

Promising Practice for PAS in Emergencies:

Using Medical Reserve Corps for PAS in shelters if emergency is declared

Contact: Dante Gliniecki, Statewide Volunteer Coordinator, Missouri State Emergency Management Agency, dante.gliniecki@sema.dps.mo.gov

What is the practice?

In this practice, the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) can be called in to provide personal assistance services (PAS) to shelter populations who have access and functional needs when general population shelters open.

The MRC is a Citizen Corps program and is overseen through the regional FEMA office. All MRC are registered in a central registry. They are made up of a wide range of health professionals – licensed and unlicensed, but all are vetted (license and background check) before being accepted into the system.

The goal is to integrate the practice into the emergency plan – and integrating it into the state sheltering Annex.

Is the practice currently in use?

The MRC was alerted during “Severe storms: tornadoes and flooding DR #1980”, but not activated. While the plan was not complete as of 2011, there was enough of a plan to say components have been in place for the prior 6 months and additional components have continued to be phased in.

What is the cost of the practice?

The Missouri Department of Health receives money from CDC through a Public Health emergency preparedness grant; as well as other grants (totaling millions of dollars). They divide this money so not all of it is devoted to this practice, but the funding has allowed Missouri to hire staff which includes administrative support.

What other relevant departments are included?

State Departments of Health, Social Services, Senior Services, and Mental Health; Governor's faith based and community partnership for disaster recovery; American Red Cross; and FEMA

What training is necessary?

They are using existing trainings and updating them. They have been reaching out to other agencies and helping to adapting their trainings Key personalities really made a difference.

They started with an access and functional needs training, using webinars and online trainings, presentations and briefings, and adapting existing trainings (like Functional Needs Support Services - FNSS training) to Missouri situations and needs. They are also upgrading the Community Mass Care course to have an access and FNSS section. They have a webinar designed to implement FNSS program, which helps to keep ever changing staff and volunteers oriented. They also intend to update the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) course to address FNSS needs as well so CERT members can also be available to work as PAS in shelters. CERT members are the 2nd tier of support.

Characteristics of the practice

Hazard specific?	No
Specific to scale of hazard?	No
Geographic area specific?	No
Warning specific?	No
Is it realistic based on available resources to deliver on a specific promise within a specific time frame	Yes
Is it periodically evaluated to determine if resources / assets can meet projected demand	Yes Note: The gap for resources for a catastrophic earthquake is far short.
Is it periodically evaluated to determine breaking points?	No
Is it designed to work with people with functional needs in...	
...hearing	Yes
...vision	Yes
...cognition	Yes
...mobility	Yes
...communication	Yes