
The MA Active Planning Project

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The **Active Planning Project**

**Objectives**

- **Responder Training**: 3 hour in-person course
- **Community Stakeholder Meeting (CSM)**: Inclusive local planning meeting
- **Disability community awareness raising**: Self-preparedness and community emergency planning

**3 Phases**

Phases 1 and 2: In-person
Phase 3: Online + new name

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The **Active Planning Project**

- **Audience**: Responders + disability community

- **Stakeholder involvement**
  - Advisory Committee
  - Review by expert with a disability + local emergency manager
  - Field test and feedback session

- **The Numbers**
  - Training in 29 localities
  - CSM in 21 localities (overlap)
  - Over 1000 MA people participated
  - IRB determination not human subject research
Responder Training

Equity & Efficiency?

Photographs: J. Gleason, E.K. Shriver Center

Responder Training

- Demographics
- Disaster experiences
- 1:1 interactions (OARS steps)
- Functional and access needs
- ADA issues
- Community Stakeholder Meeting (CSM) process and *Active Planning* Workbook guide
Community Stakeholder Meeting (CSM)

Review local emergency plan/response practices
• Identify gaps
• Develop strategies
• Create an action plan for improvement

Lively discussion

Tailored to local community
• Participant selection
• Roles: Community facilitator, plan “expert”, time keeper, recorder
• Define critical issues

Active Planning Workbook
Guides the CSM process
Sparks discussion!
Records decisions and accomplishments

Step 1 - Where are we now?
• Tool 1 - Needs Assessment/Gap Analysis Checklist

Step 2 - Where do we want to be?
• Tool 2 - Priority Setting Form

Step 3 - How will we get there?
• Tool 3 - Action Plan Form to record strategies, timeline
Tool #1: Where Are We Now?

Extensive topical checklist
Tool #2: Where Do We Want To Be?

- Set priorities
- Areas for quick and inexpensive solutions
- Areas of greatest need

Tool #3: How Do We Get There?

- Summarize gaps and record strategies
- Name responsible person(s)
- Timeline
CSM Outcomes: Understanding Disability Community Needs

Gaps
- Develop more accurate picture of local disability community
- Understand specific needs

Strategies
- Meet with provider agencies to learn about people served
- US Census (American Community Survey)
- Share aggregate local data
- Outreach re PAS
- Inclusive drills

CSM Outcomes: Sharing Resources

Gaps
- Hoyer lift needed
- Extra wheelchairs needed
- American Sign Language interpreters needed
- Individuals who are blind/low vision unable to see registration forms

Strategies
- Borrow from local special ed. class
- Borrow from Council on Aging
- Local hospital to loan ASL interpreters
- Borrow CCTV video magnifier from local library
## CSM Outcomes: Sharing Expertise

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gaps</th>
<th>Strategies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Community website down during emergencies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- City website has no emergency info for PWD</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Children with autism afraid of uniformed authority figures</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Local computer company to be asked for help</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- City disability commission volunteers to develop website info</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- First responders planned program to visit school to desensitize children</td>
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## Secrets to Success

- Identify a “champion”
  - Often public health personnel in MA
- Invite diverse participants
  - Balance of roles, views
  - “Worker bees”
  - Ideally 5-30 people
- Address potential barriers
  - Scheduling
  - Local politics
- Develop an “elevator story” for buy-in
Results

- **Training**: Increased responder knowledge and self-confidence
  
- **CSM**:
  - 100% of localities found at least 5 gaps
  - 100% of localities found gap closing strategies
  - 95% of disability community participants reported increased motivation to self-prepare
  - 8 localities reported continuing plan revision *after* project end

- **Common gaps and priorities**: communication; needs assessment; inadequate resources/services

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**Closing the Gap:**

**CSM “How To” Online**

- Pilot course--in development
- Ongoing storyline; interactive role play
- Accessible
- Learners: Local emergency planners
- Field testers will receive Workbook and resource list
Want to field test?
Contact: shriver.recruit@umassmed.edu

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