

Fall 2018



CIEP ALERT

A Publication by the
COALITION ON INCLUSIVE EMERGENCY PLANNING
of the Washington State Independent Living Council (WASILC)



MR. CIEP GOES TO WASHINGTON



FEMA

Jim House, Disability Integration Manager for the Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning was one of two people selected by Region 10 of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to participate in the agency's Strategic Planning efforts for 2018 to 2022. The other nine FEMA regions also sent advocates to one of several strategic planning meetings that took place during the last quarter of 2018 in Washington, DC. FEMA's Region 10 is comprised of the states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. FEMA will explore the effectiveness of its current policies, and develop new procedures to align with the following three goals outlined its Strategic Plan for 2018-2022:

1. Build a culture of preparedness where everyone should be prepared when disaster strikes.
2. Ready the nation for catastrophic disasters and enhance our collective readiness.
3. Reduce the complexity of FEMA to promote simpler, less complex processes to streamline the processes for individuals and communities to receive necessary support through its response lifelines.



On November 8, 2018, the meeting room was filled with disability advocates from various FEMA regions. Two national advocates, Marcie Roth, CEO of Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies, and Kelly Buckland, Executive Director of the National Council on Independent Living, also attended this meeting. FEMA Region 10 also selected Deborah Witmer, the Vulnerable Populations Planning Coordinator for Seattle Emergency Management, but for a different meeting in October.

FEMA Administrator, Brock Long, says, "If we continue to do emergency management in the traditional way, we will get traditional results."

DISABILITY SERVICE CUTBACKS

A series of FEMA Administrator's Partner Strategy Sessions focused on disability integration and coordination. The impact of one cutback is raising concerns among national disability subject matter experts. Previously, the typical FEMA protocol is to send a group of 60 disability integration specialists to the disaster zone where they can provide direct assistance to survivors with disabilities. As of this year, the agency has been sending only five disability experts to work with the Incident Commander and oversee recovery services in the aftermath of a major disaster.

What CIEP is mostly concerned about is the steep loss of ADA expertise during disasters. We would like to see more disability specialists on the state and local levels as well and hope that FEMA will support us in this area. We must remember, that an ADA checklist for shelter accessibility is pretty much useless in the hands of someone without the experience of living with a disability, and does not really know what to look for. And it is not possible to evaluate access and functional needs if you are not on site.

COMMUNITY LIFELINES

A new way of reporting status during the response phase comes from the National Response Framework, which was recently updated to include Community Lifelines. A lifeline is a sector that provides an indispensable service that enables the continuous operation of critical business and government functions, and is critical to human health and safety, or economic security.

The seven lifelines are: 1. Safety and Security, 2. Food, Water, Sheltering, 3. Health and Medical, 4. Energy (Power and Fuel), 5. Communications, 6. Transportation, and 7. Hazardous Waste. These lifelines may include multiple components. For example, the

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Puyallup Hosts FAST Exercise



CIEP stakeholders participated in a Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST) training and exercise hosted by King and Pierce Counties. In photo from L-R: Todd Holloway, Center for Independence (CFI); Jeff Hartsen, Brain Energy Support Team; Kim Peterson, Pierce County Human Services; Ashley Hintz, CFI; Victoria Hoy, Nurse Volunteer; Serina McWha, FAST Program Coordinator; Kelvin Miller, Western State Hospital; and Thu-Ha Le, HSDC. Photo credit: Serina McWha



components in #5 (Communications) would include: A. Infrastructure, B. Alerts, Warnings, and Messages, C. 911 and Dispatch, and D. Responder Communications. The lifeline concept is designed to highlight priority areas and interdependencies, draw attention to actions being taken, communicate coordination efforts towards stabilization, and integrate information. Lifeline reports focus on stabilization rather than restoration.

Community Response Lifelines provides us with a different way of looking at our response to disasters in context. When damage to a lifeline is severe, the report will be color-coded as red. Moderate damage is shown as yellow while stable situations are shown as green. For example, if a bridge was damaged in an earthquake, a temporary structure is in place for vehicles to use when transporting supplies. This situation would be considered stable even though the bridge has not been restored to pre-disaster status.

Reports on each lifeline will include a survey of the different components, an assessment of the current status and its impact on overall population and on specific population groups. A plan of action would be developed for each component with a proposed timeline for stabilizing that lifeline during the response phase. The plans would be developed in collaboration with local stakeholders and emergency management leaders.

An information sheet about Homeland Security's Community Lifelines can be found at https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1536675521380-77590320af09964122d19890c1417efa/Community_Lifelines_Information_Sheet.pdf

CIEP is a statewide advisory group that brings expertise and perspectives into disaster planning based on access and functional needs (AFN) faced by people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations in these areas: 1. Effective communications, 2. Programmatic Access, and 3. Physical Access. Do email us with your thoughts for future issues.

Contact CIEP:

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News & Resources

NEWS:

Without captions, warnings about Hurricane Michael failed to reach disabled

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-storm-michael-disabilities/without-captions-warnings-about-hurricane-michael-failed-to-reach-disabled-idUSKCN1MN0D0?fbclid=IwAR0A9gEVSSM8g4FqcLhYAtWo7r65aLHOVvjujiFuzgMYdppFR9NlifVO3M>

In California wildfires, disabled people may be left behind

<https://sf.curbed.com/2018/11/13/18087964/california-wildfires-disabled-people-eldery-evacuation-disabilities?fbclid=IwAR33reGnZaGz36fDc9M63pF8Csum24EZlaMqmZIDLQRYEIAQjEL98xn6G6Q>

As disasters strike, advocates worry FEMA policy changes put disability community at risk

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/as-disasters-strike-advocates-worry-fema-policy-changes-put-disability-community-at-risk?fbclid=IwAR1zHwUF6xNM4AYid1rMRxkT4HRpUpM6uWccbV3jZfgsY754oFR9PAkj32w>

RESOURCES:

**U.S. Dept. of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy
— Emergency Preparedness**

<https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/EmergencyPreparedness.htm>



Coming Events:

CIEP Quarterly Meetings Note: All meetings begin at 10:00am and end at 11:30am.

WHEN: Next meeting: 12/12/2018

Future meetings: 3/20/2019 6/19/2019

WHERE: DVR Headquarters, 4565 7th Ave. SE Lacey, WA 98503 (Conference Room)

Washington State Independent Living Council (WASILC) Quarterly Meetings

Two-day meeting Day #1: 9:00am - 4:00pm Day #2: 9:00am - 2:00pm

WHEN: 1/15-16/2019 4/11-12/2019 7/11-12/2019 10/3-4/2019

WHERE: Olympia Bellingham Vancouver Wenatchee

On Day #1 of each WASILC quarterly meetings, a public forum is held from 1:00 to 3:30 pm to gather information and advice from the local disability community, consumers, service providers, and the public to identify what is working in their area, as well as identify gaps and barriers. Call Nicole at 360.725.3693 for more information.

All CIEP and WASILC Quarterly Meetings are open to everyone, per the Open Public Meetings Act (RCW 42.30). ASL interpreters are provided. For all other reasonable accommodation requests, please contact Jim House at HouseJ@dshs.wa.gov at least two weeks prior to the meeting.