Current Issues in Emergency Management

Update On FNSS

Bill Johnson, RN / Mike DeLorenzo
October 11, 2011
October 25, 2011
Chronology

• FEMA disseminated guidance document in November 2010.
  - Document slated as purely “guidance.”

• FEPA presented a sheltering roundtable at its Annual Meeting January 27, 2011

• Florida DoH Special Needs Shelter Interagency Committee established two (2) sub-committees to address FNSS at its March 1, 2011 meeting.
**Chronology**

- **Policy Sub-committee** to address the guidance document and develop a workable strategy.
- **Gap analysis/resource Sub-committee** to address current resource capabilities, potential shortfalls, and how to address them.
- FEPA developed a interim position paper April 6, 2011; posted on website.

**Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS)**

**Introduction**


Individuals with disabilities/functional needs may have physical, sensory, mental health, and cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities affecting their ability to function independently without assistance. Functional Needs Support Services (FNSS) are services that enable children and adults to maintain their usual level of independence in general population shelters. These services include:

- Reasonable modifications to policies, practices, and procedures
- Durable Medical Equipment (DME)
- Consumable Medical Supplies (CMS)
- Personal Assistance Services (PAS)
- Other goods and services as needed:
  - Access to medications to maintain health, mental health, and function;
  - Available sleeping accommodations (e.g., the provision of universal accessible cans, beds, cribs, the placement, modification, or stabilization of cans, beds and cribs, the provision and installation of privacy curtains);
  - Access to air-conditioned and/or heated environment;
  - Refrigeration for medications;
  - Availability of food and beverages appropriate for individuals with dietary restrictions (e.g., persons with diabetes or severe allergies to foods such as peanuts, dairy products, and gluten);
  - Access to transportation for individuals who may require a wheelchair-accessible vehicle, individualized assistance, and the transportation of equipment required in a shelter because of a disability;
  - Assistance with mobility, eating, and moving to post-disaster alternative housing, which includes housing that is accommodating to the individual’s functional support needs;
  - Assistance with activities of daily living such as eating, taking medication, dressing and undressing, transferring to and from a wheelchair or other mobility aid, walking, stabilizing, bathing, personal care, and communicating.

It is estimated that as many as fifty (50) percent of the overall national population require one or more of these functional services for daily living.
Policy Sub-Committee Members

- Bill Johnson, Palm Beach County Emergency Management (Co-Chair)
- Mike DeLorenzo, Florida Division of Emergency Management (Co-Chair)
- Anne Miller, Sarasota Emergency Management
- Bob Lay, Brevard County Emergency Management
- Allen Harris, Seminole County Emergency Management
- Susan Bulecza, Florida Dept. of Health
- Carol Stachurski, Disability Rights of Florida
- Chip Wilson, Florida Division of Emergency Management
- Karen Hagen, American Red Cross
- Jesus Garcia, Logisticare
- Richard Kleindienst, Sumter Co. Dept. of Health
- Heather Komamisky, FDEM Attorney
- Rich LaBelle, Family Network on Disability
- Tom Linley, Volunteer Florida
- Matt Motko, Independent Living Resources Center of NE Florida
- Rich Rasmussen, Florida Hospital Association
- Rhonda White, Florida Department of Health
- Keely Smith, Florida Department of Health
- Valerie Stafford-Mallis, Children’s Medical Services
- Karen Street, Brevard Co. Dept. of Health
- Lupe Taylor, Hendry Co. Emergency Management
- John Trifiletti, Ph.D., Independent Living Resources Center of NE Florida
- Cathy White, Dept. of Education
- Merrilee White, Volunteer Florida
- John Wilson, Lee County Emergency Management
Chronology

• Sub-committees have held several conference calls; the Policy Sub-Committee has held at least seven (7) calls.

• In view of the dynamics and complexity of the topic, it was decided to convene a small workgroup retreat.

• Retreat held June 21-22, 2011 at the SLRC in Orlando, FL.
Policy Workgroup Members

- Bill Johnson, Palm Beach County Emergency Management
- Anne Miller, Sarasota Emergency Management
- Bob Lay, Brevard County Emergency Management
- Allen Harris, Seminole County Emergency Management
- Susan Bulecza, Florida Dept. of Health
- Carol Stachurski, Disability Rights of Florida
- Chip Wilson, Florida Division of Emergency Management
- Karen Hagen, American Red Cross
- Mike DeLorenzo, Florida Division of Emergency Management
- Jerry Smith, Florida Emergency Preparedness Association
Outcome

• Document is a framework; a guideline.
  − Downloadable from www.fepa.org
• A baseline document for Florida emergency managers.
• A road map.
• Contains useful planning tools.
Product of Collaboration

- Emergency Management
  - County-level
  - FL DEM
- Dept. of Health
- Dept. of Education
- Children’s Medical Services
- American Red Cross
- Disability Rights of Florida
- Family Network on Disability
- Independent Living
- Advocates representing blind interests, deaf interests, cross-disability interests, and the cognitive disability interests.
Chronology continued…


• Presented at FEPA Mid-Year [Tampa] on August 3, 2011.

• Presented to FL Dept. of Health Special Needs Interagency Committee on August 30, 2011.
Chronology continued...

- Comment form distributed widely on September 6, 2011.

### FNSS Guidelines White Paper - Comment Submission Form

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• Comments were due September 30, 2011.
  – 63 distinct comments received

• Policy Sub-Committee to analyze comments and incorporate into a final version.

• Anticipate re-draft in November, 2011.
Future Plans

• Submit to DoH Special Needs Interagency Committee in November; gain approval.

• Present to U.S. Dept. of Justice and FEMA for concurrence.

• Disseminate to Florida emergency managers for consideration in their planning process.
Thank You.

Bill Johnson, RN, MS, CEM®
Palm Beach County Emergency Management
wpjohnso@pbcgov.org

Mike DeLorenzo
Florida Division of Emergency Management
mike.delorenzo@em.myflorida.com