

2010 IA-ESF #6 Conference

April 27-April 30, 2010

Master of Ceremonies: Pat Brown

Tony Robinson

FEMA Region VI

Recovery Division Director



National Commission on Children and Disasters



What About The Children?

Integrating Children's Planning in Disaster Response and Recovery

Bruce Lockwood, CEM
Commissioner
National Commission on Children
and Disasters

Presented to the Individual Assistance ESF #6 Conference
San Diego, California
April 28, 2010



National Commission on Children and Disasters

Why now?



National Commission on Children and Disasters



Children are 25% of the general population, but...

- Disaster training, exercising, medicines and equipment generally intended for able-bodied adults
- Children lumped into broad categories: “at-risk” “vulnerable” or “special needs”
- Shortfalls in meeting children’s needs are excruciatingly apparent in recent disasters: H1N1, American Samoa, Haiti



National Commission on Children and Disasters



Commission Background

- **Independent:** Authorized by Congress under Federal law
- **Bi-partisan:** 10 members appointed by President, Senate and House leaders
- **Diverse:** Expertise drawn from multiple disciplines: pediatrics, state and local emergency management, non-governmental organizations, and state elected office



National Commission on Children and Disasters



Commission Purpose

- Conduct a comprehensive study to assess the needs of children in relation to the preparation for, response to and recovery from all-hazards, including major disasters and emergencies
- Report findings and recommendations to the President and Congress



National Commission on Children and Disasters



Important Milestones

- **October 14, 2008: First Public Meeting**
 - Public meetings held on a quarterly basis
- **October 14, 2009: Interim Report delivered to President Obama and Congress**
- **February 1, 2010: Long-Term Disaster Recovery Workshop**
- **May 11, 2010: Next Public Meeting**
- **October 2010: Report due to the President and Congress**



National Commission on Children and Disasters



Commission Structure

- **Commission Chairperson, Mark Shriver, Save the Children**
- **Evacuation, Transportation, and Housing Subcommittee**
Chairperson, Bruce Lockwood, Bristol-Burlington (CT) Health District
- **Pediatric Medical Care Subcommittee**
Chairperson, Dr. Michael Anderson, University Hospitals (OH)
- **Education, Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice Subcommittee**
Chairperson, Hon. Sheila Leslie, Nevada General Assembly
- **Human Services Recovery Subcommittee**
Chairperson, Dr. Irwin Redlener, Columbia University



National Commission on Children and Disasters



NATIONAL COMMISSION
ON
CHILDREN AND DISASTERS

INTERIM REPORT
OCTOBER 14, 2009



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS

Interim Report

<http://www.childrenanddisasters.acf.hhs.gov/>



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Partnership

- Cooperative solutions to challenging problems
- No unfunded mandates
- Disaster planning as a shared responsibility
- Integration of children's needs across preparedness, response, and recovery
 - Children's Working Group and other interagency collaboration will increase sustainability, progress
 - FY10 HSGP approved planning, training, exercise, equipment



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Sheltering Standards, Services and Supplies

- **Provide a safe and secure mass care shelter environment for children, including access to essential services and supplies.**
- ❖ **Developed National Standards and Indicators for Mass Care Emergency Shelters**
 - ❖ Currently being piloted with the American Red Cross. Examples include:
 - ❖ Children sheltered together with their families or caregivers
 - ❖ Every effort to designate an area for families away from the general shelter population and set aside space for family interaction
- ❖ **Developed Shelter Supply List for Infants and Toddlers**
 - ❖ Identifies basic supplies necessary to sustain and support 10 infants and children up to 3 years of age for a 24 hour period.
 - ❖ Recommended supplies include baby food, formula, diapers, feeding bottles, cribs
 - ❖ FEMA identified the best means for rapidly acquiring these supplies, resulting in quick distribution to Haiti following the recent earthquake



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Child Care

- **Improve capacity to provide child care services in the immediate aftermath of and recovery from a disaster.**
 - ❖ FEMA recently clarified that it will reimburse state and local governments and private nonprofit organizations for child care provided in shelters or stand-alone facilities during the emergency sheltering period.
 - ❖ Eligible child care sheltering costs may include: labor costs, facility costs, and supplies and commodities.
 - ❖ HHS has initiated a collaborative effort with FEMA to provide guidance for developing comprehensive statewide child care disaster plans.



