PREPAREDNESS AND INCLUSION USING CULTURAL AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

Dawn Skaggs
National Director of Whole Community Planning and Training
BCFS HHS Emergency Management Division

Debbie Jackson
Planner/ADA Coordinator
Hawaii Disability and Communication Access Board

Bathey Fong
Feeling Safe Being Safe Community Trainer

Preparedness as a Pathway
Identifying Cultural and Social Capital

Cultural Capital – Innovation
Social Capital – Relationships

Steps to Preparedness + Inclusion

**Personal Preparedness Process**
- Familiarity with threats and hazards
- Identifying needs and resources
- Establishing natural supports
- Putting the pieces together
- Practicing and sustaining

**Planning Inclusion Process**
- Familiarity with planning process
- Identifying community needs and resources
- Building community relationships
- Engaging in the planning process
- Formalizing roles and responsibilities and exercising
Necessary Tools - Universal Accessibility

- Plan
- Supports
- Information
- Pathway

Example Tool
Disaster Volunteer Training
http://www.bcfsemd.org/dvt

Becoming a Disaster Volunteer
DAWN SKAGGS, MA

DAWN.SKAGGS@BCFS.NET
210-716-8700

WWW.BCFSEMD.ORG


August 2009
Co-Conveners

• Hawaii State Department of Health
• Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA, formerly State Civil Defense)
• Disability and Communication Access Board (DCAB)

Partners

• County Civil Defense Agencies
• State Agencies
• Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
• Service Providers and Community Agencies
• Persons with Disabilities
• Others with Access and Functional Needs
Geographic & Cultural Uniqueness of Hawaii

• Comprised of eight (8) populated islands
• Surrounded by water in the middle of Pacific Ocean
• Limited transportation between islands (by air & sea)
• Diverse population and culture – no one ethnic majority
• “Ohana” is part of the culture in Hawaii. The family is all inclusive with no one left behind

Goals and Objectives of Plan

• Sheltering
  • Emergency preparedness and readiness of people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs
• Healthcare provider education
• Accessible and redundant notification
• Accessible transportation to/from shelters
Outcomes and Accomplishments

• Population of people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs identified in the community

• Shelters being identified and assessed in the community

• PWD & PAFN trained to have an emergency evacuation plan and kit

Plan Updates

Revisions to the plan will include:

• Prevention and Mitigation
• Response
• Recovery
• Education
• Participating in Exercises
**Tips for Success**

- Identify, Invite, and include representatives to participate in planning effort, including individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs
- Ensure meeting site is accessible for all participants
- Provide accommodations for access to meetings
- Agree to and assign goals and objectives to key agencies
- Communicate by using everyday language
- Collaborate by using existing resources
- Acknowledge participants’ contributions

---

**For More Information**

Disability and Communication Access Board  
(808) 586-8121  
[debbra.jackson@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:debbra.jackson@doh.hawaii.gov)  
[health.hawaii.gov/dcab/](http://health.hawaii.gov/dcab/)
THE STORY OF BATHEY

Hawaii Feeling Safe Being Safe Emergency Preparedness Trainer
Community Educator
Disabilities Advocate
Subject Matter Expert Resource

What My Life Was Like

1. I didn’t feel support.

2. I was put down.

3. I was a client.

4. I couldn’t speak up for myself.

5. I didn’t know that I could do a lot of things.

6. I didn’t know I could help other people.
What I Did

1. I took an emergency preparedness class.

2. I took a training on how to be a trainer in emergency preparedness.

3. I trained other how to be prepared.

4. I traveled to other islands to train people.

What I’ve Done and What I Do Now

1. I taught responders and emergency managers about Feeling Safe Being Safe and people with disabilities.

2. I helped other people become trainers.

3. I hosted a table at preparedness fairs.
What I’ve Done and What I Do Now

4. I speak at conferences.

5. I participate in statewide exercises.

6. I work with Debbie, our ADA Coordinator.

How What I Did Changed My Life

1. I was shy, but worked on my confidence.
2. I learned how to speak up for myself.
3. I asked people to listen to me.
4. I learned how to share my feelings.
5. I learned how to not be scared and ask for help.
For People With Disabilities

You need to:

1. Have respect for yourself.
2. Be more confident.
3. Use your voice and speak up for yourself.
4. Make your own choices and decisions.
5. Build relationships and choose the people in your circle of support.
6. Learn from your mistakes and be okay.

Who I Am Today

“I am the President for the Hawaii Self-Advocacy Advisory Council. I am a business owner training people about emergency preparedness. I help people with disabilities have a voice and make their own decisions.

I dream of living on my own and having my own family. I want to travel and learn new things. I want to continue helping people reach their goals and dreams.”
Dawn Skaggs  
210-716-8700  
Dawn.Skaggs@bcfs.net

Debbie Jackson  
(808) 586-8121  
debra.jackson@doh.hawaii.gov

Bathey Fong