

Communication

Independence

Transportation



Maintaining
Health

Support &
Safety

Annual Report

Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory

July 1, 2023



Annual Report of the Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Advisory Committee
July 1, 2023



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Access and Functional Needs History in Recent Responses

Before 2005, federal, state, and local emergency managers rarely contemplated the needs of individuals who have what today we call access and functional needs (AFN). People who have access and functional needs include individuals with disabilities, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and adults 55 and over.

The approach to addressing access and functional needs by emergency management agencies came into the spotlight in August of 2006 when Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast and the aftermath played out on live television. The woeful response to Katrina clearly illustrated that federal, state, and local emergency operations plans (EOPs) had a blind spot that left the most vulnerable in society behind.



In the wake of Katrina, 215 people died in nursing homes and hospitals in New Orleans alone, over 600 were rescued from rooftops, 500 prisoners were listed as “unaccounted for,” and more than 1,800 people died across the Gulf Coast region, 40% by drowning. The ensuing autopsies and investigations found that many of those deaths and far too much suffering that doesn’t show up in the statistics were reserved for what today we identify as at-risk individuals, many with disabilities and/or AFN.

Federal Paradigm Shift

In response to what President George W. Bush would call a “less than ideal” federal, state, and local response, in 2006 Congress passed the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA) and the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA).

Together, these laws mandated holistic reforms to the federal emergency management programs managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that enticed state emergency management agencies (EMAs) and health departments with funding opportunities to shift the paradigm around AFN emergency preparedness. Associated federal emergency management-related guidance from FEMA, CDC, and HHS was amended to reinforce the new emphasis.



This paradigm shift in the *federal emergency management program* (the collective term for emergency management programs managed by FEMA, CDC, and HHS) was directed squarely at ensuring that at-risk individuals and those with AFN would be accounted for in all preparedness and disaster relief activities. And it was hoped that the associated funding opportunities offered to the states would translate into a similar shift in the mindset within state and local emergency management programs.



A New Precedent

As is often the case with major changes in public policy, it took precedent-setting court decisions to drive structural changes within local emergency management programs, where response and recovery activities intersect meaningfully with people’s lives. And such is the case with the adoption of AFN considerations for people with access and functional needs.

In 2009, in a precedent-setting court case, *Communities Actively Living Independent and Free (CALIF) v. City of Los Angeles and County of Los Angeles*, CALIF alleged that the City and County of Los Angeles failed to incorporate individuals with AFN into their emergency preparedness programs. CALIF brought the suit under the Rehabilitation Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and California state law. Before the CALIF decision, no court had directly linked an emergency management program’s preparedness strategy, or lack thereof, with a violation of an individual’s civil rights under federal law.

Before trial, the County of Los Angeles admitted its deficiencies and entered into negotiations on a settlement agreement. The City of Los Angeles chose to defend its unthinkable position in court.

In the landmark ruling in February of 2011, the United States District Court for the Central District of California held in summary judgment that the City of Los Angeles violated the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act by failing to meet the needs of its residents with “mobility, vision,



hearing, mental, and cognitive disabilities” in preparing for disasters. A court order followed requiring the city to revise its emergency preparedness program, hire an Access and Functional Needs Coordinator and amend its emergency operations plan (EOP), among other requirements. The ruling included judicial oversight provisions going forward.



In 2012, CALIF reached a settlement agreement with the County of Los Angeles that required them to - as the City of Los Angeles had been ordered to do by the court - make changes to their emergency management program, including the development of a Disability and Access and Functional Needs Annex for its EOP and the hiring of an Access and Functional Needs Coordinator. The settlement agreement was approved by the court with judicial oversight provisions going forward.

Then in 2011, shortly after Hurricane Irene made landfall near Brooklyn, New York, the Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled and the Center for the Independence of the Disabled, filed a complaint against the City of New York and Mayor Michael Bloomberg alleging violations of the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and various New York state laws for not considering the needs of individuals with access and functional needs “before, during and after disasters and emergencies.”

In *Brooklyn Center for Independence of the Disabled (Brooklyn) v. Michael Bloomberg, the Mayor of New York City*, Brooklyn alleged that a lack of preparedness considerations for the needs of individuals with AFN was leading to inadequate response and recovery operations and unnecessary suffering. Specifically, the complaint asked, “whether in planning for, and responding to, emergencies and disasters, the City has adequately addressed the needs of people with disabilities.”



