



Putting the Human Services in Health and Human Services

**Regional Emergency Management Specialists
Department of Health and Human Services
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and
Response (OHSEPR)**





Who is the Administration for Children & Families?

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is responsible for federal programs that promote the economic and social well-being of families, children, individuals, and communities. These programs include:



- Adoption & Foster Care
- Child Abuse & Neglect
- Child Care
- Child Support
- Developmental Disabilities
- Early Childhood Education
- Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- Family/Domestic Violence
- Responsible Fatherhood Initiative
- Head Start
- Runaway and homeless youth
- Native American/Tribal issues
- Refugees (including repatriation)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Community Services Block Grant (Community Action Agencies)



Who is HHS?

Many HHS Agencies Are Involved in Responding to a Disaster

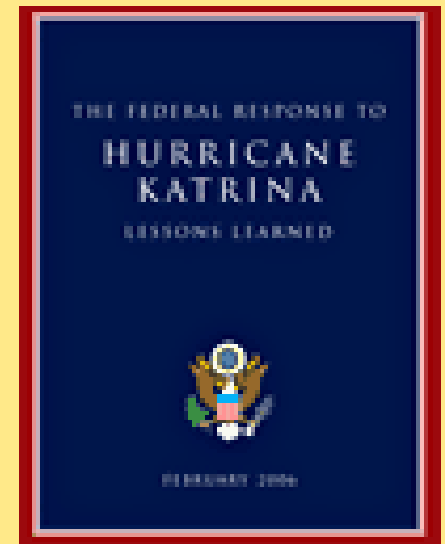
- Administration on Aging
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
- Food & Drug Administration
- Health Resources & Services Administration
- Indian Health Service
- Office for Public Health & Science
- Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration
- Assistant Secretary for Preparedness & Response (ASPR)



ACF's Role in Disaster Preparedness and Response

Katrina Lessons Learned:

- HHS should coordinate with other departments of the Executive Branch, as well as State governments and non-governmental organizations, to develop a robust, comprehensive, and integrated system to deliver human services during disasters....





ACF's Role in Emergency Response

- ACF designated as the lead agency within HHS to support FEMA for Human Services/ESF-6 preparedness and response.
- ACF also coordinates with ASPR on ESF-8
- Office of Human Services Emergency Preparedness and Response created (OHSEPR)
- Regional Emergency Management Specialists in each region (REMS)
- The Regional Administrator in the region (Steve Henigson) serves as the Human Services Branch Director for HHS in the region in a response.





But What Do You Do?

- Provide Technical Assistance to states, FEMA, and others regarding ACF & HHS program authorities
- For example: In Joplin the REMS participated on the child care task force in an effort to provide child care to those people affected by the disaster and the responders. The task force included several VOAD partners including Church of the Brethren.





What Do We Do?

- Provide Subject Matter Experts and Liaisons who can be deployed to various entities (JFO, RRCC, IRCT, EOC)
 - For example, in Iowa, one of our counterparts was stationed at the State social service agency headquarters
- Coordinate with other HHS agencies regarding human services benefit programs, especially AoA, SAMHSA, ASPR
 - For example, a number of ACF staff were deployed to Louisiana to help the state respond



Jenny at the NRCC during Gustav/Ike



Lewissa at the NRCC during the Inauguration



HHS Human Services Support Teams

- At the request of and in coordination with the State, teams were deployed during Iowa flooding, Gustav in Louisiana and Ike in Texas as part of ESF-6
- Teams included representation from HHS-ACF, AoA, CMS, FEMA, Red Cross, Dept. of Labor, and sometimes a state or local representative.
- Teams identified immediate needs of shelter residents and sought solutions, in conjunction with FEMA, Red Cross, state and locals
- The teams reported needs to a JFO task force that included Federal and state agencies and VOADs.





