MOPD: Disaster Resilience and Resource Network

Friday June 23rd, 2017

NOTES

**Introductions:**

The Network met on June 23rd 2017 and discussed the recent launch of the IDG Inclusive Design Guidelines 2nd Edition took place on Thursday, June 22nd. Also discussed was the upcoming New Yorkers with Disabilities Pride Parade on Sunday, July 9th. MOPD alos reported that staff has recently been able to attend several symposia regarding inclusive emergency management procedures, including the National ADA symposium in Chicago.

Eli discussed the recent transition of the group from a Sandy Recovery Task Force model into an information sharing function, allowing partners to build connections proactively. In addition, hopefully the task force will be able to contribute to the MOPD website redesign, helping to develop an MOPD Inclusive Emergency Management Webpage.

**Partner Updates:**

* American Red Cross GNY (ARC): New training initiatives are being implemented by the Red Cross in order to promote accessibility and inclusivity. 1. “Everyone is Welcome” training currently being implemented among volunteers and employees and 2. Care Assistant Fundamentals Training: intended to prepare disaster responders and partners to safely assist people with disabilities in the case of an emergency. ARC has also developed a toolkit that provides concrete suggestions of the appropriate accommodations to provide to individuals with specific disabilities.
* NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH): PECO stands for “Post-Emergency Canvassing Operation. Recently, PECO participated in 3 community input sessions, which highlighted the need for shared leadership with community partners in planning and response. Their goal is to train 2000 volunteers, and in order to achieve this goal, PECO has developed a new training curriculum
* New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA): Continued integration of the disabled community, particularly with regards to the annual recertification process. Redesign public postings so that they are more accessible (posting them at eye-level etc.) and posting them online for greater language accessibility More efficient public communication support tool
* NYC Department of Information Technology and Telecommunication (DoITT): DoITT text-to-911 program will likely be launched in January of 2018, representing a great stride for the deaf and the hard of hearing community. NextGen 911 system will be launched in 2022. The next NextGen program will be IP-based, as opposed to the current system, which is analogue-based.
* NYC Office of Recovery & Resiliency (ORR):The objective of the Mayor’s Office of Recovery and Resiliency is to address the effects of climate change noting that extreme heat kills more New Yorkers than any other extreme weather event. Due to global climate change, heat waves will become more intense, engendering greater risk. Have collaborated with Columbia University to identify Heat Vulnerability Index. A number of factors can contribute to the heat vulnerability of a given neighborhood, including race, low-income, canopy coverage, surface heat etc. Discussed a number of citywide inititves including, Cool Neighborhoods NYC, *Be a Buddy* Program to assist individuals who are homebound
* Carriers C.A.R.E.S program, which utilizes the eyes and ears of over 6200 mail carriers to ensure the continued health of customers. Under the program, carriers can call 311 to report concerning information, and be directed to the appropriate agency.
* NYS Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR): Community Reconstruction and NY Rising Community Centers will strive to provide social services and recovery centers to populations that are typically difficult to reach, including low- and moderate-income households, individuals with disabilities and seniors.
* NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA): Cooling centers located at local senior centers, libraries and other facilities to provide support to vulnerable populations when NYC is activated for heat. In addition to providing much-needed cooling, these cooling centers serve as natural community centers, and are therefore integral to combating the pernicious effects of social isolation.
* NYCEM - Summer Heat Preparedness & Advance Warning System: Discussed NYCEM Heat plan strategies and development of the Advance Warning System including updates to its new website.

**Next Meeting:** Planned for September 2017