The question was answered the following year before the court could weigh in when Hurricane Sandy struck, and the city's response too often failed individuals with AFN. No, the city had not adequately planned.



In 2013, the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York ruled that New York City violated the ADA and the Rehabilitation Act “by failing to provide people with disabilities meaningful access to its emergency preparedness program...”

Despite the new preparedness requirements in the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act (PKEMRA) and the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) and associated funding opportunities for the states, and the precedent-setting court cases from California and New York, progress on integrating inclusive emergency and disaster strategies into state and local emergency management programs has not met expectations. Although it has been made abundantly clear to emergency managers that considerations for individuals with AFN must be incorporated into preparedness, response, and recovery activities, no federal or state law requires they do so.

Advisory Group History

The enactment of Senate Bill 921 established the Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”). The bill was passed by both houses on May 30, 2021, was signed by the Governor on August 13, 2021, and went into effect immediately.

When the law passed both houses, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency & Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) Inter-Agency Strategic Planning Cell (ISPC) began an internal review of the state's emergency management program regarding AFN inclusion and found that, although it meets the intent of FEMA's guidance, new policies and plans must be developed, training and exercises must be rethought, and the agency must do enhance the methods and



practices of local EMAs to ensure their emergency preparedness programs address the needs of all citizens in their respective communities.

IEMA-OHS took the first step by deciding to incorporate detailed AFN planning into the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan (IEOP) by developing Annex 31 – Access and Functional Needs and nesting five appendices within it aligned with the CMIST Framework adopted by FEMA, CDC, and HHS. The appendices are:

- Appendix 31 X1 – Communications Services
- Appendix 31 X2 – Maintaining Health Services
- Appendix 31 X3 – Independence Devices and Equipment
- Appendix 31 X4 – Support and Safety Services
- Appendix 31 X5 – Non-Emergency Transportation Services

IEMA-OHS initially coordinated with the committee last year for input and review of these draft plans in mid to late 2023.



IEMA-OHS also drafted the Committee’s bylaws for review, amendments, and approval at the first formal meeting and created an online space in Microsoft Teams where the Committee’s administrative records, work products, and resources can be accessed by all members.

Where We Are

To meet the legislative mandate for a meeting on or before February 1, 2022, the Committee met informally for the first time on January 26, 2022. The meeting was chaired by IEMA and was limited to the general discussion because not enough members had yet been vetted and appointed to have a quorum. On May 5, 2022, the Committee met formally for the first time



with a full agenda that primarily focused on legal and administrative issues. At this meeting, motions were passed to lay the leadership and administrative foundation for the Committee.

- The Committee's bylaws were adopted.

Currently, the present membership of the Executive Committee is as follows:

- Nominations and elections for Committee Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary (Executive Committee)
 - Todd Roach, an individual diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and a member of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, was elected Chair.
 - Kira Meskin, from the Progress Center for Independent Living and PPE For People with Disabilities Coalition was elected Vice-Chair.
 - Jae Jin Pak, is a social justice advocate, educator, and ally with over 30 years of experience and was elected Secretary.
- The nomination and appointment of advisory members were completed.
- The Committee voted to hold regularly scheduled meetings every other month, exceeding the mandate of the law requiring three meetings each year.

The following definitions have been voted on and approved by the Advisory Committee for use in the report, as well as committee efforts and updated planning addressed by IEMA-OHS and other local emergency management and public safety organizations throughout Illinois.

Disability: The term 'disability' means, with respect to an individual (*Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA]*), 42 U.S.C. 12102).

- a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such individual;
- a record of such an impairment; or
- being regarded as having such an impairment (as described in paragraph (3)).

Access and Functional Needs (AFN): Individuals who need specific resources to manage disabilities, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and age-related needs, as defined by the Illinois Act on Aging, before, during, and after a disaster or public health emergency. Access-based and function-based needs are not mutually exclusive and may overlap.

- **Access-Based Needs:** Individuals who require access to specific resources to take part in daily activities, such as but not limited to assistive technology, interpretive and



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translation services, wheelchair ramps, durable medical equipment, service animals, specialized transportation, and medications to maintain health.

- **Function-Based Needs:** Individuals who have limitations of their physical or mental capacity or of their skills that prevent them from living independently, such as but not limited to paralysis, schizophrenia, or blindness, and may require regular health care, behavioral health, and/or personal care services.

Through the issuance of this report, the Committee formally requests that the Director of IEMA adopt these terms and definitions as agency standards and incorporate them into all policies, plans, and procedures related to the state's emergency management program.

