

Governing Body: MARION COUNTY COMMUNITY AND PROVIDER SERVICES (CAPS)	Function: INTEGRATED DELIVERY SYSTEM (IDS) HANDBOOK	
Subject: Emergency Preparedness	Prepared By: CAPS	Original Date: 10/01/2007 Revised Date: 01/01/2009

PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE:

Among those who are affected by disasters are vulnerable populations that include those individuals with behavioral health issues. Vulnerable populations also include those with

- Sight, hearing, cognitive and mobility disabilities;
- Limited English proficiency;
- Physical, cultural or geographic isolation;
- Medically or chemically dependent;
- Homeless;
- Medically frail/or elderly.

Some individuals have more than one disability or qualification as vulnerable. Special planning is needed to assure that vulnerable individuals have a plan for enhancing preparedness and mitigating adverse outcomes in the case of any community disaster that endangers the health and welfare of the residents of Marion County.

Planning Assumptions and Considerations:

- In large-scale disasters support from the government or other agencies, whether federal or regional, may be limited and/or delayed.
- Situation at the local level may make it unfeasible for individuals to receive every sort of assistance they desire or need.
- Responsibility for personal preparedness lies with the individual and is an essential means of mitigating the adverse effects of a disaster on individuals.
- With advance personal preparation, many people who are in one of the above groups can be less vulnerable and more self-sufficient in time of disaster.
- The majority of persons who remain especially vulnerable after such planning are most likely served by one of the many social service agencies found in Marion County.
- Some individuals may need assistance to evacuate.
- Some individuals may need temporary medical shelter due to medical needs such as oxygen.

Preparedness and Mitigation: Local Governmental and Non-governmental Agencies

1. Develop plan for promoting preparedness with all agency clients. When possible, integrate emergency preparedness education into regular client services (Ex: treatment planning)

2. Identify clients who may be especially vulnerable and help them do personal planning to the extent possible.
3. Develop disaster communications plan for getting information to agency clients.
4. Develop a Continuity Of Operations Plan (COOP) to assure services to most vulnerable clients during a disaster.
5. Provide a contact name for the agency to local Emergency Operation Centers (EOC) to act as a liaison in distributing emergency information when a disaster or emergency occurs and update accordingly.
6. Plan and participate in drills and exercises that test preparedness plans.
7. Participate in local emergency planning.

PROCESS AND/OR PROCEDURE:

In order for the needs of vulnerable populations to be met in the advent of a disaster it is necessary for IDS Providers to be involved in emergency preparedness planning. Overall responsibility for planning rests with Marion County and HRSA Region 2 but all partners must share in the protection of those who are served.

As a step in evaluating agency preparedness IDS Providers are requested to finish developing their COOP. Agency COOPs should be completed and approved by CAPS on or before December 31, 2009.