



“Nothing About Us Without Us”

Involving Persons with Functional Needs in All
Aspects of Disaster Preparedness

Kathy S. Silvestri, MPH

NW Ohio Regional Healthcare System
Coordinator for Disaster Preparedness

Meet Debbie and Amy



And Ernie.... NW Ohio Consumer Advocates for Disaster Preparedness



How Did Our Functional Needs Partners Get Involved with NW Ohio Disaster Preparedness?

We Asked Them!

- Community Planners:
 - Attended a functional needs disaster planning conference in Washington, D.C. in December 2005
 - They listened to and spoke with agencies from across the country to learn how they were incorporating persons with functional needs into disaster planning
- The conference motto of “Nothing about us without us” really resonated
- So the planners conducted a Special Needs Forum-November 8, 2006
 - Invited every agency they could think of which provides services and/or assistance to persons with functional needs
 - Encouraged the agencies to bring their clients and/or caregivers
 - The planners asked some basic questions about personal and community preparedness
- That is where we first met Debbie
 - Then she recruited Ernie and Amy
 - The rest is history

What Has Changed?

- We found out what we really didn't know much about persons with functional needs
 - This has been very humbling
- We think about and include persons with functional needs on planning and exercise design teams
- We make sure that exercises test functional needs response capabilities and objectives
- We put our consumer advocate partners to work
 - Writing meeting minutes
 - Staffing meeting registration tables
 - Arranging meeting venues
 - Challenging first responders and other partners during exercises
 - Bringing issues and challenges to our attention
 - Recruiting agencies which service persons with functional needs to participate in disaster planning and exercise efforts

What Have We Accomplished Together?

- A lot!
 - NW Ohio Care of Persons with Functional Needs Mass Care Sheltering Model
 - Partnership with American Red Cross, NW Ohio Functional Needs Committee, and our consumer advocates
 - 2013 Lucas County Service Animal and Motorized Wheelchair Transportation Agreement
 - Decontamination of Persons with Functional Needs Exercise
 - Several Mass Care Sheltering Exercises
 - Education Programs Which Encourage Persons with Functional Needs to Be Prepared
 - Delivered by our consumer advocates to their peers
 - Delivered to service and support agencies

What Have We Accomplished Together?

- A lot!
 - Consumer advocates sit on the Lucas County Integrated Healthcare Planning Team steering committee
 - They are members of the Northwest Ohio Healthcare Emergency Management Coalition
 - Deb and Ernie are American Red Cross Volunteers
 - Deb is an ARC Shelter Manager

It Isn't Always Easy and Sometimes Special Transportation Arrangements Must Be Arranged for Our Partners to Attend Meetings or Exercises



First Red Cross Shelter Exercise



Expanded ARC Shelter Site Plan is Now Integrated into the NW Ohio Plans



Mass Transit and Agencies with Transport Vehicles Participate in Exercises



Persons with Functional Needs Have Helped Develop Rapid Triage Processes



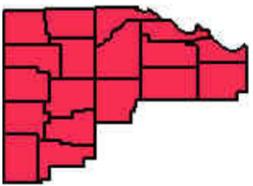
Some People We Only See at Exercises



And Some We May Never See Again!!!



Ongoing Work of the NW Ohio
Functional Needs Committee and
Our Consumer Advocates

