

**INTERAGENCY COORDINATION COUNCIL ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES
4TH QUARTERLY MEETING
THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2005
10:00AM – 12:00PM**

Meeting Participants

Participants included representatives from the following organizations:

Peg Bleckman, Access Board
Randall Pope, American Association for the Deaf-Blind
Elizabeth Spiers, (American Association for the Deaf-Blind
Roberta Carlin, American Association on Health and Disability
Kelly Potter, American Occupational Therapy Association
Tom Zampieri, Blinded Veterans of America
Bruce McFarlane, Department of Agriculture
John Surina, Department of Agriculture
Jeff Nulf, Department of Commerce
Jorge Ponce, Department of Commerce
Dennis Legel, Department of Defense
Ruth Brannon, Dept. of Education
Bonnie Gracer, Department of Education
John Hager, Department of Education
Andrew Patterson, Department of Energy
Dave Pegram, Department of Energy
Carol Baker, Department of Health and Human Services
Leah Lavine, Department of Health and Human Services
Tom Valluzi, Department of Health and Human Services
Marc Wolfson, Department of Health and Human Services
Deana Amendolia, Department of Homeland Security
Ed Buikema, Department of Homeland Security- FEMA
Tom Choman, Department of Homeland Security
Jim Dart, Department of Homeland Security- FEMA
Debbie Fulmer, Department of Homeland Security
Tracey Gilliland, Department of Homeland Security
Claudia Gordon, Department of Homeland Security
Kristin Hogan, Department of Homeland Security
Michael Jackson, Department of Homeland Security
Ryan Killeen, Department of Homeland Security
Jill Rhodes, Department of Homeland Security
Valerie Smith, Department of Homeland Security
Daniel Sutherland, Department of Homeland Security)
Christine Louton, Department of the Interior
Aquanetta Newson, Department of the Interior
Ollie Cantos, Department of Justice

Bradley J. Schlozman, Department of Justice
Beth Bienvu, Department of Labor
Kim Cook, Department of Labor
Dr. Roy Grizzard, Department of Labor
Nadia Ibrahim, Department of Labor
Brian Parsons, Department of Labor
Brenda Harris, Department of State
Maggie Morse, Department of State
John Benison, Department of Transportation
Kathleen Brockman, Department of Transportation
Tracy Colligan, Department of Transportation
Jennifer Critchlow, Department of Transportation
Tony Tisdale, Department of Transportation
Michael Trujillo, Department of Transportation
James Carr, Environmental Protection Agency
Christopher Kuczynski, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Monica Desai, Federal Communications Commission
Jay Keithley, Federal Communications Commission
Cheryl King, Federal Communications Commission
Wendell Watkins, General Services Administration
Anne Rader, National Council on Disability
Jeff Rosen, National Council on Disability
James McCarthy, National Federation of the Blind
Hilary C. Styron, National Organization on Disability
Cheryl Heppner, Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Persons
John Martin, Office of Personnel Management
Mark Robbins, Office of Personnel Management
Dr. George Bouthilet, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
Kathy Hargett, President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities
Cynthia Jones, Social Security Administration
Marcy Jacobs, SRA International, Inc.
Stacy Peerbolte, United States Senate- Sergeant at Arms Office

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY DAN SUTHERLAND, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY, OFFICER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES**

On July 21st, 2005, the Interagency Coordinating Council met for its fourth quarterly meeting in the Commission Meeting Room of the FCC building. Daniel Sutherland opened the meeting by acknowledging the one year anniversary of Executive Order 13347, July 22, 2004. Mr. Sutherland remarked that in its first year, the ICC accomplished a great deal in its collaboration and the quarterly meeting is a review of the past year's actions. The agenda for the meeting included: review of the year's accomplishments, unveiling of significant work ready to release to the public, and discussion of future plans.

Mr. Sutherland spent the next few moments acknowledging and thanking all of the contributing agencies for their collaborative efforts. In total, 24 federal agencies were involved in the work of the ICC and eight agencies in particular contributed very substantial resources to the work. Mr. Sutherland recognized the work of the ICC as “unchartered,” lacking any templates for the group to follow. As a result, there was notable innovation demonstrated.