HHS Human Services Response

HHS Human Services Teams

Key Issues Identified:

- Acute medical needs
- Public health and sanitation
- Lack of transportation
- Lack of access to prescription medication
- Need for crisis counseling/mental health issues
- Durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, air mattress, etc.)
- “Good intentions” independent shelters often overwhelmed
- Child welfare; child care





ACF Disaster Case Management

- Fact Sheet – Disaster Case Management
– Option 1 & 3
- Disaster Case Management Frequently Asked Questions
- Current National Partner – Catholic Charities



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS



“Within hours of Hurricane Ike’s landfall in Texas, San Antonio officials had compiled precise statistics about their evacuee situation. They knew the city would need to care for 5,303 people (561 of whom had special medical needs) and 642 pets. ... But there was one key group for which they had no figures: children.”

**-- Newsweek, “Overlooked: The Littlest Evacuees”
(October 6, 2008)**



About the Commission

- Authorized by Congress December 26, 2007, final report submitted October 2010
- Administration for Children & Families provided support
- Mandated study different policy areas related to the needs of children affected by disasters, including:
 - Trauma, physical and mental health
 - Child welfare
 - Child care
 - Housing (sheltering, intermediate, long-term)
 - Evacuation and Transportation
 - Elementary and Secondary Education
 - Juvenile Justice
 - Emergency Management



About the Commission

Commission Members

- **Mark K. Shriver**, *Commission Chairperson*, Vice President and Managing Director for U.S. Programs, Save the Children
- **Dr. Michael Anderson**, *Commission Vice-Chairperson*, Interim Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, University Hospitals
- **Ernie Allen**, President & CEO, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- **Merry Carlson**, Preparedness Chief, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, State of Alaska
- **Honorable Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie**, Nevada General Assembly, 2nd Judicial District Court
- **Bruce Lockwood**, Public Health Emergency Response Coordinator, Bristol-Burlington (CT) Health District
- **Graydon "Gregg" Lord**, Senior Policy Analyst and Associate Director, Homeland Security Policy Institute, George Washington University
- **Dr. Irwin Redlener**, President & Co-founder, The Children's Health Fund & Director of the National Center for Disaster Preparedness and Professor of Clinical Population and Family Health, Columbia University
- **Dr. David Schonfeld**, Thelma and Jack Rubinstein Professor of Pediatrics, Director of the Division of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics, and Director of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement, National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
- **Lawrence "Larry" Tan**, Chief of Emergency Medical Services, New Castle County (DE) Department of Public Safety





Why Children?

- Children have unique needs – they are not “little adults.”
- Children comprise 25% of the population, but they are placed inappropriately into categories of “special needs,” “vulnerable,” or “at risk.”
- Pediatric health care gaps exist – e.g., only 6% of hospital ER’s and 20% of ambulances are equipped with appropriate pediatric equipment.



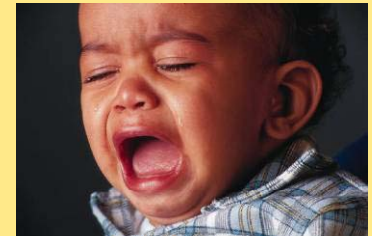


Why Children?

- Children exposed to Hurricane Katrina were nearly 5 times as likely as a pre-Katrina cohort to exhibit serious emotional disturbance.
- 40.8% of parents in Louisiana and 49.1% in Mississippi reported that their child experienced emotional or behavioral problems that they did not experience before Hurricane Katrina.
- Fewer than half of the children believed to need psychological help from Katrina received it.
- More than a third of parents living within a mile of the Gulf Coast say their children suffered physical or mental distress since the oil rig blew up April 20, 2010.

