

## **Breakout Day 1**

**What is your experience with disaster planning/response? What resources did you use? What gaps did you see?**

- While hospitals and home health arenas are structured for emergency planning, there is a lack of structure for community-living individuals or particularly rural people
- Gaps:
  - Rural resources
  - Helping people have up to date documentation
  - Helping people practice emergency planning. Their plan means nothing unless they practice
  - SGS should help people get resources
- IDEA: SGS Should do a hotwash to see what area resources there are in the area, A disaster hotwash to collect disaster resources and send out to all interested people.
- Idea: SGS should teach about disaster preparedness similar to health promotion/it is a cycle, you are always in a stage.
- SGS should work on changing the perception of disaster response in the south and help members understand that best case scenario, FEMA is 72 hours out from being able to help you.
- Most experiences were with weather disasters until covid happened. When covid happened, there was a reliance on local and state agencies such as the department of public health, medicaid, and the office of the inspector general. Some folks found it easy to identify those in need in LTC facilities, but struggled to identify those outside of facilities. One person who worked in a senior center shared that her facility pivoted their services to offer meal delivery and weekly outreach calls, which seemed to help those facing isolation.
- Key gaps that we identified included a lack of knowledge of available resources - they exist, but are hard to find at times. Another gap discussed was the technology barrier facing many older adults and that while resources exist to address this, they are not well advertised.
- For Virginia, not sure if we are prepared to address the needs of diverse population. Consideration for how to get information out, in general
- Discussion was on getting states together to share information, planning to help states be better prepared
- One person discussed Storm Hugo in their community in Charlotte NC and how it impacted their parents; parents never got over it
- Discussing end of life planning and disaster planning have a lot in common

## **Breakout Day 2**

**What role can SGS play in helping address some of the challenges discussed over the past two days?**

- Major area of opportunity and concern. We'll see with greater severity. Elevate this into a symposium. At the end of 4 years major symposium.
- Team up with other organizations.
- CERT training.
- We've made great connections with forum attendees and speakers. JAG special edition on disaster articles.
- Offer a professional credential – disaster/critical response??
- Align stronger with FEMA
- Specific group to work with specialized vulnerable population.
- SGS Should have a disaster planning/disaster track at the conference and invite whoever the CERT speaker is for that state is each year
- SGS should see what members are interested in being CERT certified and members can remind each other to do the trainings and there can be like 4 hours each conference or something where they do a training/dinner (accountability buddies)
- SGS Should do the 72 hour kits-72 hours without food or electricity or water. Do you have what your need?
- Media – putting tidbits on social media pages to raise awareness on disaster preparedness;
- Something broader than social media – for example revived newsletter – corner of newsletter on disaster response, awareness, reinforcing things that individual members of SGS can do in their own communities, organizations; suggest little things they can do; developing cultural response
- Local input from SGS; local SGS footprint that would have some organizational partnership; share info on working partnerships at the fingertips; convenient info good for SGS
- Disaster preparedness theme as the service project related to the conference; blue sky days planning; sharing information/checklists with members etc.
- Community events – disaster awareness fairs; maybe partner with SGS
- Establish policy agenda, what can actions be, determine partners, connect with AAA
- Older Americans Act states AAA has role in disaster preparedness
- Little accountability in home/community based services
- Pay attention to/emphasize informal networks of support (community organizations, neighborhood groups) can they be mobilized to assist older adults?
- Providing information through various means (social, written)

- I love the idea of a special SGS conference that would focus on disaster preparedness and response, offered in collaboration with and hopefully supported and funded by FEMA.

**What changes will you make in your personal or work life based on what you learned over the past two days?**

- Talk to my loved ones and develop a plan; check on that water
- Lot of good information
- Utilizing 72 hour timeframe
- Downloaded FEMA app
- Create emergency kits and find out where my CERT/s is/are