The Committee desires that the director will work to incorporate these terms and definitions into Title 29 of state administrative code so that they become mandatory expectations of local emergency management agencies (EMAs) within all units of local government in the state.

The Committee aims to work with the General Assembly to embed these definitions in state statutes with requirements that ensure emergency management-related policies, plans, and procedures are developed by other state agencies, including the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), the Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA), and Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (IDHFS) that seamlessly integrate with the changes made to doctrine at IEMA that the Committee has assisted in developing.



The Committee's Voting Members

The following individuals have been appointed to fill seats from the Access and Functional Needs community:



Chairperson, Todd Roach, Disability Community Member

Appointed February 7, 2022, | Term Expires February 7, 2026

Todd is the Human Resources Director for The Marmon Group, as well as an alderman for the City of O'Fallon. Todd has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and is a member of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.



Vice Chairperson, Kira Meskin, Progress Center for Independent Living and PPE For People with Disabilities Coalition

Appointed February 16, 2022, | Term Expires February 16, 2026

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, Kira has been the primary co-leader of the PPE for People with Disabilities (PPE4PWD) Coalition, which is led by and for people with disabilities and is who helped draft and pass SB 921. She oversaw the coalition's efforts to access and distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) to people with disabilities living in the community (who oftentimes are utilizing Home and Community-Based Services) and Personal Assistants in Chicagoland. As part of this distribution work, Kira collaborated with Progress Center for Independent Living to establish it as a PPE distribution site. In this role, Kira assisted PCIL to serve as a distribution site for the Dept. of Human Services, in collaboration with Illinois Partners for Human Service, to distribute over 75,000 KN95 masks to state-funded non-profit organizations. Progress Center was the only Center for Independent Living that took on this role in our state.

Kira currently serves as a Community Reintegration Advocate at Progress Center, assisting consumers who reside in nursing homes and long-term care facilities against their choice, and helping them navigate Illinois' Consent Decree transition programs so that they can live effectively in the community. Additionally, she is Occupational Therapist, and, because of her training, she is that much more aware and knowledgeable of how our physical and social environments can impact individuals' health and quality of life.

She currently is a member of The Arc of Illinois' Public Policy Committee and Community Choices for Seniors Advocacy Group. In May 2023, she was selected to present on a panel to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual about the importance of inclusive emergency preparedness at the local, state, and federal levels.



[Secretary, Jae Jin Pak, University of Illinois Chicago](#)

Appointed April 21, 2022, | Term Expires April 21, 2026

Jae Jin Pak is a social justice advocate, educator, and ally with over 30 years of experience. He identifies as an Asian immigrant with disabilities. He has worked on issues of gender-based violence, anti-trafficking prevention, mental health, disability, immigration justice, and anti-oppression. He has conducted thousands of hours of training with diverse communities and professionals nationally. His core values of collaboration and recognizing intersectionality have allowed him to build strong connections with diverse communities and providers.

He is a co-founder of the Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition (DPOCC), which works to promote disability pride in communities of color in the Chicagoland area, and even globally. Chicagoland DPOCC brings awareness to the issues that face the disabled, autistic, deaf, and neurodivergent people of color.

Jae Jin is the Coordinator of Community Education for the Institute on Disability and Human Development and Self Advocacy Training Mentor for Illinois LEND at the University of IL Chicago (UIC). He serves on the Quality Care Board, the Health & Human Services Taskforce, the Disability and Immigration Taskforce of IL, and The National Human Trafficking & Disability Working Group.

He is a graduate of Northern Illinois University and an IL LEND Fellow.



[Angel Botz, IMPACT Center for Independent Living](#)

Appointed February 25, 2022, | Term Expires February 25, 2026

Angela Botz is a leader, mentor, civil rights advocate, and civil liberties proponent. Angela is committed to her community, both state and national, as well as the people and world around her.

Ms. Botz started her professional career as the sole art designer at Picturesque Graphics in St. Louis, Missouri, then left to pursue her community advocate career after 25 years as Art Director.

Ms. Botz has years of experience in leadership, value-based decision-making, and mentoring. She is a Community Outreach Coordinator and Independent Living Specialist for Deaf Services at IMPACT Center for Independent Living in Alton, Illinois. Angela became the first deaf woman to serve a second consecutive term as President of the Illinois Association of the Deaf. In 2001, she became President of Show-Me Accessible Health Care, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping deaf and hard of hearing individuals increase access to, and improve the



quality of, health care in the Saint Louis metropolitan area as well as other counties in Missouri and Illinois.