The first of significant work unveiled was the Council’s Report to the President. The next, the Council’s first newsletter, meant to raise awareness for emergency planning for people with disabilities both within the disability community, and also, among emergency management officials.

INTRODUCTION OF DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, MICHAEL JACKSON

Mr. Sutherland introduced the first group speaker, Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Michael Jackson. The Honorable Michael Jackson began his speech by thanking the group for contributing to such an important subject. Mr. Jackson commented on post-911 anxieties for people with disabilities and how it is the job of the federal government to make sure that the disability community lives without fear. Mr. Jackson concluded his speech by thanking the ICC on behalf of the secretary of the Department of Homeland Security and reminding the Council of DHS’s commitment to this initiative for the indefinite future.

INTRODUCTION OF SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, JOHN H. HAGER

Mr. Sutherland introduced the next speaker, Secretary of Education, John Hager. The Honorable John Hager began his speech by thanking all of those affiliated with the ICC and commenting on the importance of organization, structure, and management in emergency preparedness and that these qualities define the Council. Mr. Hager continued to report of the successes of the Department of Education on the past year with regard to the ICC, which included many lessons learned from other initiatives such as, the National Organization of Disability conference, the Bethesda Evacuation Conference, teachings from the Department of Labor, and the evacuation of the Capitol. Mr. Hager concluded his speech with congratulations for the past year, and also, a reminder of the challenges for the year ahead as the work of emergency preparedness in the Department of Homeland Security is never finished.

INTRODUCTION OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Mr. Sutherland continued the quarterly meeting by introducing the eight different groups that have been leading the work of the Council. Each group presented to the Council the reports of the accomplishments through the year, as well as the goals for the year to come.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL)

The first group to report, the Department of Labor, chaired by Secretary Roy Grizzard began by thanking the Council. Dr. Grizzard followed by commenting on the importance of one matter of priority on the President's agenda—providing safety in emergency situations for all citizens of the United States. He continued with introducing the Emergency Preparedness in the Workplace report and thanked the four agencies that greatly contributed to the report: The Office of Personnel Management, General Services Administration, the EEOC, and finally, the Department of Justice. He also reported that the Workplace Committee created a template with instructions of how to provide safe environments in the workplace for people with disabilities available on DOL's website.

Dr. Grizzard commented that workplace preparedness should turn its focus from the federal government to state and local, as well as private business, both profit and nonprofit. He continued by reporting that as an offshoot of the Office of Disability Policy emergency seminar, DOL has developed an emergency preparedness booklet that has been widely received by private businesses, and by local and state governments. Dr. Grizzard concluded by stating the importance of providing emergency preparedness information to all business and workplaces across the nation.

THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The second group to report came from the private sector and Mr. Sutherland commented on the tremendous involvement from the disability communities. Through the Citizens Corps, a subcommittee was formed to bring leaders of the disability communities to provide advice and reactions to the work the ICC has done. Cheryl Heppner from the Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing offered a few thoughts on the involvement of the private sector.

Ms. Heppner remarked on one exercise her group took part in called the Topoff 3 in which the attendees learned of gaps that exist in emergency preparedness for people with disabilities and how the actions of the Council are working to close those gaps. She concluded by commenting on the achievements of the collaboration of the Council, and by thanking the group for the work they have done.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ)

Brad Scholzman of the Technical Assistance Group chartered by the Department of Justice began by thanking DHS for taking leadership in the Council. He introduced an online resource that DOJ released that will serve as a bank of information to enable individuals and organizations to gain access to completed work in the field of emergency preparedness for people with disabilities. The site also includes information on dealing with disaster situations including earthquakes, fires, tornadoes, hurricanes, terrorist attacks, and more. He added that the resource center addresses the unique needs of individuals with specific disabilities including hearing, visual and mobility impairments, developmental disabilities and psychiatric disabilities.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)

The following speaker was Michael Trujillo from the Department of Transportation. He began by thanking the Council for its efforts through the year. Mr. Trujillo announced the implementation of DOT's new emergency transportation website. He explained that the site contains pages that address the unique needs of people with disabilities in emergency situations. The site also has links to safety information that include safety egress for people with disabilities from transit systems, access to airport, pagers for persons who are deaf, recommended emergency preparedness, guidelines for rail transit systems and more. There is also important information in the disability resource section.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)

Carol Baker from the Health subcommittee spoke next. She began by describing the purpose of the ICC Health subcommittee: identifying all of the health needs—immediate and long-term—of persons with disabilities and by addressing how those needs can be met over all stages in emergency preparedness. She explained a matrix HHS developed as a data collection tool to disseminate information. It includes contacts for media, government agencies, and policy decision makers.

