

## 2014 Ohio Functional Needs Summit

### Biographical Sketches – Panelists and Presenters

#### Presenters

**John Born** was appointed director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety on July 31, 2013, by Governor John R. Kasich. He previously served as superintendent of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. In the year following his appointment as Patrol superintendent, Ohio recorded its fewest number of traffic fatalities ever, in part due to an increase in impaired driving arrests and a decrease in impaired driving crash deaths. Director Born's related reprioritization of the Patrol's focus also elevated criminal patrol, looking beyond the traffic stop, to the same mission level as highway safety and led to a record interdiction of over \$117 million in drugs and contraband in just two years. Director Born also implemented significant changes to the Patrol's organizational structure. To streamline operations, he directed the merging of homeland security, intelligence, and communications through the creation of the Hub, a communications center staffed 24/7/365 by Patrol commanders, intelligence analysts, and communications staff.

**Nancy J. Dragani** is the executive director of the State of Ohio Emergency Management Agency. She leads the state's coordinated preparedness and response to both man-made and natural disasters, administers the State Homeland Security Funding Program, and oversees disaster recovery and mitigation efforts. During her tenure as director, Ms. Dragani serves on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Advisory Council, the Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism Advisory Board and has held the office of president of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA). During her career, Ms. Dragani has held a variety of positions with local, state and federal government to include 22 years of combined U.S. Army, Army National Guard and Air National Guard service

**Brad Schwartz** is the State Planner for the Ohio Emergency Management Agency and is responsible for leading and coordinating the process of maintaining the State of Ohio's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). In doing so, he engages agencies that have State EOP emergency response roles and responsibilities to ensure that the State EOP is kept current and is responsive to the emergency management and response environment. He was a member of a national-level team that produce federal guidance to local governments on emergency planning for special/functional needs populations, and participates in the creation of federal emergency planning guidance to state and local governments.

**Jessica Mitchell** is the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region V Disability Integration Specialist. She serves as the regional authority for disability integration and coordination, ensuring that the access and functional needs of people with disabilities are included in all aspects of disaster planning, response and recovery. She has led disability-inclusive emergency operations on multiple major disasters, and has provided support during the steady state and in non-Stafford act events. In addition, Jessica has led numerous presentations, classes and workshops on including people with disabilities in all aspects of emergency management and has provided input into various regional and national level documents and policies. Jessica has experience in providing case management and residential supports for people with disabilities.

## Functional Needs Response Gaps Panel

**John L. Moore** is the CEO/Executive Director of Deaf Services Center, Inc. (DSC), a non-profit organization committed to the needs of deaf and hard of hearing individuals and their families. He is responsible for overseeing the agency and ensuring that fair and appropriate services are being provided through advocacy, education, and the provision of communication services. DSC provides interpreting services, captioning services, case management, youth programming, sign language instruction, a Regional Infant Hearing Program and equipment needs/education under Mr. Moore's oversight. Mr. Moore has worked with local grass-root organizations as well as the public and private sector in his role at Deaf Services Center. He is currently the President of Community Shares of Mid-Ohio working with 60 area non-profits.

**Ray Herbst** is the Director of the Division of Public Health Emergency Preparedness, Health Education, Health Promotion, Indoor Air Quality, Epidemiology, & Ashland County-City Medical Reserve Corps Unit #1181. He is also the Public Information Officer of the Ashland County-City Health Department.

**Vincent T. Gildone** is a Paramedic and the Administrator of Northwest Ambulance District in Geneva, Ohio and has served there for 36 years. He serves as an Assistant EMS Instructor and Chair of the Ashtabula County Access & Functional Needs working group. He is a charter member of the Ashtabula County Public Health Advisory Team, Chair of Ashtabula County EMS Council and a member of the Ohio EMS Chiefs Association.

## Best Practices Panel

**Kathy S. Silvestri** is employed by the Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio as the Director of Health Planning and the NW Ohio Regional Health Care System Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, with a service area of eighteen counties. She is the program director for the Ohio Department of Health, Healthcare Preparedness Program grant. She is currently working with the NW regional public health coordination agency to enhance the regional healthcare preparedness efforts by establishing the NW Ohio Healthcare Emergency Management Coalition. Kathy is the former co-chair of the NW Ohio Functional Needs Committee, and has worked closely with consumer advocates, the American Red Cross and Greater Toledo Chapter colleagues to design, implement, exercise, and evaluate a plan to identify and address the medical and acute needs of persons with functional needs in mass care shelter settings.

**Gregory R. Meyer** is the Operations Director for the Southwest Ohio Developmental Center, Batavia, Ohio. Southwest Center is one of 10 state operated developmental centers owned by the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities. Greg has had a long career with the State of Ohio and its Department of Developmental Disabilities in Developmental Center Operations. He has been instrumental in the development and implementation of the comprehensive disaster plan for Southwest Ohio Developmental Center.