In 2012, Angela received the Robert M. Greenmun Memorial Award, a National Association of the Deaf honor recognizing a State Association member who has demonstrated volunteer leadership excellence and contributions to his or her State Association. She also received the Legislative Advocate of the Year Award from LINC, Inc. Ms. Botz recently received the 2021 Meritorious Service Award from the Illinois Association of the Deaf.

Ms. Botz is involved in numerous committees and boards, including the Illinois School for the Deaf Advisory Board. She was the current State Association Affiliate Coordinator (SAAC) for the National Association of the Deaf (NAD). She was the Sponsorship and Exhibition Coordinator as well as Gala Coordinator for the 2016 St. Louis DEA Festival. Angela is currently a District 5 Representative for the Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation. Angela is currently Co-Chair of the 2023 United National Conference Art Gallery and gala committee member for Deaf Women United's Deaf Women of Chicago. Ms. Botz is currently Co-Chair of the Illinois Network Centers of Independent Living Advocacy Team. In addition, Co-Chair the Illinois Statewide Deaf Services Coordinators.

Operating under her given name, Angela owns a custom art business creating commissioned pieces on contract. Ms. Botz was a solopreneur, having been a Mary Kay Cosmetics business owner for over 14 years. Ms. Botz graduated from Illinois School for the Deaf in 1985 and then studied at Florissant Valley Community College and Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Ms. Botz plans to continue to build a professional and positive image and brand for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind, including the people with disabilities community, by assisting individuals through self-advocacy, political empowerment, cultural preservation, and disability awareness for equality so this community can continue to be a driving force to empower all generations.

Ms. Botz is known for her enthusiastic personality, optimistic attitude, and undeniable passion and fight for civil and disability rights. Angela is an expert fundraiser, having acquired sponsorship, donations, and contributions, as well as arranging event preparations, event activities, and all manner of event planning. Her interests include painting, traveling, graphic design, and spending time with her family and friends.



[Randy Colón, ADA Participatory Action Research Consortium \(ADA PARC\)](#)

Appointed March 28, 2022, | Term Expires March 28, 2024

Randy is a research assistant for the ADA Participation Action Research Consortium (ADA PARC). He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Disability Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is working on a tool that will allow communities to assess whether people with disabilities are attaining affordable, accessible, and integrated housing. He is also legally blind.



[Dorothy Cox-Stowe, Home Services Advocate for Independent Living](#)

Appointed February 25, 2022, | Term Expires February 25, 2024

Dorothy Cox-Stowe has four adult children and resides in Decatur, Illinois. She is a widow, as her husband, Joe L. Stowe, was the first person in Macon County to succumb to the COVID-19 Virus. He passed away on April 7, 2020. He was a resident of the Fairhaven nursing facility. He was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2006. Dorothy had to place him in a facility in 2012 because she could no longer care for him at home.

She retired from Soyland Access to Independent Living in 2018 after 9 years and 9 months of being the Home Services Advocate (Coordinator). She enjoyed her work assisting people with disabilities. The position was often challenging, but very rewarding. She has a disability as well, therefore, the information she acquired was and still is very helpful in her daily life. The point, the importance of having a better quality of life hit home for her.

Dorothy previously worked for the State of Illinois in the position of Mental Health Tech at Adolf Meyer Zone Ctr., as well as Elgin State Mental Health in Elgin, Illinois, Decatur Mental Health (Detox Unit, and Halfway House). She is grateful for the opportunity to serve on this committee.



[Kenneth Jennings, AFN Community Member](#)

Appointed March 16, 2022, | Term Expires March 16, 2024

Kenneth Jennings was paralyzed 33 years ago while playing high school football, God turned a tragedy into a blessing. Kenneth Jennings is the CEO of Gridiron Alliance a non-profit organization, a peer-mentor at LIFE Center at Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, and a football coach, an advocate, motivational speaker, and poet. He also does 2 podcasts, works for a California company named Neuralink, is on the board of Bright Promises Foundation, and is soon to be the author of his book titled "How 8 Seconds Change My Life". Kenneth is the father of a 28-year-old daughter and a 4-year-old grandson. He lives by his on-motto: Blessed To Be Able.



