03/15/18

**Notes on 03/15/17 MOPD: Disaster Resilience and Resource Network Quarterly Meeting**

**Notes**

**Introductions:**

The MOPD Disaster Resilience and Resource Network “Network” met on March 15th 2018. During this meeting MOPD Assistant General Counsel Eli Fresquez provided welcome remarks and talked about the new use of captioning for the Network meetings. Eli discussed the continued development of the MOPD’s Emergency Preparedness website - for people with disabilities. Finally, Eli mentioned that given the tragic incident that happened in Parkland, Florida he was seeking input regarding the “California Office of Emergency Services Active Shooter Awareness Guide” and would be sharing a link to the document to everyone.

**Partner Updates:**

* FEMA: Kathleen Madigan and Jim Flemming, Office of Disability Integration & Coordination: Jim Flemming reported that FEMA would be conducting 13 Core Advisory Group briefings in Puerto Rico over the summer of 2018. The aim of the briefings was to create sustainable groups that would focus on disability, accesses and functional need issues in Puerto Rico’s various jurisdictions. Kathleen Madigan stated that she was happy to announce that FEMA has conducted its FEMA Region II Inclusive Preparedness Webinar and had received positive feedback from the community. Kathleen also noted that a second webinar would be provided on April 9th and that future webinars were planned.
* New York City Emergency Management (NYCEM): Matt Puvogel and Sam Lawson, DAFN Outreach: Sam Lawson provided an update on the recent re-branding of “NYC Citizen Corp” to its new name “NYC Community Preparedness”. Sam went on to give a brief on the recent Access and Functional Symposium held in December of 2017 at NYU. Sam also stated that a report for the symposium will soon be available on the NYCEM website. Sam further noted that trainings will be available over the summer for people interested in the learning more about emergency planning for the community. Matt Puvogel provided a brief on individual preparedness tips and noted that people with disabilities, their families and support networks are all encouraged to make preparedness plans that are unique to each person’s individual needs.

**Effective Communication & Emergencies**

* **Text to 9-1-1, ASL-Direct:** Kleo King, Deputy Commissioner & General Counsel (MOPD): Kleo King began by describing the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), specifically title II of the ADA and its obligations on governmental entities. Kleo than went on to discuss effective communications and the responsibility of governmental entities to take steps to provide communication to people with disabilities that is as effective as communication with others. Kleo further reported that there are many different ways to provide effective communication through “auxiliary aides and services” and that primary consideration should be given to the person’s particular request. Kleo also reported that unless providing effective communication posed an undue burden or a fundamental alteration to its programs governmental entities were responsible for providing effective communication. Kleo also noted that in addition to the ADA the New York City Human Rights Law requires additional protections. Kleo stated that she has been meeting with DoITT and that there are plans to have next generation 9-1-1 by around 2022 but that in the interim text to 9-1-1 will be available citywide by the summer of 2018. Text to 9-1-1 will be particularly helpful for the deaf and hard of hearing community to communicate with 9-1-1. Noel Haight, MOPD’s ASL-Direct Specialist, also reported that ASL-Direct, which is a direct way to communicate via ASL with MOPD is now available.
* **NYC Advance Warning System, Notification NYC & WEA:** Chris Pagnotta, AWS Program Manager (NYCEM), Rebecca Baudendistel, Deputy Manager Notify NYC (NYCEM): Rebecca Baudendistel, provided an overview of NYCEM’s emergency notification program including Watch Command. Rebecca also discussed the Wireless Emergency Alter System (WEA) and social media tools used for communication including Twitter. Rebecca also discussed that Notify NYC messages are increasingly available in other languages including ASL. Chris Pagnotta provided a brief on the new upgrades to the NYC Advance Warning System (AWS). Chris provided information about the targeted audience of AWS which are services providers and organizations that support people with disabilities. The idea is that communicating emergency information to services providers allows for more tailored messaging to their clients and staff (there will be different kinds of modalities for communicating with staff and clients). Chris also reported that in the wake of the incident in Hawaii where a mistaken alert was sent out to the entire Island, AWS has a number of redundancies in order to reduce the possibility of a false alert. Chris also reported that the overall number of AWS subscribers has substantially increased and that it is now linked up with city contracting in order to assign human services organizations.
* **Public Health Risk Assessment:** NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH): Madhury “Didi” Ray Senior Analyst: Didi reported on a new program from the City Health Department which aimed at asking the community to rank their public health hazards. Didi further stated that this was different from the way health assessment were done in the past which were typically by professionals in the field. Instead of just consulting literature or models this pilot program will be reaching out to the community in order to get feedback (often by people who will be most affected by disasters).

**Open Discussion & Closing Remarks**

* In closing Eli reiterated that the MOPD Emergency Preparedness website was going to be built out to include additional resources and that he encouraged everyone to participate in this summer’s Disability Pride Parade on July 15th. Contact information was shared:

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