

Licking County MORPC
Special Emergency Transportation Needs
Forum Discussion
March 30th, 2010
Time 5:00-7:00 pm
Final Minutes

Representatives participating in the discussion

Elderly
Handicapped
College Student
Parents of disabled children

Agencies that observed forum

Licking County Red Cross
Licking County General Health District
Licking County Planning Department
211 Call Center/Pathways
Licking Memorial Hospital
United Way
AARP Foundation Worksearch
Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
Baker Group
Licking County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Total Attendees -22

Discussion Format

This forum was held at the County Administration Building, 20 Second Street, Newark, OH. This location was coordinated by the 211 Call Center and the Licking County Planning Department. Food and drinks was delivered by Christy's Pizza for all the attendees halfway through the meeting as there was a delay in ordering the pizza. The meeting was started at 5:15 pm. Transportation was provided by using a local church bus that was driven by Jeff Walker, the current Licking County EMA Director.

Introductions were provided by Michael Pompili, of the Kettering Foundation and Dan Haake of MORPC. The forum discussion was moderated by Dave Patton from the Kettering Foundation on behalf of the Mid Ohio Regional Planning Committee's Plan for Populations with Mobility Needs. All attendees were encouraged to participate with instructions being given to the agency representatives to observe and not participate in the discussion, unless a specific question was addressed to them.

Discussion

The discussion was initiated by having the participants discuss their experiences that they encountered with the Hurricane Ike windstorm in September 2008. The discussion then reverted back to also discussing the ice storm in December 2004-January 2005. The participants wanted to discuss that storm more because of the impact of that storm where they did not have electricity and they also had freezing cold weather which caused additional concerns.

Specific General Comments received (not all comments)

2004/2005 Ice Storm –How did it affect you?

- Loss of power, and then it also cause loss of water or heat and phones;
- Concerns of people who had existing medical conditions;
- Mentioned that Home Health Agencies have now implemented a procedure whereby they now deliver a 3 day oxygen supply to their patients that use oxygen in case of an emergency, and they can't get to them; and
- They also referred to that the Newark Fire Department does check on elderly and disabled in high rise apartments in the event of the emergency.

How did you receive emergency information?

- Radio and Television
- Radio was the preferred method of communication;
- There was a recognition that the local TV stations, are more directed in the coverage of the immediate Columbus area, and as such was not as useable for Licking County Residents;
- Most comments did hear the local emergency sirens, except in the wind storm in September 2008, because of the high wind volume. They also knew that they had the danger of a tornado if they heard such a warning;
- Upon hearing the warning thou, they would turn on their TV to see where the tornado was in regards to their home;
- They requested that local radio stations provide emergency information at selected times- on the quarter hour, half hour, etc in the event of an emergency;

What kind of information do you want the most?

- Where to go?
- What is going on in this emergency?
- How serious is the problem?
- Evacuation or stay in place;
- Transportation for medical help;
- Shelter available- this group actually identified where their shelters were located in the Newark area; and
- Then there was a discussion by the EMA Director that sometimes the emergency shelters might have to be moved based upon the damaged caused by the storm.

Trust Items

- The participants requested that someone be the point person in the event of an emergency;
- The requested it be the mayor or other high ranking person;
- Denison University does use a text message in the event of an emergency;, but it not always sent; and
- Participants were trusting of local and Columbus media in the event of an emergency.

Voluntary Registry System

- Registry for special populations;
- The participants strongly supported such a program;
- Some individuals will not participate because of privacy concerns but was not a concern of the participants especially since it is a voluntary process;
- Need to make it voluntary; and

BREAK FOR PIZZA

Forum Discussion continued:

Other comments

- Would like to have emergency information listed in local telephone book-Jeff Walker then informed them that such information was available in page 40 of the local Windstream telephone book;
- Requested that emergency information could be distributed in the local Newark Main Library;
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Attendee's knowledge of Licking County Agencies

211

Reasonably knowledgeable of the 211 Call Center and their duties;

This group has been the most informed regarding the 211 Centers as compared to other central Ohio Forums;

Red Cross

Their duties were outlined as per some of the participants

EMA

Most aware of them

Regional Planning

Not aware of the agency

Health Department

Vaccines
Bureau of Maternal and Children Health Services
WIC Clinics
Home Health
Sexually Transmitted Diseases;

Summary

The discussion was very free flowing with the agency representatives also participating but only when requested, or information was requested by the participants. The representatives were very open with their comments.

Main points of the discussion were as follows:

- They were trusting of local media in the event of an emergency;
- Desired far more information from local radio stations, especially to actually identifying a particular time to release information to the community- for example on the half or quarter hour;
- Recognized that the local TV stations were more focused on Columbus area, and not so much on the needs of their area;
- Do refer to Columbus TV though in the event of a tornado, or other siren warning notice, as they look to television station weathermen (Sirens are used only for Tornado warning and nothing else);
- Like the idea of the registry, and did not see the privacy issue as being a real issue since it was a volunteer project;
- Overall these attendees were very knowledgeable of the location of the shelters and other emergency procedures.

Mike Pompili then stated at the end of the Forum, that the Licking County agencies were the best group to work with so far, in that they really stepped forward in coordinating the transportation, meeting rooms and all other aspects of this forum. He reinforced that the agencies that participated in the planning really demonstrated how much could be accomplished by agencies working together for the common good of holding this forum. He thanked them for their effort.

The Forum adjourned at 7:02 pm.

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