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The Office for Access and Functional Needs identifies needs of people with disabilities before, during and after a disaster, and integrates disability elements and resources into all aspects of emergency management systems.

Guidance on Planning and Responding to the Needs of People with Access and Functional Needs

www.calema.ca.gov click on
Office for Access and Functional
Needs link

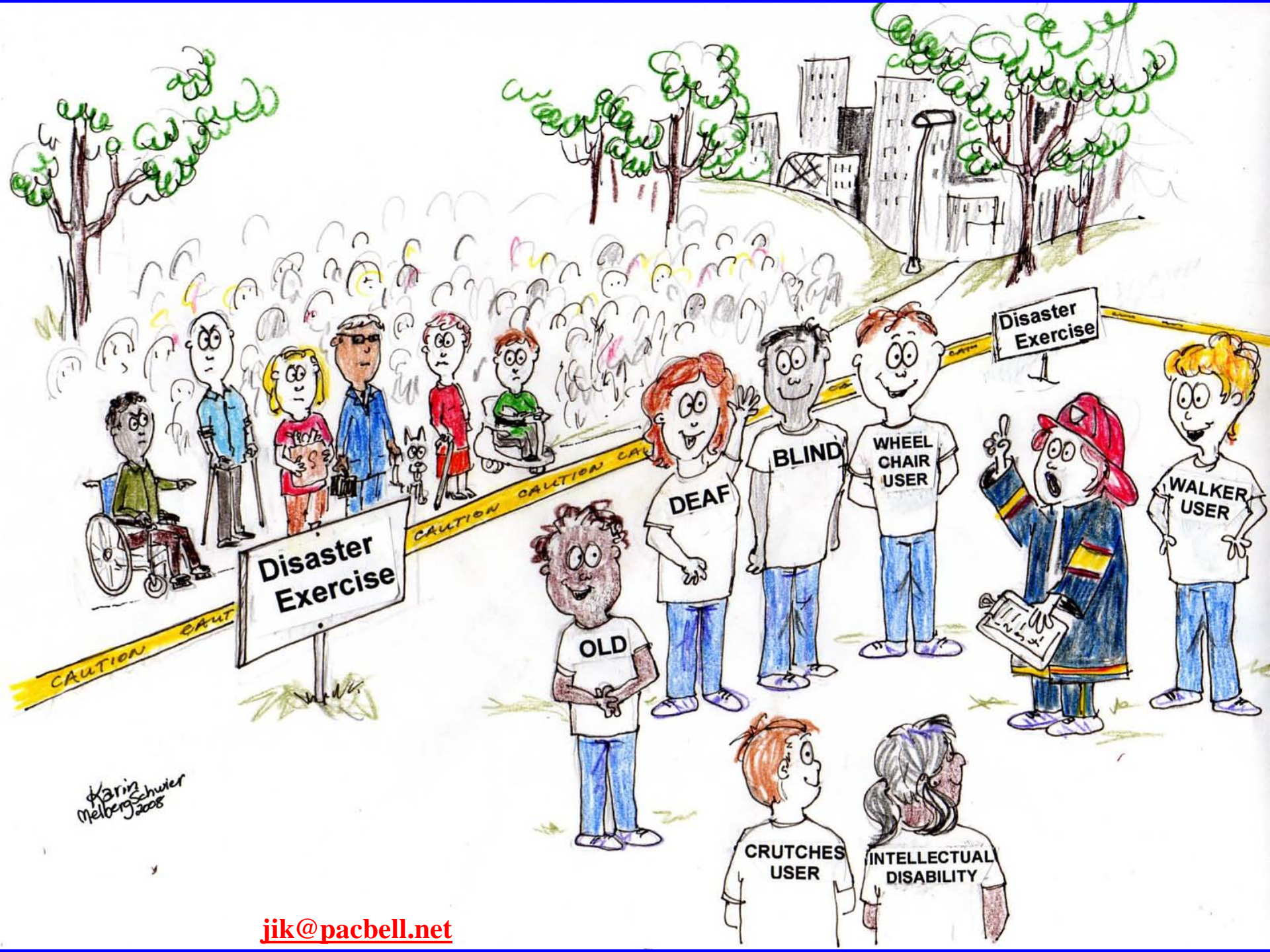
Evacuation Issues

- Locating people that need to be transported
- Medical condition of the individual
- Vehicle accessibility
- Pet and service animal needs
- Forced transport
- Liability issues
- Accessibility of transfer/staging points

A lot about

us without us!

Who in addition
to the Traditional
Stakeholders are
at the Planning
Table?



Karin
Melberg
Jacob

- Centers for Independent Living
- Regional Centers (Developmental Disabilities)
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Blind/Low Vision
- Mental Health
- Multiple Sclerosis Society
- In Home Supportive Services/Home Health
- Alzheimer's Association
- Area Agencies on Aging

What is in the
Plans?

