

**Governor's Commission on Community Based Alternatives
For Individuals with Disabilities
Healthcare Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2006
Margaret M. O'Neill Building, Dover, De.
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Joe Connor, Karen Gallagher, Jamie Wolfe, Miranda Marquez, Al Rose, Victor Orija, Rita Marocco, Tim Brooks, Kyle Hodges, Ray Beaudry, Dick Patterson, Anne Phillips

Guests: Neal Mills, Deputy Secretary Safety and Homeland Security, Marilyn Kowalchuk of DEMA, Jamie Turner of DEMA Emergency Operations Center

- I. Introduction and Welcome by Pat
- II. Discussion with Deputy Secretary of Safety and Homeland Security, Mr. Neal Mills, on Emergency Preparedness for People with Disabilities – Mr. Mills presented on planning in Delaware. The State Plan for emergency preparedness has just been submitted for review at a national level per the President's Order for all citizens of Delaware (review questions will be sent via e-mail). There will be a visit by the federal planning for Homeland Security in 5-6 months for an in-person review. This will include plans for people with special needs. Public Health sits at the table in planning for emergency preparedness.

Mr. Turner presented the activities that have taken place for displaced persons after the recent hurricanes. One of the issues that is included is special needs. Weather conditions are brought to their attention a week in advance so activities that need to occur can happen if there is to be an evacuation. Local entities are included in these discussions. Everyday services and supports are utilized during an emergency. The number one priority is life saving. The second is alleviate the emergency. The third is management of property destruction. The National Guard and Air Force Base can be utilized for movement of people out of the area for safety. Most major travel paths close at 40 miles per hour winds; bridges, tunnels, etc. Once the storm is over, a "recovery plan" is developed and implemented regionally. There are 2 Special Needs shelters in Delaware. People would be notified via the emergency management system on where to go for emergency purposes. If

someone doesn't answer the 911 call, emergency staff will be dispersed to check on that person who didn't answer the "reverse 911 call". State agencies are responsible for developing plans for people who live in institutions and group homes. We must depend on the 911 system to find those who live in the community. Local agencies and policymakers are responsible for planning at the local level for all emergencies. We must contact local entities to begin our work on planning for people with disabilities.

Ms. Kowalchuk presented the process for developing the emergency plans for the State. Plans are not developed in a vacuum. Input is gained from those who have an interest and expertise. Catastrophic Planning Steering Committee coordinates this process. There are currently 50 members of this Committee. The Committee is looking to fine tune the current Emergency Plan and will include issues for people with special needs. A representative from our Healthcare Subcommittee should be a Member of the CPSC to provide expertise and input. A plan is constantly reviewed and updated to keep on top of each emergency. An invitation was offered and we accepted to become involved with the Steering Committee. Ms. Kowalchuk will contact Pat with the details for the next Committee meeting.

All people with special needs have to be on the 911 register to get a reverse call from 911 in times of emergencies. We may invite the 911 coordinator to a future meeting. The Subcommittee will follow up on plans that have been and are being developed for emergency preparedness. George Wright Delaware League of Local Governments is someone we need to interact with soon. Mr. Turner will provide us with tools that we need to share with our community.

- III. Request from Dr. Tom Kelly of DDDS: Health Survey – Dr. Kelly was unable to be present this date. He will present at a later date.
- IV. Update for the Commission on Priorities: What to Do with \$250,000 – Due to time constraints, we were unable to address the rest of the issues on the Agenda. These will be deferred to the next meeting.
- V. Surgeon General's Call to Action to Improve the Health and Wellness of Persons with Disabilities 2005 (www.surgeongeneral.gov)
- VI. Next Meeting Date – The next meeting is scheduled for **February 28th from 10-12 at the Margaret M. O'Neill Building in Dover.**
- VII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at