[Sam Knight, Disability Resource Center](#)

Appointed March 30, 2022, | Term Expires March 30, 2024

Samuel Knight is an Independent Living Advocate with the Disability Resource Center in Will County. He has worked for the Disability Resource Center in Joliet since 2012, 9 ½ years now. Before that, he worked for Progress Center for Independent Living in Suburban Cook County from 2006 until 2012. He has largely worked on the issues of affordable accessible housing and public transportation. He sits on the Advocacy, Housing, and Transportation Committees within Centers for Independent Living. He has a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Concordia University.



[Robin Jones – Director of the Great Lakes ADA Center](#)

Appointed September 16, 2022, | Term Expires September 16, 2024

Robin Jones is the Director of the Great Lakes ADA Center and an Instructor in the Department on Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Robin has served as director since the Center’s inception in 1991. Formerly, she served as director of the Progress Center for Independent Living and as an Occupational Therapy practitioner at the institution formerly known as the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. She has extensive experience assisting individuals and entities to understand their rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Robin has served on several state and local task forces and committees related to disability policy and procedure to further the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society.

The following individuals have been appointed to fill seats from local emergency management and first responder agencies:



[Allison Anderson, Will County Emergency Management Agency](#)

Appointed February 7, 2022, | Term Expires February 7, 2026

Allison is the Director of the Will County Emergency Management Agency. She has over 13 years of experience in emergency management, including nearly 5 years of experience in the focus area of Public Health. As 1 of approximately 2,200 Certified Emergency Managers (CEMs) in the world, Allison brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the committee.



Dale Tieman, City of LaSalle Fire Department

Appointed May 6, 2022, / Term Expires May 6, 2024

Dale R. Tieman is a lifelong resident of the Illinois Valley (LaSalle- Peru, IL). Dale is currently the Executive Vice President/COO of Peru Federal Savings Bank where he has been employed for over 20 years. Dale has also been a paid-on-call firefighter since 1988. Currently, Dale serves as the Assistant Fire Chief/EMT and training officer for the City of LaSalle, IL Throughout Dale's 30-plus years of commitment to the emergency services, he has been involved with several table-top disaster planning exercises and has also worked onsite through several disasters including the Utica Tornado of 2005.

Dale serves on the Horizon House Foundation Board of Directors which is an institution serving the needs of adults with disabilities. Dale's participation includes fundraising efforts along with serving on a committee to approve grant requests to provide families with funds to purchase equipment or other needs to support a client.

The following individuals have been appointed to fill seats from state agencies:



Scott Gauvin, Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA)

Scott has over twenty years of emergency management experience and is the Manager of Strategic Operations and Preparedness (i.e., Chief Planner) for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS). In this role, he is charged with the strategic development of the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan (IEOP) and other hazard and function-specific planning documents for the State of Illinois.



Judith Levitan, Office of the Illinois Attorney General

Judith is the Chief of the Disability Right Bureau at the Illinois Attorney General's Office. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education of the Hearing Impaired; a Juris Doctorate from Northwestern University School of Law; and a Master of Laws in Child and Family Law from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. In addition to this committee, Judith also serves on three other state committees working to advance the rights of individuals with disabilities.

The Disability Rights Bureau enforces state and federal laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities in Illinois. The Bureau has exclusive authority to enforce the Illinois Environmental Barriers Act and its design standards, the Illinois Accessibility Code. These laws



and regulations require physical accessibility in new construction, additions, and alterations to public facilities, and new multistory housing.

The Disability Rights Bureau also enforces the Illinois Human Rights Act, which provides jurisdiction to investigate complaints that allege a pattern and practice of disability discrimination in housing, public accommodations, employment, or financial services. The Disability Rights Bureau also investigates pattern and practice discrimination complaints under relevant federal laws, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Fair Housing Act.

In addition to the Bureau's enforcement work, the Disability Rights Bureau regularly provides technical assistance and referrals to individuals with disabilities and public and private entities seeking to comply with disability rights laws. The Bureau conducts disability rights training programs for law enforcement, architects, engineers, building code officials and inspectors, judges and court personnel, business owners, disability rights organizations, and other groups all in furtherance of its mission to advance the rights of individuals with disabilities to access all aspects of society in Illinois.



[David Kuriniec, Illinois Department of Human Services](#)

David Kuriniec has spent his career advocating on behalf of people with disabilities, beginning when he could not enter the door of his high school. Quickly thereafter, he worked with the facility managers to ensure that automatic openers were placed on the doors at the school. This experience, along with meetings with members of Congress and the Illinois Legislature to discuss physical and attitudinal reforms that could benefit people with disabilities, convinced David that a career in the law/government was most appropriate.