Identifying People

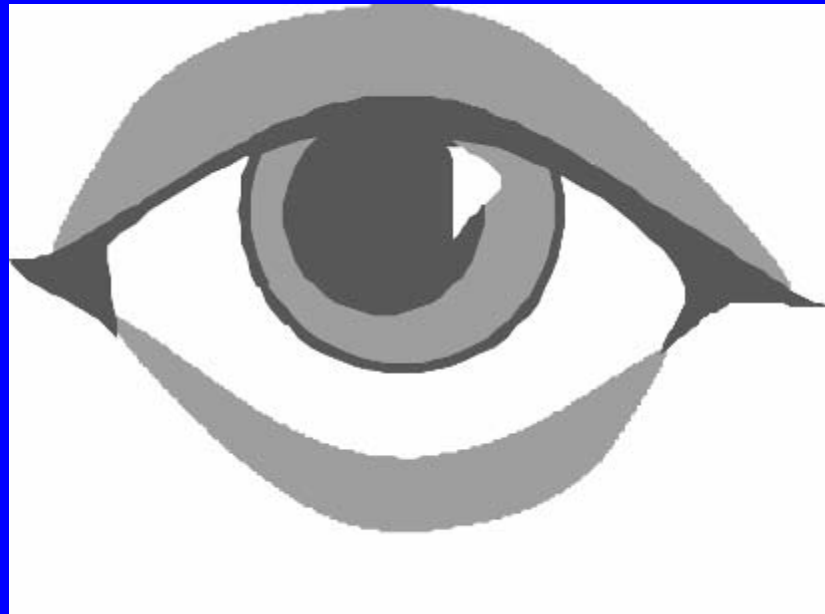
- Common belief in “Volunteer Registries”
 - Perceived promise or guarantee that the registrants will be provided with evacuation services
 - Planning is based on individuals always being at home
 - Tendency to view those on the registry as the only ones who need assistance
 - Focus on registrants first rather than looking at the population more broadly
 - Unrealistic expectation on first-responders



Leveraging Service Systems

- In-Home Supportive Services/Personal Assistance Services
- Home Health
- Meals-on-Wheels
- Community Based Organizations
- Transportation Service Providers
- Centers for Independent Living
- Regional Centers for People with Developmental Disabilities

Communication access



Communication

- There is a significant amount of new technology
- Much of it does not provide effective communication to people with sensory disabilities
- Burden remains on first responders, volunteers, and disability and older adult service systems

Early Warning Notification Systems

- Ability to send text messages to wireless devices
- Ability to send messages to TTY's, Pagers, Video Relays, etc.
- System is frequently tested

Emergency Alert Systems

- Are messages accessible?
- Captioned?
- Reading of scrolled messages?
- Is information provided easy to understand (3rd Grade Reading Level)?

Press Conferences

- Sign Language Interpreting provided?
- Television Broadcasts include Interpreter on the Screen?
- Real-Time Captioning Provided?

Del Mar Shelter



Cal EMA Office for Access and
Functional Needs



June Isaacson Kailes, Disability Policy Consultant -



MTA-New York City Bus.
Orton VII HEV (Hybrid Electric Vehicle).





Gap Analysis Tool

- Prepare/Prevent
 - Planning
 - Training
 - Exercises/Drills
 - Transportation Assembly Points
 - Reception Centers/Shelters
 - Evacuation Routes
 - Evacuee Tracking & Recording Procedures

Gap Analysis Tool Cont'd

- Prepare/Prevent
 - Cost Tracking and Reporting Procedures
 - Memorandums of Understanding or Agreements
 - Communication Technologies
 - Continuity of Operations
 - Re-entry
 - Demobilization
- After Action Analysis & Reporting

Transportation Resources

- ADA mandated Paratransit Systems
- Dial-a-Ride
- Non-Profits
- Area Agencies on Aging
- Regional Center Vendors
- Taxi systems
- Non-medical emergency services
- School district transportation systems
- Adult Day Health Care (ADHC)
- Airport shuttle buses
- Airport car rental shuttle buses
- Aging center vendors
- Health care center vendors

Agreements

Develop local agreements between transit and paratransit agencies to provide assistance with personnel & vehicles, during an emergency. Agreements should include the provision for cost recovery for services given during a federally declared event. The agreement should also outline method(s) for communication between service providers & the evacuees.

Transportation to Receiving Facilities/Shelters

Public transit agencies need to ensure that transportation between shelters, temporary housing & disaster relief centers is accessible.

1. What plans currently exist and are multiple entities dependent on the same provider(s)?
2. Plans identify the transportation providers that will move individuals with disabilities from schools, neighborhoods, medical facilities, nursing facilities, etc?
3. Are disability and aging transportation providers incorporated into evacuation plans?

4. Have licensed facilities been identified/mapped in advance and plans for evacuation approved?
5. During non-operational hours, how quickly can disability & aging transportation providers respond?
6. Plans exist for evacuations from the community not covered by public transit?

7. Does your agency receive a map at least quarterly, that identifies areas of the community where high levels of trips occur?
8. Neighboring providers able and prepared to assist?
9. First responder agencies know who the disability and aging transportation providers are?

10. Wheelchair accessible vehicles and drivers pre-positioned and immediately available to you during evacuations?

11. Drills/exercises incorporate first responders, disability transportation providers and people with disabilities as victims?

Planning with All
Stakeholder's will Save
Lives & Allow People with
Access & Functional
Needs to Maintain their
Dignity!