“Children as Bellwethers of Recovery: Dysfunctional Systems and the Effects of Parents, Households, and Neighborhoods on Serious Emotional Disturbance in Children After Hurricane Katrina” (David M. Abramson, PhD; Yoon Soo Park, MS; Tasha Stehling-Ariza, MPH; Irwin Redlener, MD), *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness*, August 23, 2010

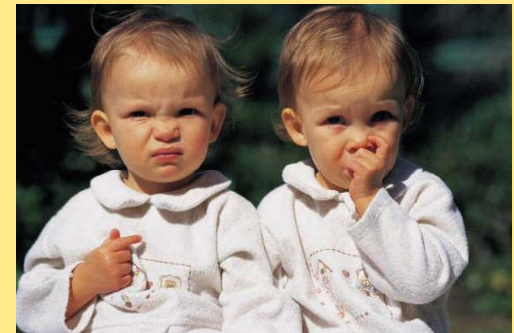
http://www.childrenshealthfund.org/sites/default/files/files/Children_As_Bellweathers.pdf





Key Issues Today

- Mass Care & Shelter
- Child Care
- Child Welfare & Reunification
- Mental Health
- Pediatric Health Care
- Recovery



NCCD has not just made recommendations, but has developed tools for jurisdictions to use in planning for the needs of children.

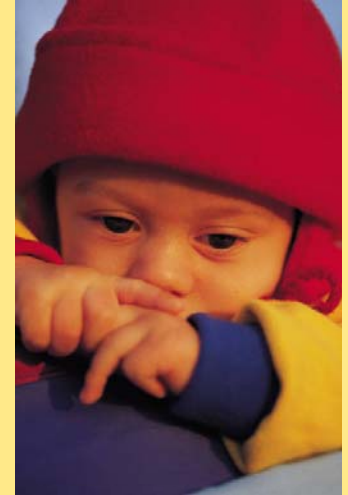


Preparedness Indicators for Children

NCCD has developed a set of indicators that jurisdictions can use to determine whether they are prepared to care for children in a disaster. Indicators are meant to help assess preparedness in:

- General preparedness
- Shelter Operations
- Public Information & Outreach
- Pediatric Emergency Response Training
- Pediatric Medical Supplies and Equipment
- Child Congregate Care Settings

www.childrenanddisasters.acf.hhs.gov/reports_studies/resources/Preparedness_Indicators_Modified_from_CPG_101_2_v5.pdf





Mass Care & Shelter

What are the challenges for sheltering children?

- ✓ NCCD has developed guidance on “Standards and Indicators for Disaster Shelter Care for Children”
 - Keep children with families
 - Provide “safe spaces”
 - Ensure children are accompanied wherever they go in the shelter

[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/region10/programs/ep/r/nccd/shelter care standards](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/region10/programs/ep/r/nccd/shelter%20care%20standards)



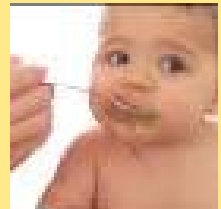


Mass Care & Shelter

What Special Supplies Do Children Need in a Shelter?

Recommendation: Provide Age-Appropriate Supplies in Shelters (Food, Beds, Hygiene, Toys, etc.)

- ✓ NCCD has developed a sample list of shelter supplies.
- ✓ FEMA has developed CUSI packs for States.





Mass Care & Shelter

Recommendation: Screen Staff & Volunteers

Implement common standards and training, including standards for criminal background checks, to mitigate risks unique to children in shelters such as child abduction and sex offenders.

✓NCCD has developed guidance for volunteer support:

“Recommended Guidelines for Conducting Background Checks on Volunteers.”



www.acf.hhs.gov/nccd/reports_studies/resources/NCCD_Volunteer_Background_Check_Guidelines_FINAL.pdf



Child Care Recommendations

More than 11 million children under the age of 5 are in some type of child care arrangement every week.

