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