

FEMA Children's Working Group

Terry Adirim, MD, MPH

Vice-Chair, FEMA Children's Working Group

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



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Purpose of Working Group

- Established by FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate in August 2009 and charged with:
 - Implementing planning, preparedness, response, and recovery strategies specific to the needs of children;
 - Ensuring children are integrated into FEMA's overall planning guidance and operations
 - Coordinating and collaborating with experts from other Federal agencies and with non-governmental stakeholders to address and elevate the needs of children as they relate to disasters
 - Contributing to creating a lasting change, at every level of government,



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Initial Focus Areas of the CWG

- National Commission on Children in Disasters Interim Report recommendations:
 - Disaster Management and Recovery
 - Disaster Case Management
 - Child Care
 - Sheltering Guidance, Service and Supplies
 - Housing
 - Information Collection / Sharing
- Building relationships with key stakeholders
- Inclusion of Children's Working Group across agency initiatives



Accomplishments

- Specific guidance on use of Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) grants for children's needs in the FY 2010 Guidance issued in December 2009
- Disaster Case Management – interagency agreement signed with the Department of Health and Human Services
- Clarification of child care services and facilities eligible for reimbursement under the Stafford Act
- Shelter supply list for infants and toddlers



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Accomplishments

- FEMA Emergency Support Function #6 coordination
 - Support of USAID during Haiti Earthquake
 - Support for FEMA response to American Samoa after Tsunami
- National Disaster Housing Task Force
- FEMA's Emergency Management Institute – planning for children and disasters
- Community planning guidance



Current and Planned Future Activities

- Augment communication and coordination with FEMA regions, Federal partners and external stakeholders
- National Preparedness Coordination
 - Student Tools for Emergency Preparedness (STEP) Program
 - Updating and consolidating FEMA Public Web-Sites aimed at children
 - Educational Youth Summit planned for fall, 2010
 - Integration of Children into FEMA's planning guidance and documents
 - Development of Guidance Documents and Toolkit
- Support of Federal partners
- Information collection and sharing



Current and Planned Future Activities

- Develop guidance for communities and organizations that run shelters on preparing for children and families
- Develop guidance for families on keeping their children safe in shelters
- Develop toolkit/guidance on inclusion of children and families in exercises
- Develop training tools/curriculums for first responders in the care of children during disasters



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