After graduating from Lake Forest College summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Communications, David received his law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law. He has spent nearly a decade in state government, first with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and currently serving as Bureau Chief of the Home Services Program (HSP), a Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services waiver that provides in-home supports including, among other things, personal assistants, home-delivered meals, and emergency home response services to over 35,000 Illinoisans with disabilities. He is a lifelong Chicago White Sox fan, and both an avid concertgoer and reader. David and his wife reside in Springfield with their son and are anxiously awaiting the arrival of their second child, due in September 2022.



[John Eckert, Illinois Department on Aging](#)

John is the Deputy Division Manager for the Division of Planning, Research, Development, and Training at the Illinois Department on Aging, where he has worked for nearly 17 years. His primary focus is ensuring people with disabilities and the elderly have every opportunity to live independently. He has an M.A. in Rehabilitation Administration and Services from SIU-Carbondale.



[Anu Meka, Illinois Department of Public Health](#)

Anu has been employed with IDPH for almost 20 years, with experience in the Division of Disaster Planning and Readiness under the Office of Preparedness and Response for 10 yrs. She previously worked in the communicable disease section (now ODC – Office of Disease Control) under INEDSS program as well as the Hospital program within IDPH’s Office of Policy and Planning. She has a Bachelor’s in Social Preventive Medicine and Alternate Medicine from India. She graduated from the University of Springfield with a Master’s in Public Health with a focus in Epidemiology. She has completed the data management series from SAS (Statistical Analytical Software). Her hobbies include traveling, dancing, and trying new foods.

*Presently the Committee has three vacant positions needing to be appointed by the Governor’s Office:

- (1) Local Emergency Manager
- (3) Local First Responders

Non-Voting Advisory Members

The Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee is pleased to have the following non-voting advisory members engaged in the process and effort to enhance emergency planning at both the state and local levels in Illinois. The following individuals engage regularly in the committee’s bi-monthly meetings and frequently in sub-committee meetings.

- Laura VanPuymbrouck, Rush University
- Shelly Richardson, Statewide Independent Living Council
- Karen Tamley, Access Living
- Thane Hunt, Advocates for Access Center for Independent Living
- Pam Heavens, United Cerebral Palsy
- Barb Pritchard, Statewide Independent Living Council, Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, Institutional Rescue and Recovery Coalition



- Tom Wilson
- Scott Clarke, American Red Cross
- Joshua Hughes, Healthcare and Family Services
- Megan Norlin, Illinois Network for Centers for Independent Living
- Kristin Busch
- Libby Oxenham, LINC Center for Independent Living

Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee Sub-Committees

In mid-2022 the AFN Advisory Committee voted to adopt a subcommittee structure to begin reviewing plans and documents presented by IEMA-OHS to the committee. In addition, these committees were charged to meet frequently on the topic areas of their respective committee and report back findings, and recommendations, and create products as appropriate to the topic. The design of the subcommittee structure was established to mimic the existing federal CMIST framework. The following subcommittees have been established and are active at this time:

- Communications Subcommittee
- Maintaining Health Subcommittee
- Independence and Autonomy Subcommittee
- Support, Safety, and Self-Determination Subcommittee
- Transportation Subcommittee

Currently, the subcommittees have been assigned efforts to address the development of a local emergency manager's guide for implementing best practices into their programs for people with AFN. The primary focus of the committee and subcommittee is to develop a workbook guide addressing the CMIST areas and others as necessary to ensure proper guidance, recommendations, and organizational contacts (state-wide) are provided to implement sound practices and procedures for programs needing to enhance their AFN preparedness posture.

Each subcommittee has appointed leadership and an Executive Committee Member assigned to them to provide guidance and direction as necessary.

Where We Are Going

Last year the committee at the request of IEMA-OHS began reviewing upcoming changes to the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan (IEOP). These reviews and the comments/suggestions provided by the IEMA-OHS Inter-Agency Strategic Planning Cell (ISPC) were invaluable to the planning process being implemented and executed by IEMA-OHS. At our regular bi-monthly meetings members and representatives from IEMA-OHS regularly present updates on the status of changes to plans, procedures, and policies as well as providing further in-depth discussions on the emergency management process, planning, and community of practice. Together by having these open, honest, and productive sessions voting and advisory non-voting



members of the disability community learn more and more about emergency management and gain a better understanding of how the committee and its fellow cohorts can positively impact preparedness in the state and at the local level.

