

Building a Disaster Resilient Bay Area: Lessons for Strengthening Vulnerable Communities Regional Summit

Wednesday, April 29, 2009 08:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Nile Hall in Preservation Park, 1233 Preservation Park Way, Oakland, 94612

PANEL DISCUSSION: Strengthening the Infrastructure for Community Resilience: The Role of Disaster-focused Nonprofits and Government

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What local government can do to increase community disaster resilience?

1. Research best practices, lessons learned from major disasters
2. Research availability of services and programs for Functional Needs Populations and People with Disabilities and activity limitations within the region, state, nation
3. Build collaborative efforts with service providers, individuals, caregivers, other governmental agencies and any agency supporting resources and needs
4. Conduct community needs assessments and available resources
5. Build and share collaborative resource list with available and needed resources

What has worked?

Developed collaborative Functional Needs and PWD and activity limitations
Work Group 32 non-profit and 29 government and other resource agencies

Surveyed individuals, agencies, caregivers and groups on strengths & weaknesses

Built sub-work groups that meet monthly to work on:

- i. Disaster Planning & Communications
- ii. Education and Training
- iii. Hospital and Mass Care
- iv. Shelter Site evaluations
- v. Transportation

Where we are going over the next year?

- ◇ Continue to work with Functional Needs and PWD and Activity Limitations Group
 - ◇ Inclusion in our planning efforts
 - ◇ Building stronger collaborative and plans
 - ◇ Continually assess Functional Needs and PWD and activity limitation needs
- ◇ Work with CERT Groups on expanding opportunities

What else can and should be done?

- ◇ Communications - Improve Alert/Warning Systems for everyone (Deaf/HoH)
- ◇ Transportation, Housing Plans, Personal Preparedness, Shelter, Mass Care
- ◇ Grants to assist in emergency planning efforts
- ◇ Educate first responders