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Evacuation

- **Develop a standardized, interoperable national evacuee tracking and family reunification system.**
- ❖ **Key issues in evacuation the Commission is focusing on:**
 - ❖ Interoperability of existing evacuee tracking systems
 - ❖ What information should be collected, especially for purposes of identifying unaccompanied minors and aiding reunification efforts?
 - ❖ Who should information be shared with?
 - ❖ What are the barriers to information sharing under current law and policy, and what modifications can help us overcome these barriers?



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A Child-Focused Checklist for Preparedness

- ✓ Include needs of children across disaster training and exercises
- ✓ Designate individual as children's needs coordinator
- ✓ Include child tracking and family reunification procedures in emergency plan
- ✓ Provide safe shelter environment for children and families, including access to essential age-appropriate supplies



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A Child-Focused Checklist for Preparedness

- ✓ Capability of emergency personnel to transport children and provide effective pre-hospital pediatric care
- ✓ Capability of hospital Emergency Departments to provide effective care for children
- ✓ Basic psychological first aid training for emergency and school personnel to assist children



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A Child-Focused Checklist for Preparedness

- ✓ **Disaster plans for schools, child care providers and juvenile justice facilities**
 - ✓ Evacuation, reunification, children with disabilities or special medical needs training and drills
 - ✓ Plans on file with state emergency management office
 - ✓ Plan for establishing emergency facilities

- ✓ **Identify resources in state and surrounding states to address surge in needs for children...especially health and mental health needs**

- ✓ **Long-term disaster recovery plan for children and families**
 - ✓ Includes family-appropriate housing, schools, child care, mental health, medical care, child welfare, juvenile justice and court facilities



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Keeping A Spotlight on Children

- Children are not simply “small adults”
- Children are the center of family and community
- Disasters are especially disruptive to children
- Children as assets, not liabilities in disasters
- Recovery = more than rebuilding infrastructure
- Disaster planning is a shared responsibility
- Partner with the Commission to implement recommendations



National Commission on
Children and Disasters



For More Information:

Bruce Lockwood, Commissioner

lockwoodbruce@comcast.net

Christopher Revere, NCCD Executive Director

christopher.revere@acf.hhs.gov

Commission Website

www.childrenanddisasters.acf.hhs.gov

Thank You

For Your Commitment to Children !



Children's Working Group

FEMA's Individual Assistance
Emergency Support Function #6 Conference
April 28, 2010

Lauralee Koziol
Lead Coordinator
FEMA Children's Working Group



FEMA

Purpose of Working Group

- Established by FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate in August 2009 and Charged with:
 - Evaluating recommendations of the National Commission on Children and Disasters
 - Implementing planning, preparedness, response, and recovery strategies specific to the needs of children and ensuring that they are integrated into FEMA's overall planning guidance and operations from the onset
 - Coordinating and collaborating with experts from other federal agencies, and non-governmental stakeholders to address and elevate the needs of children as they relate to disasters
 - Contributing to creating a lasting change, at every level of government, when it comes to planning for and addressing children's needs in times of disaster



FEMA

Core Working Group Membership

- Chaired by Tracy Wareing, Counselor to Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Napolitano
- Vice-Chaired by Dr. Terry Adirim, Pediatrician and Senior Advisor within DHS Office of Health Affairs
- Designated Staff -- Lead Coordinator Supports Working Group
- Includes Representation from Virtually all FEMA Sectors



FEMA

Initial Focus Areas of the Children's Working Group

- Commission's Interim Report Recommendations:
 - Disaster Management and Recovery
 - Disaster Case Management
 - Child Care
 - Sheltering Guidance, Service and Supplies
 - Housing
- Building Relationships with Key Stakeholders
- Inclusion of Children's Working Group across Agency Initiatives