Recommendation: Improve Disaster Planning for Child Care Providers

- Develop Statewide child care disaster plans addressing continuity of services and provision of emergency child care

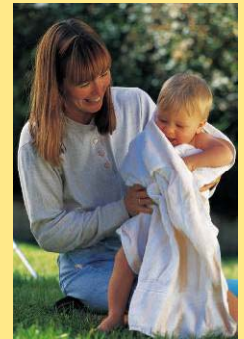
✓ **ACF Guidance: Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning for Child Care**

www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccb/law/guidance/current/im2011-01/im2011-01.htm

- Establish disaster preparedness licensing standards for providers

✓ **NACCRA/Save the Children recommended standards**

www.naccra.org/publications/naccra-publications/publications/8960503_Disaster%20Report-SAVE_MECH.pdf





Child Care Recommendations

Recommendation: Improve capacity to provide child care services in the immediate aftermath of and recovery from a disaster.

- ✓ FEMA revised its Public Assistance policy to permit reimbursement to state and local governments for emergency child care services that coincide with the emergency sheltering period.

Disaster Assistance Fact Sheet 9580.107:
Public Assistance for Child Care Services
www.fema.gov/pdf/government/grant/pa/9580_107.pdf





Child Care Recommendations

Recommendation: Improve capacity to provide child care services in the immediate aftermath of and recovery from a disaster.

- ✓ FEMA has revised its Public Assistance regulations to codify child care as an “essential” service.

Nonprofit child-care providers may be eligible for assistance to repair damaged facilities if they do not qualify for SBA disaster loans or if the SBA approves a loan for less than the amount required to repair the damage.





Head Start Recommendations

Recommendation: Require disaster preparedness for Head Start Centers and basic disaster mental health training for staff.

- ACF staff is available to provide technical assistance to Head Starts.





Schools Recommendations

Recommendation: Improve School Preparedness and Recovery

- Do schools and districts have comprehensive all-hazards plans?
- Do schools plan, train, and exercise collaboratively with community partners including first responders, public health, and emergency management officials on a regular basis?
- Can schools be reopened and the learning environment be restored quickly? Have potential sources of support, including government, non-government, and private sector sources been identified to assist in restoration of operations?





Schools Recommendations

Recommendation: Improve School Preparedness and Recovery

- Are teachers and other school personnel trained to recognize signs of distress, adjustment difficulties, and other behavioral and emotional issues in children and provide basic supportive services?
 - ✓ Department of Education: Practical Information on Crisis Planning: A Guide for Schools and Communities

www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/emergencyplan/crisisplanning.pdf



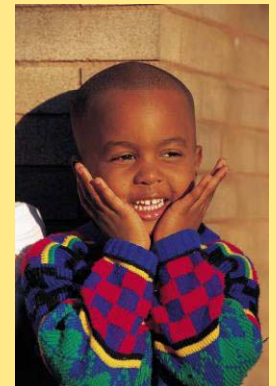


Child Welfare Recommendations

Child welfare includes adoption and foster care, child abuse and neglect, and family preservation. When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita forced the evacuation of children in foster care to 19 different states, agencies struggled to locate children and families, provide critical services and ensure appropriate oversight of cases.

Recommendation: Ensure that State and local child welfare agencies adequately prepare for disasters.

- States are now required to have child welfare plans addressing continuity of operations.
- Within each ACF regional office, child welfare staff and the region's emergency management specialist should collaboratively review and evaluate the State child welfare disaster plans.





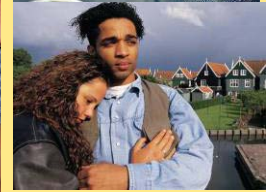
Unaccompanied Children & Family Reunification

On any given weekday, more than 67 million children are away from their parents while attending school, or at child care (Save the Children 2010)

Recommendation: Ensure child care providers include provisions for communication and reunification with families in their emergency plans.

Recommendation: Ensure that shelters have plans for taking care of unaccompanied minors.

- ✓ American Red Cross has developed guidance on handling unaccompanied children in shelters.

