



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

Emergency Management Task Force Annual Report for 2011

The 2011 activities of the CCD Emergency Management Task Force focused on ensuring that all levels of government planned for the Whole Community-- by integrating and coordinating emergency preparedness, response and recovery services and programs for children and adults with disabilities and others with functional needs support services.

Whole Community Planning is recognized nationally. Whole Community Planning is a model that looks beyond the traditional, approach to emergency management. Whole Community planners include people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs in the early stage of designing an emergency preparedness and disaster management plan.

Whole Community Planning, means planning for the actual makeup of a community--making sure we meet the needs of every disaster survivor regardless of age, economics, or accessibility requirements.

What would a Whole Community Emergency Plan look like? In a precedent-setting, Ninth Circuit decision *Communities Actively Living Independently and Free, et al., v. City of Los Angeles*, February 10, 2011, the court articulated a compliant Whole Community Plan.

At a minimum, a Whole Community Emergency Plan must provide adequate mechanisms for:

1. Establishing a system to notify individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing about the need to evacuate or shelter in place;
2. Conducting outreach to determine who will need assistance evacuating their homes or established mechanisms that individuals with disabilities can use to obtain assistance;
3. Making arrangements for accessible vehicles to be available to transport to emergency shelters individuals who use wheelchairs and need evacuation assistance;
4. Surveying emergency shelters to identify inaccessible features such as inaccessible entrances with steps and inaccessible toilet rooms and taken corrective actions to eliminate such barriers or find substitute shelters that are accessible;
5. Making plans to provide life-sustaining medications, consumable medical supplies, durable medical equipment, or assistance in eating, dressing, or toileting for individuals with disabilities who will require these things to survive in an emergency shelter; and

6. Making plans, when a shelter-in-place response is executed, such as during a power-outage, to provide in-home assistance or sheltering options for individuals with disabilities whose survival depends on electrically powered equipment.

In closing, the CCD Emergency Management Task Force will continue to work to ensure that the needs of the Whole Community are met before, during and after a disaster.

Sincerely,

Co-Chair - Curt Decker, National Disability Rights Network

Co-Chair - June Isaacson Kailes, Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy

Co-Chair - Roberta Carlin, American Association on Health and Disability