FEMA

Accomplishments

- Establishment of the Children's Working Group
- Incorporation of Children into Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) FY 2010 Guidance
- Disaster Case Management – Interagency Agreement Signed with the Department of Health and Human Services
- Clarification of Child Care Services and Facilities Eligible for Reimbursement under the Stafford Act
- Shelter Supply List for Infants and Toddlers



FEMA

Accomplishments

- FEMA Emergency Support Function #6 Coordination
- Coordination with Long Term Disaster Recovery Working Group and National Disaster Recovery Framework
- Coordination with National Disaster Housing Task Force
- FEMA's Emergency Management Institute – Course on Planning for Children and Disasters
- Incorporation of Children into Planning Guidance and Documents



FEMA

Moving Forward

- Augment Communication and Coordination with FEMA Regions, Federal Partners and External Stakeholders
 - Key Federal partnerships: HHS; DOE; DOJ
- National Preparedness Coordination
 - Student Tools for Emergency Preparedness (STEP) Program
 - Updating and consolidating FEMA Public Web-Sites aimed at children
 - Educational Youth Summit
 - Integration of children into FEMA's planning guidance and documents
 - Development of Guidance Documents and Toolkit
- Information Collection and Sharing
- Support Federal Partnerships
- Family Reunification and Evacuation Tracking



FEMA

Chance Freeman

Branch Manager

Disaster Behavioral Health Services

Texas Department of State Health Services

“The quietest child in our school group blossomed into the most contributing group member by the end of the school group. Experiencing the emotional growth and empowerment of a second grader during a six week group was amazing to be a part of.”



A Spindletop MHMR crisis counselor conducts a school group. They often had “Story Time”, where they read children’s books with subjects such as overcoming obstacles and building self esteem.

Role of the Crisis Counseling Program (CCP) in mitigating Disaster Reactions in Children

- **CCP staff established crisis counseling groups within the school systems because that is one of the best ways to ensure that children affected by disasters get the support they need.**
- **Common group foci include:**
 - Disaster education and awareness, so that the children will feel more prepared and empowered in future disasters
 - Stress and anger management
 - Mutual support and common reactions to disaster related stress
 - Grief and Loss, educating children on the grief process, common obstacles to overcoming grief, and coping strategies
 - Self-esteem

Disaster Reactions in Children can include:

- Trouble sleeping/nightmares
- Withdrawal from family or friends
- Aggressiveness
- Angry outbursts
- Changes in appetite
- Headaches
- Preoccupation with disaster
- Decline in school performance
- Poor concentration
- Sadness or depression

Gaining access to schools

It can be challenging to establish crisis counseling groups in schools. Texas P.R.I.D.E. CCP were able to successfully do so by taking various approaches

- **Hand-delivering informational school packets to each school in each school district in impacted area. Packets included:**
 - **Cover letter and flyer with introductory information**
 - **Handout on tips for teachers**
 - **Handout on age-specific disaster reactions and intervention suggestions**
 - **Materials that the school could distribute if they did not permit crisis counseling groups**
 - **Staff business cards**
- **Contacting school principals and school board members to introduce the program; Once they understood how the CCP could help children, they were often more receptive.**
- **Attending school board, PTA, and PTO meetings**
- **Approaching Charter school as well as public schools – some teams found these easier to get into.**

Group Activities and Projects

- **Bolivar Lighthouse Mosaic and Stepping Stone Mosaics**
 - Breaking the tiles relieved stress and gluing them back together was a metaphor for “picking up the pieces” after a disaster.
- **“Celebration of Strength” Trophies**
 - Students identified a personal strength and created a symbol of their strength with modeling clay. The trophies were awarded during the final group session.
- **Developed skits, songs, raps, dances, or poems about their feelings after the storm**
- **Reimer Roots**
 - Students each planted seeds to represent establishing new roots in a new place
- **Circle of Praise**
 - Self-esteem building activity
- **Disaster Supply Kit Memory Match Game**
- **Masters of Disaster Quiz Bowl**



Creating the mosaic



Children in Harris County spell out “Ike”



A crisis counseling group at High Island Middle School built a mosaic of the Bolivar Lighthouse. It represented endurance and strength, as the lighthouse has weathered many storms but is still standing.