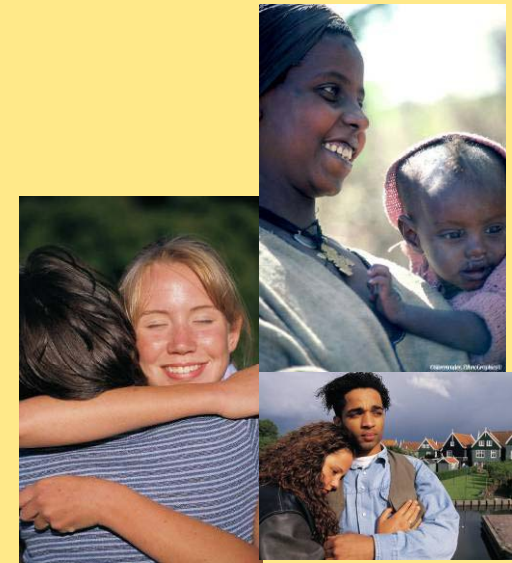




Unaccompanied Children & Family Reunification

Recommendation: Develop and deploy a national information sharing capability to reunite displaced children with their families.

✓FEMA is finalizing a cooperative agreement with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) to expedite search and reunification of missing children.





Children's Mental Health Recommendations

- Integrate mental and behavioral health for children into public health, medical, and other relevant disaster management activities.
- Enhance training in children's disaster mental health for mental health professionals and individuals, such as teachers, who work with children.
- Strengthen the Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP) to better meet the mental health needs of children and families.
- Establish the position of Children's Disaster Mental Health Coordinator within State-level CCPs.





Pediatric Health Care

Just a few of the recommendations:

- Establish a Pediatric Health Care Coordinator on each disaster medical response team.
- Increase pediatric surge capacity, including “reserve pool” of pediatric health care workers to assist in NDMS disaster response.
- Ensure all hospital emergency departments stand ready to care for ill or injured children.





Pediatric Health Care

- Strengthen pediatric training for first responders and other health professionals who may treat children in disasters.
- Create Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program incentive payments for providers in disaster areas.
- Ensure availability of and access to pediatric medical countermeasures.
- Expand research on pediatric environmental health risks associated with disasters.





Recovery: Housing Assistance

Recommendation: Prioritize the needs of families with children:

- Ensure children have access to needed services in disaster housing
- Reimburse State & local governments for providing wrap-around services to children and families in community sites
- Expedite transition into permanent housing for families with children





NCCD Accomplishments

- ✓ Creation of Children's Working Group at the White House, FEMA, and HHS
- ✓ Integration of children throughout FEMA's CPG 101 v.2.0
- ✓ Revision of FEMA policy to support reimbursement of emergency child care services in immediate aftermath of disasters
- ✓ HHS guidelines on strengthening disaster preparedness for child care programs
- ✓ FEMA developed an online course, "Planning for the Needs of Children in Disasters," with NCCD and Save the Children





NCCD Accomplishments

- ✓ NCCD has developed these tools:
 - Preparedness indicators for children
 - Standards and indicators for shelter care for children
 - Shelter supplies list for children
 - Guidelines for volunteer background checks
 - Framework for state and local planning





National Commission on Children & Disasters

More key issues:

- Establish school disaster preparedness programs
- Improve planning for child welfare and juvenile justice agencies
- Develop standards and training for sheltering children
- Prioritize families with children for disaster housing assistance
- Develop a standardized evacuee tracking and family reunification system





Questions?

- It's never too early to start educating people on human service needs and disasters!





Your ACF contacts:

Steve Henigson
Regional Administrator
206-615-3660 / BB: 206-696-2148
steve.henigson@acf.hhs.gov

Lewissa Swanson
Regional Emergency Management Specialist
W: 206-615-2573 / BB: 206-473-7962
lewissa.swanson@acf.hhs.gov

Jenny Holladay
Regional Emergency Management Specialist
W: 206-615-2772 / BB: 206-473-7245
jenny.holladay@acf.hhs.gov