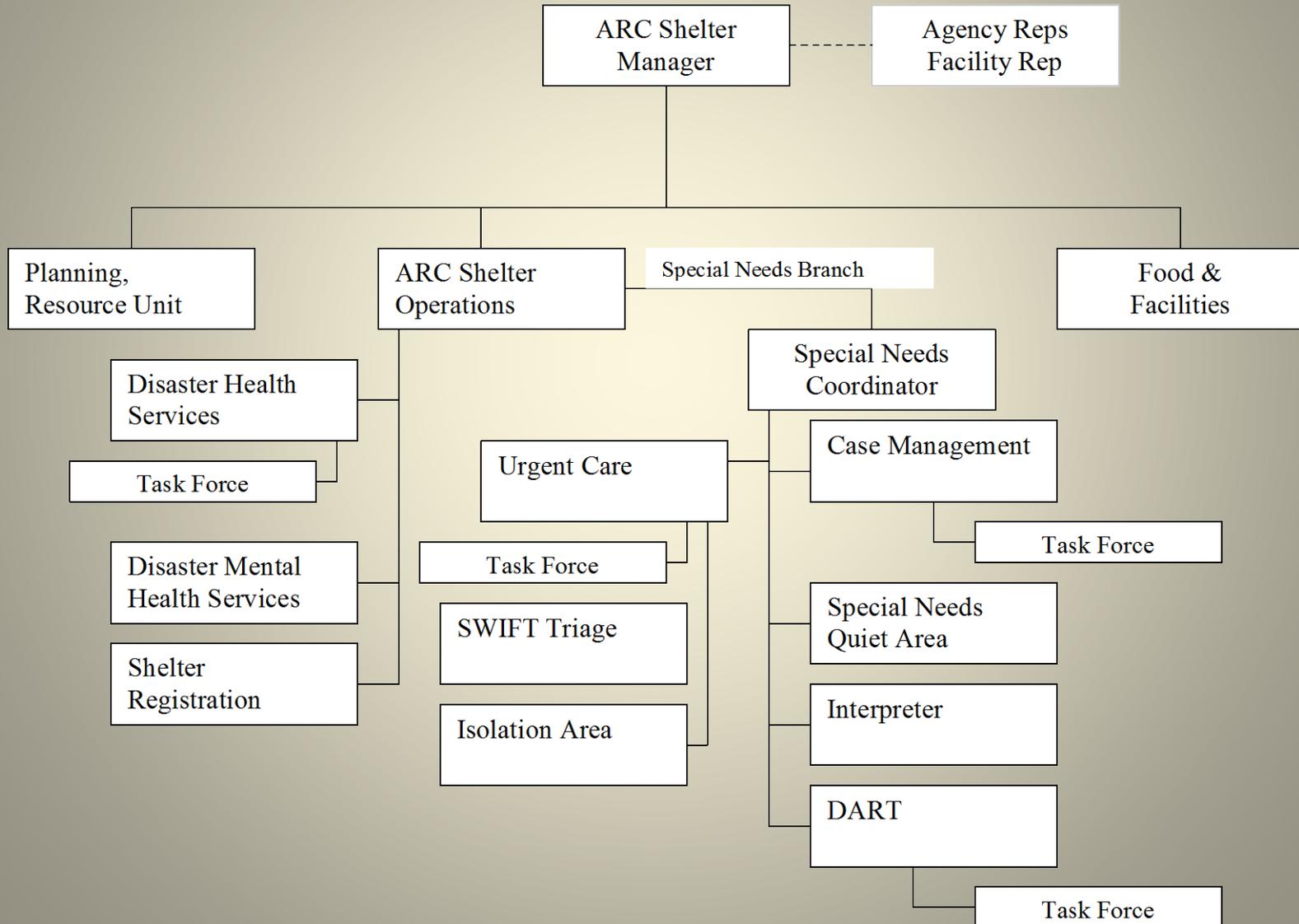


NW Ohio Command Structure/ American Red Cross- Special Needs Shelter



American
Red Cross

Draft 1/6/2009



SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER TRIAGE TOOL

Date:	Worker's Name:	Time:
	Client Name:	DOB:
IMMEDIATE: <u>Urgent Care</u>	Does the patient have any obvious signs of distress, <u>hyperventilation, diaphoresis, difficulty breathing, complaining of chest pain/ pain, lacerations, injured limbs, burns, altered Level of Consciousness, or active seizures?</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	If <u>Yes</u> , tag as RED and send to Urgent Care Clinic Team
INTERMEDIATE <u>Urgent Care</u>	C. Ask them what their major need is right now: B. Do you have any of the following medical problems: <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Heart Disease <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N High blood Pressure <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Memory <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Recent exposure to communicable disease?	C. Do you take any medicine? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Do you have your medicine? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N Are you pregnant? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes If Yes to any question, tag as YELLOW UC and send to Urgent Care Clinic Team
INTERMEDIATE <u>Case Management Needs</u> REFERRED TO A CASE MANAGER	C. Do you need someone to help you with your personal needs? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	If YES, tag as YELLOW CM and send to Case Management Team
Level 3: <u>Family Linkage</u> <u>Only needs to be linked to family or friends</u> DIRECTED TO RED CROSS	A. Family Do you need help to find your family or Friends? <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N	Tag as green and send to ARC Registration.
DISPOSITION:	Recommend: <input type="checkbox"/> Case Management <input type="checkbox"/> Urgent Care <input type="checkbox"/> Red Cross registration	

Ongoing Challenges and Planning Needs

Identify and Maintain a Network of Care Providers and Consumer Advocates Who Are Prepared to:

- Participate in the regional sand county programs to pre-identify persons with functional needs before disasters
- Shelter in place during a disaster for at least 72 hours
- Move to a mass care shelter during a disaster
 - Be prepared to stay in the mass care shelter for at least 24 hours
 - Identify transportation needs
 - Equipment needs (motorized wheelchair, manual wheel chair, walker, etc.)
 - Take specialized emergency kit (include medications) with them
 - Include personal support networks and caregivers in the disaster planning and exercises
 - Be prepared to arrive at the shelter without a normal caregiver or support system and
 - Provide immediate information on how shelter workers can best communicate with them?
 - Be able to articulate priority/immediate needs
 - Rapidly provide information concerning durable medical equipment, medication and/or medical treatment needs

Maintain a Network of Care Providers and Consumers Who Are Prepared to:

- Assist the community response partners in other ways during a disaster.
 - Agencies to provide equipment, staff, or other resources to assist persons with special needs who are sheltering in place
 - Agencies to provide those same assets and resources to assist persons in a mass care shelter
 - Agencies and volunteers to assist with the semi-permanent or permanent relocation of persons with special needs after a disaster
 - Consumer advocates and service agencies willing to plan, train, exercise with community partners whenever possible



ANY QUESTIONS?