

**VULNERABLE POPULATIONS:
Improving Care Before, During,
and After an Emergency**

**June 30, 2008
Westin BWI
1110 Old Elkridge Road
Linthicum, Maryland**

9:00am – 4:30pm

Conference Description:

The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Office of Preparedness and Response and the Maryland Department of Disabilities, in collaboration with the Johns Hopkins Center for Public Health Preparedness, are providing a one-day symposium for professionals who provide services, resources, or support to individuals who will need assistance before, during and/or after a public health emergency because of disability or special need. The training goal is to provide participants with information related to the needs of these individuals.

Symposium topics include discussion of mental health concerns, effective risk communication, cultural and economic considerations, and provision of resources. These topics will focus on issues and resolutions, as well as best practices in providing support and services to people with disabilities or special needs.

Intended Audience:

Hospital and other health care providers, emergency management planners, emergency medical services providers, and state/local public health professionals and support staff.

Conference Objectives:

After participating in this symposium, attendees will be able to:

- Define and identify "vulnerable populations"
- Assess planning for vulnerable populations- before, during, and after a disaster or emergency
- Distinguish the unique mental health needs of some individuals
- Integrate appropriate communication techniques into interactions with vulnerable populations
- Identify and provide (or recommend) appropriate resources for vulnerable populations
- Recognize cultural and economic differences when doing emergency planning

Agenda:

- 8:00am Registration/Check-in/Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:15 Pre-Test
- 9:30 **Key Note Address**
Marcie Roth
Director, National Spinal Cord Injury Association
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 **“Working With People With Disabilities”**
James Korn
Deputy Director, Baltimore County Office of Homeland Security
and Emergency Management
Baltimore County Fire Department
- 11:25 **“Working With People With Disabilities”** (video)
- 12:00pm Lunch
- 1:00 **Break Out Sessions**
- Session 1A - (Group A)
- a. Effective Communication Strategies for Vulnerable Populations**
Kay Aaby, MPH, BSN, RN
Montgomery County Dept of Health & Human Services
- b. Economic and Cultural Considerations When Helping Communities Prepare for Disasters**
Randy Rowel, PhD
Director, Why Culture Matters Work Group for Disaster Studies
Morgan State University School of Public Health and Policy
- Session 1B - (Group B)
- a. Addressing Service Animals**
Gary Norman, Esq.
President, Area Guide Dog Users, Inc.
- b. Mental Health Support for Those with Special Needs**
Charles Bond, The Santé Group
and
Royal Riddick
- 2:30 Break

2:45

Break Out Sessions

Session 2A - (Group A)

a. Addressing Service Animals

Gary Norman, Esq.

President, Area Guide Dog Users, Inc.

b. Mental Health Support for Those with Special Needs

Charles Bond, The Santé Group

and

Royal Riddick

Session 2B - (Group B)

a. Effective Communication Strategies for Vulnerable Populations

Kay Aaby, MPH, BSN, RN

Montgomery County Dept of Health & Human Services

b. Economic and Cultural Considerations When Helping Communities Prepare for Disasters

Randy Rowel, PhD

Director, Why Culture Matters Work Group for Disaster Studies

Morgan State University School of Public Health and Policy

4:15

Closing Remarks

Post-Test

Evaluation

4:30

End