Children used paper cut in the shape of their hands to be leaves on the "Tree of Hope"



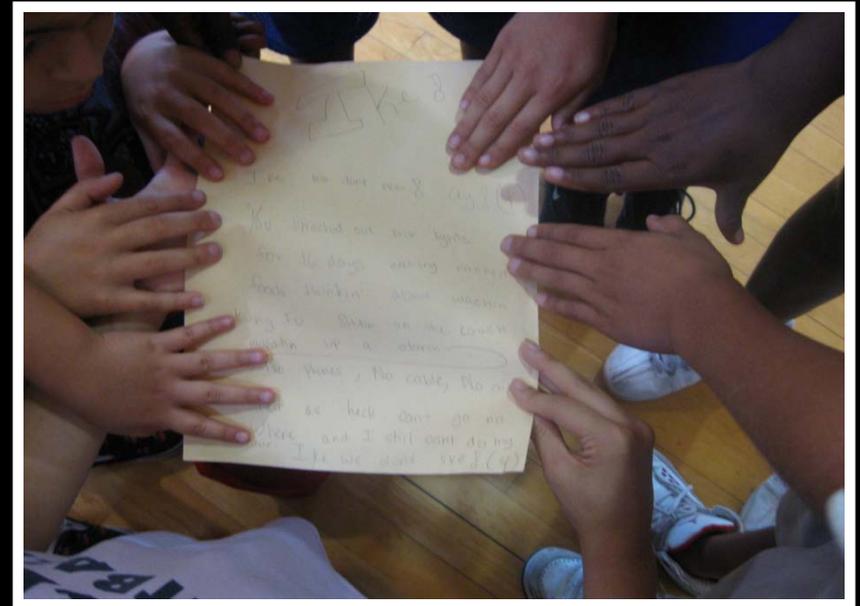
Children created "Celebration of Strength" trophies, which symbolized strength and resilience.

School Group Data

- **1,148 crisis counseling groups held in schools**
 - 521 one-time groups
 - 904 on-going groups (at least 2 sessions)
- **Over 20,000 children participated in groups held in schools**



Gulf Coast Group



Harris County Group



“From the children, I learned the true meaning of resiliency and the fact that resiliency can be cultivated.”





CARING FOR DELAWARE'S CHILDREN IN DISASTER

A Collaborative Approach



Setting the Stage

□ Post Katrina

- Delaware initiated planning for unattended children
- Partnership established between DSCYF & DEMA
- Extended partnership with DHSS, county/local emergency managers, ARC, and others





Unattended Children's Center

- Part of “Community Shelter”
- UCC Purpose
 - ▣ To care for children who are separated from parents or legal guardians as a result of disaster
 - ▣ To reunite children with their families
- UCC Operations
 - ▣ Intake & Triage (physical and mental health)
 - ▣ Direct Child Care
 - ▣ Family Reunification & Case Management



Other Children's Initiatives

- DSCYF/DEMA Emergency Preparedness Steering Committee convened
- DSCYF emergency plans strengthened for children in State care/custody
 - ▣ Children in foster care
 - ▣ Children in residential mental health treatment facilities
 - ▣ Youth in residential juvenile justice facilities



Other Children's Initiatives

□ Mass Care

- Child mental health now a component of community shelter operations
- Child care working group to kick off this spring to involve large childcare providers in state plan
 - Discussion topics will include
 - evacuation support for small providers;
 - provision of childcare services in shelters & DRCs; and
 - transitional childcare slots to absorb children from facilities that were damaged/destroyed during the disaster
- Resource request compiled to support evacuation and shelter operations



Other Children's Initiatives

- DSCYF “seat” in the EOC to advise on children’s issues
- Children’s Operations Center (ChilOC) collocated with Child Abuse Hotline and County EOC
- Emergency Planning Requirements for Licensed Childcare Providers strengthened
- Emergency Preparedness Workshops target family and large family childcare facilities
 - Developed by DSCYF, DEMA, local EMAs, ARC, Citizen Corps, and RSVP
 - Delivered under auspices of Citizen Corps by RSVP volunteers



