

Notes on 11/9/17 MOPD: Disaster Resilience and Resource Network Quarterly Meeting

Introductions:

The MOPD Disaster Resilience and Resource Network “Network” met on November 9th 2017. During this meeting MOPD Commissioner Victor Calise provided updates regarding AccessibleNYC which is the city’s comprehensive plan to improve quality of life for New Yorkers with disabilities in the areas of: transportation, employment, housing, health, access (to city services) and education. Eli followed up and discussed updates to the MOPD website including the launch of the Network’s own webpage which would include a sign up tab as well as other pertinent information.

NYC Hurricane Service Center:

During the network meeting MOPD and city partners discussed the recently opened Hurricane Service Center to assist those residents of Texas, Florida, Puerto Rich and U.S. Virgin Islands, who were relocating to NYC for short-term and long-term stays following this year’s hurricane season. Below are some notes:

Appointments to the Service Center:

- They can be scheduled through the NYC government website: nyc.gov/servicecenter
- Appointments 9 am to 3 pm Monday to Friday; limited hours on weekends.
- Requests for accommodations can be made through this link.

Service Center Public Awareness Campaign:

- The state has been operating a desk at JFK, located at the JetBlue and Delta terminals.
- There are fliers posted.
- It was in the press at an earlier point in time.
- Word of mouth through Hispanic population.
- Spanish language media

Puerto Rico Info: Hurricane Maria:

- [Article](#) : FEMA is providing transportation for about 3,000 households from PR to New York and Florida. Only two shelter residents of the more than 1,000 interviewed by FEMA have signed up so far.

- In the San Juan shelters, there were no separations between the needs of people with disabilities, people with different health or medical needs. Everyone was integrated; therefore, they may have been less successful in addressing people's needs.
- Doctors were giving out prescriptions but pharmacies were closed.
- A high population of elderly is stranded in PR. There are a lot of elderly people at the service center, as well as people with access and functional needs.
- NYC Parks Department, Sanitation, NYPD, and FDNY have all collaborated to provide help in San Juan and other parts of PR (approximately 248 people).
- Con Ed is sending about 200 people and has already shipped 70 vehicles.

Resources Provided at the Service Center:

- Spanish interpreters are there at all times.
- Requested bilingual staff as well so an interpreter is not necessarily needed at every single station.
- ASL interpreter, video remote interpretation, and formats in large print are available.
- Currently, large print, neck loops, and magnifying glasses are available for individuals with visual impairments.
- Mobility aides, walkers, canes, wheelchairs

Partner Updates:

Post Emergency Canvassing Operation (PECO):

The NYC Department of Health provided the following updates regarding PECO:

- Meant to knock on doors in impacted neighborhoods after a large scale emergency.
- Over 35 training sessions have been held for canvassers and over 1,300 individuals have been trained so far (primarily city employees with some medical core volunteers).
- Trainings are scheduled for before the holidays and some are currently in the process of being set-up for spring 2018.
- Began operational planning with geographic disaster coalitions in the neighborhoods near seven locations throughout the city where PECO expects to be operating out of.
- Thinking of ways to include the deaf and other communities. Looking for ideas.
- Feedback: PECO needs to have a clear engagement strategy for working with immigrant communities and with the disability community.

Social Media for Emergency Management Use:

Tamer Hadi from NYC Department of Health provided the following regarding social media and emergencies:

- A strong presence on Twitter can help prevent rumors and misinformation from spreading (tells the public what you know and what you don't).
- Establishes an audience before an emergency happens.
- Twitter is mainly used but others such as, Snapchat, Instagram, and Periscope, are also used to track information and get a view on the situation.

Emergency Management Updates:

- Access and Functional Needs Symposium will be held Monday, December 11 from 9am to 1pm at NYU Kimmel center. This focuses on strategies and networking around emergency preparedness for people with disabilities. It brings together 100 to 150 service providers, community leaders, and other people interested in emergency planning for people with disabilities. Email Sam Lawson at slawson@oem.NYC.gov for the link.

New Citywide Communication Technologies:

- Advanced Warning System (AWS) is a voluntary subscription model that sends out emails or text messages with information about emergencies. Messages are being refined and the new website should be launched by Dec. 31.
- Notify NYC just came out with a new accessible app.

Operations Support:

NYCEM's Andy Perlman provided a brief on new operational support for citywide incidents:

- Identify resources and materials needed at shelters or centers (such as wheelchairs, scooter chargers, power strips).
- Focus on the rescue of pets because the more people that are stressed out over their pets, the longer it takes for people to recover from whatever they're going through.
- Works with partners, like animal care and control and the ASPCA, to provide cages and other materials needed for pets. Pets are allowed in shelters.

ADAPT Community Network:

Peter Pitarresi, Director from Adapt Community network provided a brief to the network on adapts assistive technology and durable medical equipment program.

- Engages in the TR Aid (technology related assistance for individuals with disabilities) program funded by the rehabilitation services administration.
- Buys tons of assistive technology equipment from communications devices and toys for kids, adaptive toys, all the way up to durable medical equipment.
- Give 60 day loans for NYC residents with permanent or temporary disabilities. Some loans may be extended if no one else needs the item.
- They have an inventory of supplies that are usually donated. They have a small amount of motorized wheelchairs and find that they usually have to be fitted to the individual.
- No fee.