Preparedness for People with Intellectual Disabilities: The Prepare To Prosper Approach

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Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters

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People are People!

- People have a wide range of skills and abilities.
- People who are considered by others as intellectually challenged also have a wide range of skills and abilities.
- All people can be trained if we break down the steps of preparedness and reinforce that training through repetition.
- A key is TEAM WORK: the training of the individual and their support staff.
- Another key is Redundancy-Redundancy-Redundancy-Redundancy-Redundancy.
CARD – The History

• 24/7 Media Coverage: 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake pre-empted the World Series.

• Despite great effort -- government, Red Cross and traditional response organizations could not address immediate, short-term or long-term needs for the most vulnerable residents. This has always been true.

• CARD was created BY local community agencies, FOR local community agencies, and works WITH community agencies and committed partners to fulfill on a vision of a prepared, inclusive, resilient, humane society.

Lessons Learned: Using fear and threat, prioritizing tomorrow’s traditional disasters over today’s community needs is entirely counter to the missions and mindsets of nonprofits, faith agencies, and service providers.

CARD’s philosophy – Prepare to Prosper!

You Must Go Fear-Free

• Fear of the disasters
• Fear of failure
• Fear of the overwhelm

Fear blocks our ability to be our best.
Fear clouds our judgment.
Fear becomes the insurmountable obstacle.

We are where we are as a nation, because we have long used the fear frame for preparedness.
# Normalize/Socialize Safety Behaviors

*Everyday Brilliance BUILDS Disaster Resilience*

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## Collaboration: Make it **REALLY** Work

- **Be honest** – be *brutally* honest. No honesty, no trust.
- **Celebrate/leverage your differences** – it’s a competitive advantage.
- **Stay focused on COMMON goals, values, needs** – do not deviate!
- **Protect your collaborators from your bureaucracy/oddities** – do unto others, keep your weird relations/habits/shortfalls to yourself.
- **Create micro successes** – string many small wins together.
- **Embrace Technology** – make technology your empowering partner.
- **Work the Journey!** – Make the process valuable, and a genuine bonding experience for all the partners.
Choose a Great “Why”

Why Should Your Business Embrace Fear-Free Readiness?

Traditional Message:
- Prepare for disasters
- Take classes/trainings
- Get kits, store supplies
- Do exercises and drills
- Because disasters happen!

Empowered Service Provider Message:
- Transform the lives of your clients
- Have readiness and resilience as a competitive advantage
- Be a more valued partner with local businesses/government
- Make your agency more fundable for related grants/donations

The Becoming Independent Disaster Preparedness Committee

- Has been in place for eight years.
- Meets quarterly
- Represents all programs in the agency
- Creates and updates staff trainings
- Coordinates outside trainings
The Becoming Independent Disaster Preparedness Committee

• Creates and maintains Emergency Plans and supplies
• Creates and maintains the 'buddies list'
• Works with local partners
• Maintains contact with local businesses, churches and groups to use as resources in the event of a disaster

It is Important to Get Everyone on Board the Preparedness Bandwagon

• Drills
• Outside trainers
• All new employees are given disaster preparedness orientation and tested
• All staff, Supported Living Services and Day Service participants are trained, tested, participate in drills
• Preparedness has become part of the Becoming Independent Culture
Agency Emergency Plan

- CARD format- cardcanhelp.org
- Supplies on site
- Neighborhood connections for all sites
- Incident Command System roles
- Agency go-kits

- Keep Calm and follow the Emergency Plan

The Becoming Independent Earthquake Response Story

- 6.1 Napa Quake
- Contacted everyone within 30 minutes
- Got to each person's home to assist with clean up, assessment, determining needs.
- The training, testing and re-training paid off in many ways.
- Everyone was ready!
Lessons Learned

• Regardless of the fact that all the training paid off, trainings and drills continue as part of our culture.
• We found that our disaster kits needed a few more items. (Small dust pans, some trash bags)
• We keep the 'buddies' and community partners lists updated and current.

Thank You!

For further information go to:
THE JOY OF PREPAREDNESS:
HTTP://WWW.THEJOYOFPREPAREDNESS.COM/

BECOMING INDEPENDENT (BI):
HTTP://WWW.BECOMINGINDEPENDENT.ORG/

CARD - COLLABORATING AGENCIES RESPONDING TO DISASTERS:
HTTP://CARDCANHELP.ORG