sullivan

I. NJ GAINED Updates

- A. Core Advisory Group-Jim Flemming, FEMA: Jim Flemming (FEMA) gave an overview of Core Advisory Groups/development of Core Advisory Groups. The Next Core Advisory Group meeting is May 23th; Marcie Roth will be on conference call presenting. Core Advisory Groups are either led by a CIL or other disability group in the community. CAGs are not a creation by government jurisdiction; that group asks the county to partner with it. Jim Flemming would like the CILs to host a briefing; he would provide support/services to the county, and then step back. Kelly and Joe could work with counties to help create CAGS. A recommendation is to consider approaching 1-2 counties, establish the CAG, then move to other counties. Examples of operational CAGS include Middlesex county, Nassau NY, ARISE Center for Independent Living, Cortland county (rural NY), Jefferson county (upstate NY), Broom County NY. Rockland County NJ-Rockland CIL has a seat on EO Committee.

Luke Koppish (Alliance Center for Independence) stated they are working with Somerset and Union county for CAGS, and hope to be working with Ocean County which is interested in setting up CAG.

- B. Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)-Julie Petix: Updated NJGAINED regarding recent take your daughters and sons to work day which included a presentation by Lydia Fecteau and her service dog Phoenix.

The online training regarding people with disabilities for EMS and MRC is being updated. A medical needs shelter workshop will be held in AC in November. An emergency infections disease program in Middlesex County at the Sayreville Fire Academy.

- c. NJSP-Kelly Boyd-Update on Sheltering Task Force-Task for is almost done, The task force went around with checklists regarding AFN, what the shelter has, gaps/and anything NJOEM can do to assist with best practices. Register Ready will have system updates and be offline briefly, then back on with changes.

John Ferguson regarding Red Cross Shelters: OEM would like to have 2 county facilities with 10 volunteers available at each of the 10 shelters. Remind everyone to consider pet preparedness in their planning. The Red Cross has a new National Disability Integration Coordinator; there are major changes taking place to address people with disabilities. They are looking for voluntary disability integration advisors.

Kelly Boyd regarding Red Cross Shelters: Red Cross is partnering with Port light Strategies to develop more inclusive policies and procedures.

Luke Koppish regarding Red Cross Shelters: Alliance Center provided training at a Red Cross regional training. Paul Timmons put together a PowerPoint on assisting people with Access and Functional Needs.

II. Update from Members

1. Megan Sullivan, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services: DMHAS is presentation on issues with substance abuse in shelters/in disasters. If the needs of individuals with substance issues are addressed can be managed; unaddressed, can lead to people becoming sick and anxious. DMHAS is providing a program for MRC's in several counties.
2. Joseph Amoroso, Division of Disability Services: DDS will be at the Abilities Expo in Edison, with the new 2016 resource guide, which contains several pages on emergency preparedness.
 - a. Kelly Boyd: at 1 p.m. Friday, there will be a panel discussion at the Expo regarding emergency preparedness. Luke Koppish will be participating. A booth on emergency preparedness will be open every day of the expo. DDS will be contributing "Go Bags."
3. John Ferguson, Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management: April 30, 2016-training exercise at the Princeton Particle physics lab; 5 counties will participate. John Ferguson will be giving a talk on sheltering at the NJERA conference.
4. NJSP-Kelly Boyd: There will be an AFN Training with FEMA-May 11 at the ROC- regarding integrating persons with disabilities, from 8:00-4:00. Participants must apply through the training website.
5. Luke Koppish and Carole Tonks, Alliance Center: Presenting for FEMA in May

IV. Additional Discussion:

Jim Flemming; Discussed inviting Paul Timmons to region to brief disability partners in his role and implications for the region. Paul Timmons is based in North Carolina. FEMA has plan if there is a need for distribution of medications on a rapid basis.

John Ferguson - Middlesex practices frequently with getting medication to emergency services and making adjustment to speed up the process. The CDC has watched their operations.

Louis Lebbling asked about getting the word out about shelters. John Ferguson stated that the location of shelters is not advertised for safety (terrorism, etc.), and location will be disseminated via door-to-door notification, PA, reversed 9-1-1, etc. Check the municipalities' website.

There was a general group discussion on EOC, CERT etc. for training and information. Register Ready identifies people for local OEM; it is not pulled up for small scale power outages, etc.

Luke Koppish recommends Include senior services in each county

Joe Amoroso discussed there is a need to change the culture; to make sure people understand the limits of government.

Ina White discussed It is important to get the word out and be personally involved.

Kelly Boyd discussed the Text to 9-1-1 initiative. Process is slow due to tech challenges with different service providers but the project is moving forward. There was a recent Point of Distribution (POD) exercises with public Health nurses and others from Mercer, Hunterdon, and Somerset counties. Not many people with disabilities participated, but event was not widely advertised.

V. Upcoming Meetings:

The next NJGAINED meeting will be Monday June 27, 2016