Other Children's Initiatives

- Regional Planning
 - ACF Region II & III Working Group established in November 2009, to address regional planning for the evacuation and sheltering of youth in secure residential juvenile justice facilities
 - Goal – Identify and GIS map facilities with basic info about each facility (owner, POC, population served, capacity, typical census)
 - Goal – Identify and pre-plan for legal issues
 - Goal – Develop contingency strategies for short- and long-term evacuation/sheltering needs
- National Commission on Children and Disasters



Questions?

Darryl Dawson

302.633.2624

Darryl.Dawson@state.de.us



Children's Disaster Services

A Church of the Brethren Disaster Ministry
since 1980



~Nurturing Children

~ Equipping Volunteers

~ Supporting Families





Do you see
the
children?







Why are we
with you?
What is this
Auntie?

Play helps a child express feelings



When we follow the child's lead...



thoughts and concerns are expressed in play





What we've learned...



When:

- We carefully train our volunteers to tend to the needs of children
- We are given a space where we can keep children safe

Then:

- Our volunteers can create an environment in which children's needs are met and they can start the healing process.

CDS Nurtures Children



- Set up child care centers across the nation in shelters and service centers







CDS Nurtures Children



- **Provides certified volunteers who**
 - **create a calm, safe and reassuring presence in the midst of chaos.**
 - **encourage children to express themselves – thereby starting the healing process.**

CDS Equips Volunteers



- **CDS Volunteers**
 - Mobilize rapidly
 - Respond both locally and nationally



Although many volunteers are motivated by faith, CDS' training is open to anyone over 18 years old.

CDS Supports Families



CDS Supports Families



CDS Supports Families



Work with Partners



Partner agencies report CDS creates an environment that makes it easier to give aid to those in need.



CDS Equips Volunteers



- Volunteers from across the country
 - participate in a 27 hour experiential workshop
 - learn to work with children after a disaster
 - undergo a rigorous screening process



CDS Equips Volunteers



- CDS workshops utilize a variety of hands-on activities that give the participants experience with the skills being taught.



CDS Equips Volunteers



In our workshop we cover:

- A Shelter Simulation
- Types of Disaster
- Phases of Disaster



CDS Equips Volunteers



In our workshop we cover:

- Children
 - needs after a disaster
 - how to respond to them in a healing manner
 - the role of play after a disaster
 - how to use play to start recovery in children



CDS Equips Volunteers



In our workshop we cover:

- Children's Disaster Services Centers
 - How they are set up and operated
 - Safety procedures for CDS centers
 - Volunteers' roles
 - Self Care onsite and after returning home





By offering child-centered care, emotional support, and a sense of normalcy, the CDS program helps

- meet the immediate needs of children,*
- assists family members who may be overwhelmed as they attempt to deal with the effects of disaster, and*
- plays an important role in fostering resiliency among children.*

from “Caring for Children in the Aftermath of Disaster” a special issue of Children, Youth and Environments (Vol.18 No.1)



Since 1980...

(through 4/7/10)

**Children's Disaster Services has responded
to:**

207 Disasters

with

2836 volunteers

caring for

83,280 children

CDS Nurtures Children





Children's Disaster Services

Judy Bezon, Associate Director
LethaJoy Martin, Program Assistant

800-451-4407 or 410-635-8735

CDS@brethren.org

www.childrensdisasterservices.org

A Program of Church of the Brethren Disaster Ministries

Activity Reminders

- Wave House restaurant on Mission Beach and Maritime Museum tonight!
- Reminder to sign up for Thursday's Sweeney Todd play at the Old Town Theatre. Seat is confirmed with payment.
- Or sign up for the service opportunity at Feeding America Headquarters on Thursday evening.
- Baseball Tickets
- There will be lunch shuttles to Gas Lamp District and Liberty Station today. Shuttle fees apply.



FEMA