

Advancing Systems of Services Network Café Notes

Emergency Preparedness

June 5, 2020

Key Discussion Questions

1. How does Title V work with emergency preparedness agencies in your state?
2. What is Title V doing differently as a result of that partnership?
3. What are suggestions for implementing or strengthening partnerships?

North Carolina Title V CYSHCN Efforts

- NC has created a permanent disability integration specialist position in their office of emergency management to address the needs of individuals with disabilities. Title V participates in the state's emergency management advisory committees and workgroups.
- Functional Assessment Support Teams (FAST) have been established to assist local government agencies in providing appropriate support to individuals with access and functional needs during disasters. FEMA has regional disability specialist resources, and the aim is to have every state have a FAST infrastructure.
- Prior to Covid-19, an emergency preparedness summit for CYSHCN was planned for May 18, involving emergency management personnel and families. The goal was to develop concrete strategies and action steps for addressing the gaps in emergency preparedness in NC for CYSHCN, but it had to be canceled. In place of this, NC's disability integration specialists have been holding weekly stakeholder calls with a variety of agencies addressing emergency preparedness and people with disabilities across the state, including CYSHCN. Title V is also considering a webinar series for families, looking at how preparedness will look somewhat different during COVID.
- NC has state-run medical shelters, which have close ties to local hospital systems. There are criteria that have been developed for deciding who goes to these medical shelters vs. general shelters. They wanted to ensure people with disabilities were not automatically sent to medical shelters if they did not need to be.

Strategies to Connect with State Emergency Preparedness Efforts and Expand Partnerships

- "Don't wait!" Every state has an emergency medical preparation office; it's important to participate on their advisory group. Look at opportunities to participate/volunteer on state or regional hotlines and simulations.
- Engage family leaders to understand emergency needs and gaps.
- Look at natural networks to make connections. Include family representation. Identify partners who can mobilize and get resources out quickly.
- Think about Medicaid agencies and their payment flexibilities, waiver programs, telehealth clinics, home visiting programs, DME vendors, developmental disabilities

councils, state office of behavioral health, disability groups (e.g., deaf and hard of hearing, Arc)

- Consider including a requirement to meet regularly with local emergency preparedness offices into care coordination contracts.
- Consider including in care plans a section on emergency preparedness that is updated annually.
- Many examples of disaster kits are available – through ready.gov. TX also shared their website. In another state, the F2F Health Information Center shares a waterproof bag that families can use to collect and have ready essential documents and emergency forms.
- Emergency planning and transition planning go hand-in-hand, working with families/youth to have a medical summary and emergency care plan, is key.
- CYSHCN registries take a great deal of time and resources to keep up-to-date.

Resources Shared

- <http://www.ready.gov>
- <https://texasready.gov/>
- Resource for Making a Family Emergency Plan
<http://www.helpandhope.org/Coronavirus/plan.asp>
- Emergency Medical Services for Children Innovation and Improvement Center
<https://emscimprovement.center/domains/preparedness/covid-19-coronavirus/family-preparedness/>
- New CDC website on Natural Disasters, Severe Weather, and COVID-19
https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/covid-19/disasters_severe_weather_and_covid-19.html?deliveryName=USCDC_2062-DM33192