

NJGAINED Meeting

February 22, 2016

Meeting called to order 10:04 a.m.

I. NJ GAINED Updates:

- a. Kelly Boyd: Ms. Boyd is with NJOEM, part of Mary Geopfert's previous position. The office is promoting Register Ready, and has materials available upon request. Please contact Kelly regarding any projects you were working on with Mary to start back up. She will be presenting at the NJVOAD conference on April 13th in East Windsor, and on an Emergency Preparedness panel at the Abilities Expo in Edison, with Luke Koppish from the Alliance Center for Independence, and Elizabeth Davis, representatives from New York, and Norman Smith; they are looking for participants for Saturday and Sunday at the Expo. If there is any training your organization needs, please email Kelly.
 - i. Joe Amoroso: volunteered go bags to demo and raffle at Expo
 - ii. Kelly Boyd: If your agency has disaster prep literature please let her know so it can be displayed at the OEM booth.
- b. Dennis Dura, DCF: Mr. Dura is in a new role with Division of Children and Families (DCF) with Commissioner Blake and will continue to support Emergency Support Function 6 and Emergency Support Function 8, and serve as the AFN coordinator for DCF working with Rachel.
- c. Bill Schaffer has retired; the new director of OEM will be announced at the next NJ GAINED meeting.
- d. Changes to NJ GAINED Structure: Joe Amoroso in conjunction with Kelly Boyd announced Acting Commissioner Connolly supports NJ Gained and wants it be established by executive order.
 - i. Currently, NJ GAINED is an affinity group; it has no official authority or governmentally recognized purpose.
 - ii. By establishing NJ GAINED by executive order, with a charge and mission statement, and providing annual reports to the governor's office, it will allow NJ GAINED participants to identify gaps in the system, report those gaps to the governor, to try to remedy unmet needs.
 - iii. New Organizational structure was discussed by Kelly Boyd and Joe Amoroso: See attached draft structure. This structure is under development at this time and subject to change; the goal is to create a means to find awareness of gaps in the system, and bring those concerns up the chain of command to exact change, and eliminate a fragmented approach of state agencies acting individually to address concerns.

1. Discussion/Feedback on New Structure:

a. Norman Smith, Project Freedom, Inc.: Where will Independent Living be in the structure?

i. J. Amoroso: At this time, Level III, as Independent Living is “boots on the ground,” and involved in specific implementation at levels of counties, etc.

1. Norm Smith, Project Freedom, Inc.:

Independent Living has let the effort in past, and should be at Level II

2. Carina Marzec, Program Assistant DDS: Kelly and Joe, it sounds like community groups form the foundation for the structure and concerns from community groups can be brought up the chain of command?

3. Kelly Boyd and Joe Amoroso-Yes; still fleshing out structure details

4. Peg Kinsell, SPAN: Expressed concern as committee was not notified for changes to structure

5. Ina White, Boggs Center-Will it be spelled out in similar detail? Where would Boggs Center fall?

6. Joe Amoroso-This call addresses concerns with new structure; we are in the process of figuring out where existing parties will be in the pyramid; nothing is “set in stone” at this time. We want everyone to feel represented; this will serve as a better way to structure the committee to get feedback from community in a similar manner to other boards.

7. Peg Kinsell, SPAN: Expressed concern for loss of roundtable aspect of group

8. Joe Amoroso: No one is at the “bottom” with new structure; previously, GAINED was not a policy making body; the structure is how the committee can demonstrate results and take actions through appropriate channels. The roundtable aspect will remain.

- iv. The Go Bag Project will restart in the spring; please contact Joe Amoroso or Tracy Burton at DDS at 609-631-2478 if you would like an educational program to provide go bags and training.
- v. Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP): All agencies need COOP plans; DDS will provide a template that agencies can download and adapt on the DDS website.
- vi. Dennis Dura will send Joe Amoroso a link to share with a field guide on shelter operations for AFN populations.
- vii. Joe Amoroso will post an Active Shooter Plan Training for People with Disabilities, provided by Bill Schaffer.

II. Upcoming Meetings

- a. The next NJ GAINED meeting will be on Monday, March 21, 2016 at 10 a.m.; location TBD, then April 25, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
- b. Joe Amoroso will send schedule to group tomorrow; meetings will be the fourth Monday of every month at 10:00 a.m.