Ms. Baker described tasks for the upcoming year which included: continuing to work towards raising awareness, educating, and closing information gaps; developing a series of quick response tips sheets which can be utilized as a road map to navigate the full range of emergency response and recovery; and a union between HHS Office of Mass Casualty Planning and the Office of Public Emergency and Preparedness to plan special needs shelters.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC)

The next speaker, Monica Desai from the Federal Communications Commission, reported on the accomplishments of her agency through the year. The first of which involved the telecommunications relay services designated for priority restoration status so that persons with hearing and speech disabilities will be able to access relay services after a disruption of telephone services.

The next project involved strengthening the enforcement of access to emergency video broadcast information. In 2005, the FCC's enforcement bureau released the first-ever notices of apparent liability for failure to provide emergency information in a format accessible to individuals with hearing disabilities.

The FCC has also facilitated dialogues between representatives of the hearing and vision disability communities and personnel in federal programs responsible for public alert and warning notification of emergency and disaster events. The objective of the meeting was to make emergency alerts and warnings accessible for persons with hearing, speech, and vision disabilities to be at the forefront of all protocols and requirements in the future.

Other accomplishments of the FCC included: making government emergency telephone system cards for priority communication for key federal personnel, supporting efforts to modernize the emergency alert system, and providing technical expertise in reviewing the public record of the FCC's rulemaking to enhance the vision of accessible alerts and information for persons with hearing, speech, and vision disabilities.

The FCC's future goals include: continued support for TSP priority status for telecommunication relay service facilities, and collaboration with DHS to ensure that TRS personnel may travel to and from their designated TRS or other facilities during emergency situations.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE)

The next group to present was the Research Subcommittee, headed by John Hager. Mr. Hager began by explaining that the subcommittee is staffed by individuals at NIDRR, and that they have completed a preliminary assessment of the state of the art in research on emergency preparedness and disability. They've collaborated with state and local subcommittees to develop a survey focused on emergency preparedness and the disability community. The survey will request information related to funding, training, outreach, and research. It will first be sent to federal agencies and later to state, local, and tribal governments.

Looking to the future, the subcommittee will work in conjunction with the FCC communications subcommittee to coordinate evidence-based federal research into the effectiveness of audio, visual, and tactile protocols and technologies related to emergency preparedness, alerting, warning, and response for people with disabilities. The subcommittee will also continue to assess the state of the art in the future.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)

The final report was given by Claudia Gordon of DHS regarding the state, local, and tribal government subcommittee coordination. Ms. Gordon began by explaining that emergency planning really begins with the state, local, and tribal levels as they are the first responders in emergency situations. Some priorities include linking preparedness needs of people with disabilities to national policies. The group has initiated a collaborative dialogue with FEMA, as well as proactively working with DHS's office for state and local government coordination and preparedness. Each office plays a critical role in the goals of NIMS. These goals are the response plans that create critical national policy for emergency management of our nation.

Ms. Gordon also announced some specific results of the subcommittee. The first result was a letter sent out from the Secretary of DHS to all of the state governors and territorial governors reminding them of their obligation to include the needs of people with disabilities and their emergency management plans. Another accomplishment was the Toppoff 3 Exercise hosted by DHS. Individuals representing various disability organizations were invited to the session, and DHS received feedback from the groups

and collaborated with them to solidify the commitment of emergency planning for people with disabilities.

Future goals included: developing grant guidance from DHS's Office of Domestic Preparedness to help state and local entities include emergency preparedness plans for people with disabilities.

Ms. Gordon concluded by commenting on the advancement of the ICC through the year, and thanked all those who contributed to the progress of the group.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Dan Sutherland ended the meeting by thanking everyone who participated in the work of the ICC, and stated that he hopes to continue to see innovative work in the future.