Children, Youth, & Families Task Forces for Recovery

LCDR Jonathan White, Ph.D., LCSW-C
Administration for Children & Families
Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response
Superstorm Sandy (2012).
Photo: ACF.
Administration for Children & Families

- A division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Promotes the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals and communities
- Administers more than 60 programs, budget of $51 billion

www.acf.hhs.gov
ACF Equities in Children & Disasters

- Child Care
- Child Support Services
- Child Welfare & Foster Care
- Community Services Block Grant
- Family Violence Prevention & Services
- Head Start
- Immediate Disaster Case Management

- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Refugee Resettlement
- Runaway & Homeless Youth
- Social Services Block Grant
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Unaccompanied Alien Children Services
ACF Emergency Activities

• The Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response (OHSEPR) provides leadership in human services preparedness, response, and recovery, promoting resilience of individuals, families, and communities prior to, during, and after nationally declared disasters and public health emergencies.

• Partnership between ACF Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response (OHSEPR) and the 10 ACF Regional Administrators’ offices.

• In each ACF Regional Administrator’s office, there is a Regional Emergency Management Specialist (REMS).
Moore, Oklahoma tornado (2013).

Photo: ACF.
Moore, Oklahoma tornado (2012).

Photo: ACF.
Superstorm Sandy (2012).
Photo: ACF.
Gaps & Constraints

- Limits to interoperability of human services, public health and medical (including behavioral health), and emergency management systems
- Vulnerabilities of child care providers and financial barriers to child care recovery
- Disaster human services historically focused on mass care shelters—not communities
Children, Youth, & Families Task Force

- Whole Community coordination forum
- Focused on children, youth, and families
- Led by State agency with equities in children’s services
- Convened by state with support from ACF and Save The Children
- Bring together a broad array of child-serving organizations
Children, Youth, & Families Task Force

• Develops “common operating picture” on children’s needs
• Makes available to community-level leaders technical assistance and SME from Federal and National NGO/VOAD partners
• Facilitates integration of early childhood programs and behavioral health mission
• Enables resource-pooling to address gaps
Superstorm Sandy (2012). Photo: ACF.
Task Force Members

- State agencies with children’s services equities
- Affected parents and youth
- Child care providers
- Child care resource and referral agency
- Child welfare agencies
- Behavioral health agencies
- Individual pediatricians, pediatric RNs and SWs, child psychologists, child life specialists
- After school care providers
- Recreational services programs
- Runaway & homeless youth providers
- Family violence prevention & services agencies
- Agencies serving children with disabilities

- Public health & environmental health authorities
- Schools (principals, teachers, counselors, social workers)
- Local religious leaders
- Community action agencies
- Head Start providers
- VOADs focused on children: Save The Children, Southern Baptists, Church of the Brethren Childrens Disaster Services
- Child advocate organizations
- Federal partners including ACF, ASPR, FEMA, others as needed
Superstorm Sandy (2012).
Photo: ACF.
Moore, Oklahoma tornado (2012).

Photo: ACF.
Child Care Workgroup

• Lead state agency for child care
• ACF (Regional Administrator, Office of Child Care, OHSEPR)
• Child care resource & referral agency
• Save The Children
• Child care providers
• Affected families
• FEMA
Joplin MO Child Care Task Force

• Convened by MO Department of Social Services Children’s Division, MO Department of Health and Senior Services, Division Child Care Licensing and ACF

• Task Force included MO Child Care Aware (CCR&R), child care providers, FEMA, Elementary and Secondary Education, SBA, ASPR/ABC, Save The Children, Ozark Center (behavioral health provider)
Louisiana: Hurricane Isaac, 2012

• Parish-level Children’s Task Forces in two hardest-hit parishes: Plaquemines & St John The Baptist
• Convened by LA Department of Children & Family Services, ACF, and Save The Children
• Over 60 participating individuals and agencies—multi-sector & multi-disciplinary
LCDR Jonathan White
Deputy Director
Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness & Response
Administration for Children and Families
jonathan.white@acf.hhs.gov
(202) 570-8916