



Preparing Together™ Workshop

Meeting Notes • October 12, 2011

The following summarizes the implementation issues, ideas, and suggested action steps that were generated at a meeting held at the Santa Barbara County Chapter of the American Red Cross between 10:00 and 11:45 on October 12, 2011. Representatives of the following organizations were present: VOAD (1); Independent Living Resource Center of Santa Barbara (2); SMOOTH Inc (1); MSSP (Cen Cal) – (1); Salvation Army (1); SB Village (1); Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara (2); UCSB (1); Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County (3).

Implementation Issues

1. Any potential liability in using the Preparing Together Planning Tool with people with access and functional needs.
2. Concerns of family members with respect to a volunteer working with an individual with access and functional needs around emergency preparedness.
3. The time commitment involve for organizations and individuals with respect to implementing the program.
4. The specific responsibilities of a “preparedness coach”.
5. Obtaining a pool of appropriate volunteers to serve as “preparedness coaches”.
6. Potential overlap between organizations conducting the Preparing Together program.
7. The sustainability of the program.
8. The availability of volunteer “preparedness coaches” during a disaster due to concerns for their own needs.
9. Keeping the Preparing Together Planning Tool updated for program participants.
10. Maintaining the integrity of the program insofar as using it the way it was designed to be used.
11. Obtaining the support of the Public Education and Information sub-committee in the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management (OEM).
12. Obtaining funding for materials.
13. Determining whether this is the best emergency preparedness tool to use with this population.
14. Framing the program so that it is clearly understood by the participants (shift from "giving participants assistance" to "including them in the response").
15. The coordinating between organizations interested in implementing the program.
16. Defining our target population.
17. Funding for preparedness in Santa Barbara County to benefit the population of people with access and functional needs.
18. Live Scan background check process.
19. Integration with other emergency preparedness programs, e.g. CERT, American Red Cross, Community Disaster Education.

Ideas

1. Have agencies/organizations get together to train volunteers in a joint fashion and then individually be responsible for service delivery to their consumer base.
2. Present the program to faith-based organizations to gauge their reaction.
3. Bring seniors together and present the essential principles of this program (to support or foster preparedness groups of seniors, so that they can have social interaction around this topic).
4. Market the program in medical offices (distribute through alternate networks such as medical offices and clinics).
5. Use V.I.T.A. site volunteers to help the target population complete their plans.
6. Obtain funding/donations for emergency kit contents for low-income participants.
7. Outreach through organizational newsletters.
8. Having staff "volunteer on the job" as preparedness coaches.
9. Conduct a donor drive for emergency supplies for disaster supply kits for program participants.
10. Do a presentation at the Senior Housing Coalition.
11. Do a presentation at the Adult and Aging Coalition.
12. City of Santa Barbara Housing Authority can provide meeting room for future meetings.

Next steps/actions

1. Hold meeting with VOAD Access and Functional Needs Steering Committee to debrief.
2. Schedule meeting with Jim Caesar, Jay McAmis, Dean Phaneuf, Kathleen Riel, and Tony Mitchell.
3. Jim Caesar to follow-up with contact in Orange county who has run the Preparing Together program.
4. Meeting participants to review, evaluate, and digest information from 10/12 meeting to determine their thoughts with respect to value of the tool/program for the issue (helping individuals with access and functional needs prepare for disaster event).
5. Set up email group with the October 12 meeting participants.