
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

June 13, 2019



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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GOVERNOR'S FLOOD RECOVERY ADVISORY BOARD — PUBLIC HEALTH

Meeting. The Public Health Working Group of the Governor's Flood Recovery Advisory Board met on June 3, 2019, in Des Moines with a conference call option available. The Public Health Working Group is one of six working groups created by the Advisory Board and is being supported by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Members. The members of the Public Health Working Group include:

- Gerd Clabaugh, Director of the Iowa Department of Public Health.
- Mike O'Neal, Grape Community Hospital in Hamburg, Iowa.
- Tammy Jacobs, Iowa Concerns Hotline, Iowa State University.
- David Brown, Iowa State University Behavioral Health Specialist.
- Leslie Wright, United Way of East Central Iowa.
- Richard Crouch, Mills County Supervisor.
- Karen Hyatt, Iowa Department of Human Services.
- Christine Templeton, Iowa Department of Human Services.
- Roger Bruner, Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
- Dean Decker, Iowa Department of Public Health.
- Meaghan O'Brien, Governor's Office.

Long-Term Recovery Challenges. The meeting began with a discussion of critical challenges to focus on over the next six to twelve months, as flood-affected areas begin to recover. Members expressed a need for the training of volunteers who wish to provide assistance but may need direction from community members who are more knowledgeable about flood recovery operations specific to the affected areas. Members also mentioned a need for child care and activities for children who are residing in campgrounds indefinitely. Currently, there are buses being coordinated to provide transportation to local YMCAs and other resource centers where children are receiving morning and afternoon meals.

Coordinating Resources. Working Group member Leslie Wright discussed how existing resources can be deployed in long-term recovery efforts and discussed common pitfalls and challenges faced by disaster responders. Wright mentioned that one challenge during long-term recovery is that volunteers experience burnout from the lingering effects of a natural disaster. Wright also underscored the importance of organizing specific teams to manage recovery efforts and share the workload. Teams created and utilized following the 2008 flood were:

- Mass Care: Responds to immediate basic needs (food, clothing, shelter) of disaster victims.
- Child Care and Children's Services: Provides preparedness training to schools and child care providers and provides child care as primary caregivers seek disaster assistance.
- Mental Health Services: Provides crisis response and mental health outreach to individuals experiencing trauma or stress following a natural disaster.
- Data Management for Funding Needs: Maintains a database of information needed for grant funding applications and reporting.
- Case Advocacy Services: Identifies needs for services and connects individuals to agencies.
- Interfaith Spiritual Care: Coordinates training and support for faith-based volunteers, community leaders, and survivors of the disaster.
- Donation Management: Organizes spontaneous donations and addresses needs.
- Medical Services: Coordinates emergency health care services.

- **Communications:** Communicates available recovery resources and services and connects individuals to resources during all phases of recovery.
- **Construction Coordination:** Provides construction services to include volunteer labor supervision and management, contractor management, project management, materials coordination, and code and permit compliance.
- **Emergency Volunteer Coordination:** Provides management of spontaneous volunteers.

Additional Resources. Director Clabaugh suggested connecting working group members to a representative from Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management at a future meeting.

Next Meeting. The next Public Health Working Group meeting will be held at the end of June in Des Moines.

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