

NJ GAINED Meeting

March 21, 2016

Participants: Joseph Amoroso- Division of Disability Services, Jonathan Sabin-Division of Developmental Disabilities, Carina Marzec, Division of Disability Services, Megan Sullivan and Debbie _____ - Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Julie Petix- State Coordinator for Medical Reserve Corps, Yessi Cubillo-Renal Network III, Mary Lamielle-NCEHS, Rachel Trautman and Dennis Dura-Division of Children and Families, Lyn Scott-American Red Cross, Alex Rico and Jim Flemming-FEMA, Joe Geleta-DHS OEM, Ina White-Boggs Center, Tina Zsenak-Division of Aging Services.

I. NJ GAINED Updates

- A. Introduction to Joe Geleta, Director of Emergency Management for NJ DHS: Mr. Geleta comes to the Department of Human Services after a 30 year career with the New Jersey State Police. He previously served as the Executive Director of 2-1-1, New Jersey's information and referral system. Mr. Geleta worked with Mary Geopfert on planning for individuals with access and functional needs. He will be continuing the work on ESF 6.
- B. Getting information: Joseph Amoroso raised a question of ways to improve communication after hours. One challenge is government issued devices restrict the use of twitter and other social media. FEMA presently uses mass email; Considerations for mass distribution of information was discussed. One option would be a mass text, from Mr. Amoroso's personal phone. Email was discussed; general discussion indicated a preference for text/email at this time. Joe Amoroso is gathering information on a new app from Google that may function similarly to email but on an open network. Additional information on communication options will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Joe Amoroso would like to do more research on options for communication, and is looking for volunteers; Julie Petix volunteered to speak with Tom Slater regarding social media training for Medical Reserve Corps. Julie Petix will follow up with Joe Amoroso after the meeting.
- C. Dennis Dura, Division of Children and Families Office of Emergency Management: Mr. Dura is considering use of a subset group with expertise in continuity of operations planning, to offer to assist NJ gained members in COOP for their agencies. Mr. Dura discussed utilizing Google to search for templates. Carina Marzec DDS program assistant will send a template Dennis, Julie Petix requested a copy.

II. Update from Members

1. Lyn Scott, American Red Cross: the American Red Cross is involved in the "Our Home" fire preparedness campaign: the campaign is working to decrease incidence of death and serious injury by 25% by installing smoke detectors. Individuals are interested can sign in on the American Red Cross website and will be provided with smoke detectors information on safety. American Red Cross is partnering with local fire departments to drop off information, and

providing 10 year Kidde smoke detectors with lithium batteries. If a detector is more and seven years old a new one should be installed. (This does not apply to hardwired systems) if you would like additional information, you can email Lyn Scott at lyn.scott@redcross.org, or call her at (609) 951 – 2101.

Since the start of the campaign in October 2014, American Red Cross has had 34 documented success stories where people were alerted to fires in their home.

There are no eligibility requirements for this program. For people living in larger complexes hardwired systems it is not necessary. Go to the Red Cross website at <http://www.redcross.org/> and follow links to schedule installation. Lyn will send an email after the meeting with additional information.

a. Joe Amoroso and Kelly Boyd are preparing Register Ready packets; Joe Amoroso indicated this be good information to include, especially as many individuals with disabilities have a limited income which makes obtaining smoke detectors a challenge.

b. Lyn Scott said American Red Cross has a supply of smoke detectors for individuals who are hard of hearing as well which include a shaker and strobe light.

2. Julie Petix, State Coordinator for Medical Reserve Corps: the Medical Reserve Corps is in need of health professionals and health educators to assist with the issues of lead in schools in Newark. The MRC will be assisting with venous blood testing for 17,000 children.

Julie Petix gave an overview of recent MRC trainings and activities. The quarterly meeting was held on March 10, 2016. The unit coordinators met with the FBI for a presentation on human trafficking.

Ms. Petix thanked Joe Amoroso for his work on Daughters and Sons To Work Day. Lydia Fecteau will be doing a demonstration for children in April on service animals, with Joseph Amoroso as a backup. For Autism Awareness month, the MRC is working with OEMS and Dr. Evans of Early Intervention, and a Tinton Falls police officer who is also an autism Dad.

3. Jonathan Sabin, Autism Services, and Division of Disability Services: DDD will be participating in “Bubbles for Autism” on April 28, 2016 from 1:15 pm to 1:30 pm, on the State House steps.

4. Ina White, Boggs Center: the Boggs Center has been providing education in Union County on emergency preparedness, disseminating information on the importance of having an emergency plan in your home.

5. Megan Sullivan, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services: DMHAS is continuing to do the Access and Functional Needs “Train the Trainer” program, and offering recertification programs. DMHAS is also providing education on addiction issues in disaster.

III. Review of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

There are no additions/corrections/amendments to the minutes from the February 22, 2016 meeting.

IV. Additional Discussion:

Julie Petix asked about active shooter program discussed at February meeting. Joe Amoroso informed the group that the name of the document is "Responding to High Profile Tragic Incidents Involving a Person with Serious Mental Illness," from the Justice Center.

V. Upcoming Meetings:

The next NJGAINED meeting will be Monday, April 25 at 10:00 a.m.; Location TBD.