**Jillian Ober** is a Program Manager in the Department of Social Work and Family Support Services at The Ohio State University Nisonger Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, where she has worked since 2004. At Nisonger Center, Jillian develops, implements, and disseminates programs that emphasize community inclusion and lifelong learning for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Karen Seidman**, RN, BSN, MPH is a contractor, working for the Cuyahoga County Board of Health. Since 2009 her focus has been emergency preparedness for people with functional needs. Karen is also the Cleveland Heights, Ohio CERT program manager.

**Tara Vargovich** is currently employed by the Geauga County Department of Emergency Services/Emergency Management Agency as the Deputy Director of Planning. She was previously employed with the Cuyahoga County Public Safety and Justice Services Office of Emergency Management as a Training and Outreach Specialist. Tara specialized in emergency preparedness outreach and the design and development of emergency response exercises. As part of her duties she developed the counties Multi Year Training and Exercise Plan incorporating Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and incorporating persons with functional need into community exercise. She holds a Master's in Education, specializing in Adult Learning and Development from Cleveland State University and is a Federal Emergency Management Agency Certified Master Exercise Practitioner (MEP). She is experienced with public relations, education community outreach; building public-private partnerships; and coordinating local, State and Federal agencies.

**Jessica Mitchell** (see above)

**Marlene Martin** is employed by Summit County Public Health in the Office of Emergency Preparedness as a Coordinator. Her current responsibilities include the management of the Summit County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers.

## **Making Connections Panel**

**Marcus (Marc) J. Molea** is Chief of Strategic Partnerships at the Ohio Department of Aging (ODA). Marc and his staff support the development of a system of elder-friendly, person-centered programs and services by: Identifying new and innovative partnerships; Exploring opportunities to promote policy and systems change, and identifying new funding opportunities; Researching and disseminating best practices and innovations; Managing and coordinating cross system initiatives and partnerships within ODA and externally; and Promoting, facilitating and engaging state agencies and communities to meet the needs of its elders. Marc is the project director for numerous grants, including Ohio's Systems Integration and Evidence-Based Disease Prevention grants with the U.S. Administration for Community Living and Senior Community Service Employment Program with the U.S. Department of Labor.

**Susan B. Sigmon** is Vice President of Managed Long Term Care at the Akron-Canton Area Agency on Aging where she has been employed for over 20 years. Her responsibilities include clinical oversight of Care Management services for frail individuals of all ages in a four-county region. Ms. Sigmon earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Work from the University of Akron. Ms. Sigmon has presented at numerous state and national conferences regarding effective program development for community-based individuals. Ms. Sigmon has spent her career in supporting individuals' rights to receive their care in the setting of their choice.

**Pam Williams** is a former first grade teacher who now spends time as a community volunteer, sharing her leadership skills with the United Way; the University of Akron Foundation; the Bridgestone Invitational; Bluecoats, Inc.; and the City of Akron Housing Appeals Board; among others. She is very active with the American Red Cross of Summit and Portage Counties as a Board member and a disasters volunteer. Pam assists when there is a local event and also deploys nationally when needed to support disaster response operations. She serves as the Red Cross Government Liaison to the Summit County Emergency Management Agency and as their representative on the Summit County Domestic Preparedness Steering Committee.

**Ken Johnson** is the Deputy Director at the Clark County Emergency Management Agency. He is the chair of the Clark County Functional Needs Committee. Ken holds certificates in the FEMA Advanced Professional Series (APS), and is the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) - Communications Unit Leader (COML) for a Type III Incident. He is also a volunteer with the Ohio Military Reserve, a component of the Ohio Adjutant General's Department.

**Leslie DiDonato** is the Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness at Columbus Public Health. Before her work at CPH, Leslie worked as the Health Educator and Public Information Officer at the Marion County Health Department. Following the attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup>, Leslie helped usher in the first public health emergency preparedness grant at Marion County Health Department. As Director of the Office Emergency Preparedness, Leslie oversees the operations of several preparedness programs, including the Cities Readiness Initiative, BioWatch and the Columbus and Metropolitan Medical Response System. Leslie also acts as the Secretary on the City of Columbus Veterans Committee and has served nine years in the Ohio National Guard.

**Dave Nutini** is currently the Emergency Planning Coordinator for Hamilton County Public Health. He has worked for Hamilton County Public Health for fourteen years as a preparedness planner and environmental health scientist. He has coordinated planning efforts in Hamilton County as well as across the Cincinnati Tri-state Area with 18 health jurisdictions in three different states. Dave has planned exercises and written several after action reports based on exercises and real-world events. Prior to that time he served as an environmental consultant, educator, program coordinator, and project manager for 26 years in the environmental arena. Dave has produced forty-five environmental/public health publications and has written numerous environmental reports and articles. He is also a Registered Sanitarian in the State of Ohio.