IEMA-OHS in late 2022 began preparing for the revision and update of the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan (IEOP). In doing so the agency advised that not only would they be revising the plan with state agency and partner stakeholders, but they also advised that they would be reformatting the document to vertically integrate with federal response doctrine and plans and horizontally integrating it with state operational response plans. In addition, the plan will now be structured under the federal Emergency Support Function (ESF) model versus the previously functional annex and appendix model. Due to this major shift and style in planning the committee and its subcommittees were asked to pause reviews on the previously provided draft plans:

- Annex 3 – Communications Technology;
- Annex 5 – External Affairs;
- Annex 6- Population Protection;
- Annex 7 – Mass Care;
- Annex 17- Long-Term Vulnerability, and
- Annex 31 – Access and Functional Needs.
 - Appendix 31 X1 – Communications Services
 - Appendix 31 X2 – Maintaining Health Services
 - Appendix 31 X3 – Independence Devices and Equipment
 - Appendix 31 X4 – Support and Safety Services
 - Appendix 31 X5 – Non-Emergency Transportation Services

The committee and subcommittees paused the review of these draft plans due to the large shifts in placement, receiving input from the state agencies and partner stakeholders. Committee members will be requested to review the near complete documents later in 2023 as a final review at the request of the ISPC before internal reviews, senior staff review, and promulgation of the entire document.

Recommendations and comments supplied in late 2022 and early 2023 from the committee members are being incorporated into the draft IEOP revision and restructuring. During this plan review, the subcommittees were asked to begin researching and developing a guide for local emergency managers to use to enhance their AFN preparedness programs based on the



CMIST model and sub-committee structure set forth by the Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee. This information once identified by the subcommittees will be consolidated into a formal guide for local emergency managers to utilize.

This current effort by the voting and advisory members of the Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee is the core mission to enhance the disaster response experience of people with AFN in the state of Illinois. We as the committee recognize that the primary responders who will engage citizens with access and functional needs reside at the local level. Our efforts to generate sample plans, policies, procedures, and program materials to offer to local emergency management coordinators and programs will enhance the preparedness and response experience of persons with access and functional needs.

Status of Recommendations

In 2022 in the first submission of this report, the AFN Advisory Committee developed priorities and recommendations of effort for itself and state agencies who are represented on the AFN Advisory Committee. The listing of recommendations and priorities was divided into three timeline categories:

- Short-Term – July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023
- Intermediate - July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025
- Long-Term – after June 30, 2025

The following pages of this annual report will address the recommendations and priorities established by the AFN Advisory Committee last year, their status, and any new efforts or work being undertaken by the committee for the upcoming year and years ahead.



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Timeline Category	Recommendation/ Priority	Status	Responsible Parties
Short Term	Draft and adopt the Committee’s strategic framework, including its mission, vision, objectives, and core strategies with short-term, intermediate, and long-term priorities.	Completed	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee
Short Term	<p>With IEMA representatives, review the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan (IEOP) annexes and appendices and recommend changes to strategies that do not accurately reflect how the state can best meet the preparedness, response, and recovery needs of the people with access and functional needs. IEOP annexes and appendices include but may not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex 3 – Communications Technology; • Annex 5 – External Affairs; • Annex 6- Population Protection; • Annex 7 – Mass Care; • Annex 17- Long-Term Vulnerability, and • Annex 31 – Access and Functional Needs 	Ongoing	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security
Short Term	Develop a sub-committee structure that allows individuals with directed knowledge, experience, and passion to engage with other like-minded individuals between whole Committee meetings to research and recommend policy, technology, and other resource solutions to overcome challenges associated with:	Completed	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Communications; o Health Maintenance; o Independence; o Support and Safety; and o Non-Emergency Transportation. 		
Short Term	With the Office of the Illinois Attorney General (OIAG) representatives, evaluate the relevant sections of the Illinois Human Rights Act to determine what deficiencies may need to be addressed that would legislatively mandate the inclusion of AFN-related preparedness, response, and recovery strategies in the state and local emergency management programs.	Ongoing	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee and the Office of the Attorney General
Short Term	With IEMA representatives, evaluate the IEMA Act to determine what deficiencies may need to be addressed that would legislatively mandate the inclusion of AFN-related strategies in the state’s emergency management program, including the related efforts of state agencies with responsibilities under the IEOP, and the emergency management programs of local units of government.	Ongoing	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security
Short Term	In concert with the review of the IEMA Act, complete a review of Title 29 of the state administrative code to determine what deficiencies may need to be addressed that would outline and mandate and outline specific inclusive activities to effectively	Ongoing	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security



