Functional Assessment Service Teams:

The Pierce County Pilot Project

Nicole Johnson
Pierce County Department of Emergency Management
Pierce County, Washington

- Second most populated county in WA
- Population estimates 861,312
  - Persons 65 and older 13.4%
  - Persons with a disability (<65) 10.1%
  - Persons in poverty 12.4%
- Language other than English spoken at home 14.9%
- English spoken less than “very well” 38.2%
Trained social service professionals ready to respond to disaster shelters
FAST Member Duties

- Coordinate with shelter managers
- Conduct assessments

- Arrange for support
- Request resources
FAST Member Qualifications

- Two years of professional experience
- ICS 100/200/700
- Pass background check
- Work under difficult and stressful conditions
FAST will help assess people with accommodation needs and assist them by getting what they need to stay in a shelter.
Except for people who are medically fragile, all people should be able to stay in general shelters during emergencies and disasters.
Access and Functional needs

Five categories of functional needs under FEMA’s definition (C-MIST):

- Communication
- Maintaining Health
- Independence
- Safety, Support, Self-determination
- Transportation
FAST beginnings in Pierce County

- May 2012 – First two-day training held
- June 2013 – began monthly meetings
- July 2012 – first sheltering exercise for team
- Assisting other counties with training
Pierce County Project Partners

Washington State Department of Social & Health Services

City of Tacoma

City of Lakewood

Goodwill

FEMA

Helping Hand House
Dedicated to preventing and ending family homelessness

Tacoma - Pierce County Health Department
Healthy People in Healthy Communities

CFI CENTER FOR INDEPENDENCE

Promoting the independence of individuals with disabilities
# Experience Areas

- Mental health
- Behavioral health
- Developmental disabilities
- Cognitive disabilities
- Low vision/blindness
- Deaf/hard of hearing
- Chemical dependencies
- Substance abuse

- Physical health
- Personal support services
- Physical disabilities
- Cultural/religious needs
- Communication barriers
- Aging
- People experiencing homelessness
Some of our Members

- Associated Ministries
- Brain Energy Support Team
- Brain Injury Alliance of WA
- CARES of WA
- Catholic Community Services
- Center for Independence
- Pierce County Human Services
- Pierce County Aging and Disability Resources
- Hearing, Speech, and Deaf Center
- Comprehensive Life Resources – PATH
- Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Community
- Northwest Services for Independent Living
- Pierce County Coalition for Developmental Disabilities
- Western State Hospital
Struggles

- Member Engagement
- Training opportunities
- Limited opportunities to shelter
- Getting Agency Buy-in
- Understanding role of FAST
  - Agencies and individuals
Moving forward
FAST Team Sustainability and ‘Next Steps’
Continued FAST Trainings

2012 Functional Assessment Service Teams (FAST) Instructor Manual

Prerequisites:
FAST stands for Functional Assessment Service Teams. It allows the FAST Unit Leader at the shelter to deploy a team of specially trained individuals who can plan and coordinate all the shelter activities. For more information please visit http://www.piercecountywa.org/fast.

Training topics:
-FAST Unit Leader role
-Prerequisites
-Setting up the FAST Team
-Understanding the FAST Team roles and responsibilities
-Planning and executing shelter activities
-Dealing with special needs
-Conflict resolution
-Team building
-Participating with others in decision-making

Date: April 15, 2014
Time: 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Location: Fife Community Center
2111 54th Avenue East
Fife, WA 98424

Questions?
Contact: Jody Hansen
Email: jody.hansen@piercewa.gov
Phone: 253-798-2306

REGISTER:
Online at: http://www.piercecountywa.org/fast_unit领袖
If 508 accommodations are needed, please make note on your registration no later than April 7, 2014.
Monthly Team Member Trainings

- Presentations on social service disciplines or programs
- Scenario based discussions
- Tabletop exercises
- Shelter Exercises
In the Emergency Operations Center

FAST Coordinator
FAST Liaison
Exercises

CASCADIA RISING
EXERCISE 2016

BY THE PIERCE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
PLANNING TEAM
Exercises - FAST members:

- Participated on Exercise Planning Team
- Developed realistic picture of shelter needs
- Crafted resource requests for Exercise
- Served in Emergency Operations Center
- Worked in the Exercise Simulation Center
Planning Committees

- Mt. Rainier Coordination Plan Working Group
  - Evacuation and Sheltering Annex
  - Communication Annex

- Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan Review Committee

- Pierce County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment Workshops
FAST Trailers
Next Steps

Get Deployed!
Contact information

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Pierce County (WA) Department of Emergency Management