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	address access and functional needs in IEMA’s policies and plans and those managed by local EMAs.		
Intermediate	Gain approval and funding for IEMA to establish an Office of Access and Functional Needs	Ongoing – Recently IEMA-OHS proposed and received funding to support the hiring of personnel to address the coordination and planning needs of AFN issues within the ISPC and the agency and local partners.	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security
Intermediate	With Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) representatives, evaluate the Illinois Department of Human Services Act (IDHS Act), Disabled Persons Rehabilitation Act, and Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code to determine what deficiencies may need to be addressed that would legislatively mandate the inclusion of AFN strategies in IDHS’ emergency management program.	Ongoing	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee and the Illinois Department of Human Services
Intermediate	With Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) representatives, evaluate the Illinois Act on the Aging to determine what deficiencies may need to be addressed that would legislatively mandate the inclusion of AFN-related strategies in the IDoA emergency management program.	Ongoing	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee and the Illinois Department on Aging
Intermediate	With Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) representatives, evaluate the Illinois Department of Public Health Act (IDPH Act) to determine what deficiencies may need to	Ongoing	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee, Illinois Department of Human



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	be addressed that would legislatively mandate the inclusion of AFN-related strategies in IDHS’s emergency management program.		Services, and the Illinois Department of Public Health
Intermediate	In concert with the review of the IDPH Act, evaluate Title 77, Chapter I, Subchapter f, Section 515.240 of the state administrative code to determine what deficiencies may need to be addressed that would outline and mandate inclusive strategies associated with AFN, which would be included in the activities of regional health care coalitions (HCCs) funded by subgrants from the Illinois Department of Public Health’s (IDPH) Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP).	Ongoing	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee, and the Illinois Department of Public Health
Intermediate	In concert with the review of the IDPH Act, evaluate Title 77, Chapter I, Subchapter h of the state administrative code to determine what deficiencies may need to be addressed that would outline and mandate strategies associated with AFN inclusion in the activities of local health departments funded by subgrants from the Illinois Department of Public Health’s (IDPH’s) Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP).	Ongoing	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee, and the Illinois Department of Public Health
Intermediate	With IDPH representatives, evaluate the IDPH Emergency Support Function 8 Plan and its Access and Functional Needs Annex and recommend changes to strategies and tactics that do not accurately reflect how the IDPH can best meet the preparedness,	Ongoing	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee, and the Illinois Department of Public Health



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	response, and recovery needs of the people with access and functional needs.		
Intermediate	Work with IEMA, IDHS, and IDoA to develop a Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST) and Mobile Support Team (MST) with consideration of the model adopted by California.	Ongoing	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee, Illinois Department of Human Services, and the Illinois Department on Aging
Intermediate	Work with IEMA to amend its Crisis Communications, Public Education, and Information Plan and reengineer its procedures and technology solutions to ensure that all public-facing disaster communications are accessible to individuals with AFN.	Ongoing	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and Office of Homeland Security
Intermediate	Work with IEMA and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (IDHFS) to develop plans and procedures that ensure the state is prepared to support local EMAs with their needs for non-emergency transportation services for individuals with AFN.	Ongoing	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and Office of Homeland Security
Intermediate	Work with IEMA to develop an AFN-related operational playbook that guides local emergency managers on how to vertically integrate their AFN policy, planning, and response operations with the policy and planning completed by IEMA with advice from the Committee.	Ongoing – The committee’s subcommittees have been tasked with this effort and the intent is to develop, distribute, and train locals on the documents and incorporate its use in upcoming state and local exercises to enhance proficiency. IEMA and local emergency management representatives will also be	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and Office of Homeland Security



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		providing a presentation on this and other AFN-related topics at the 2023 IEMA Training Summit in September in Springfield.	
Intermediate	Work with IEMA to develop an exercise series that tests the AFN-related policies, plans, and procedures implemented by IEMA and local emergency management agencies (EMAs).	After the release of the AFN-related guide co-developed between the committee and IEMA-OHS, the agency will work with state and local exercise developers to ensure AFN topics, practices, and guidance is incorporated into state and local exercises.	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, and Office of Homeland Security
Long-Term	Amend Article 5 of the Illinois Human Rights Act, 775 ILCS 5/5-100 et seq., to incorporate the federal definition of disability as provided in the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12102, and make the inclusion in the strategies of state and local emergency management programs a civil right of individuals with AFN.	Ongoing	Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee