



Meeting minutes- San Patricio Health Equity Task Force Meeting #9

Date/Time: June 11, 2024, 10:30 am – 11:30 pm central time

Attendees:

Janna Shoe Sylvia Balli

K Hernandez Judy Telge

Scott Marsh

Meeting Facilitators:

- Christina Alfaro
- Dee Grimm
- Dawn Skaggs
- Kimberly Watson

Executive Summary:

- Significant gaps identified in internet/digital access, information on available services, and limitations of registry in the San Patricio area.
- Challenges with managing community expectations around STEER registry capabilities and need to better integrate it with local emergency plans.
- Opportunities to leverage existing data sources like CMS empower database and engage transportation providers, schools, and community groups to improve disaster preparedness and evacuation planning.
- Ongoing efforts to expand survey distribution through community partners, CERT teams, and service providers to capture lived experiences and inform next steps.

Meeting Notes:

Introduction and Agenda Review

- Review of the agenda for the meeting
- Recap of previous discussion points on gaps in service delivery and inequities in the San Patricio area

Gaps in Service Delivery and Inequities in San Patricio Area

- Lack of internet/digital access for underserved populations and rural areas
 - Affects ability to access information on available services and assistance
- Lack of information access to services and assistance
- Limitations of STEER registry

- Janna Shoe highlighted challenges with managing community expectations around STEER registry capabilities and limitations, especially related to transportation assistance
- Need for more public education and disability preparedness resources
- Involvement of schools in evacuation planning and providing transportation resources (buses, drivers)

Challenges with STEER Registry and Expectations

- Difficulty explaining limitations of STEER registry and managing community expectations
 - Example: Janna Shoe presentation at Texas AgriLife Diabetes Support Group where attendees expected STEER registration to provide transportation/evacuation assistance despite clarifications
- Disconnect between 211 role and community expectations around transportation

Leveraging Existing Data and Resources

- Potential to utilize data from CMS/empower database to identify at-risk populations dependent on electricity for medical needs
 - Dee Grimm provided example of overlaying empower data with floodplain maps during Hurricane Harvey to identify areas with high concentrations of electricity-dependent individuals for targeted evacuation
- Opportunities to integrate STEER data with local emergency plans and operations

Improving Transportation Planning and Coordination

- Significant gaps in rural transportation planning and coordination for evacuation
 - Judy Telge highlighted lack of involvement from rural transportation providers (e.g. RIAI) in disaster preparedness and evacuation planning
 - Potential challenges around availability of drivers, resources being allowed to self-evacuate instead of assisting, and jurisdictional responsibilities
- Need to engage transportation providers in disaster preparedness efforts
- Potential to leverage school buses and other resources for evacuation transport
 - Kimberly Watson mentioned efforts by San Patricio County to secure MOUs with transportation providers like RIAI and local schools
 - Challenges around securing drivers for school buses during evacuations

Survey Distribution and Outreach Efforts

- Current status: 24 provider surveys and 15 consumer surveys collected
- Strategies to expand survey distribution:
 - Integrating surveys into client intake process at county indigent health care services (Integent)
 - Distributing QR codes and links at community hubs (libraries, clinics, summer camps, movie theaters, community centers, CIL offices, etc.)
 - Leveraging Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) for survey outreach

- Janna Shoe mentioned previous discussion about utilizing CERTs teams coordinated by Karen Bingham under Sarah's purview
- Importance of capturing lived experience from impacted populations

Next Steps

- Dee Grimm encouraged capturing thoughts on gaps and concerns in a bullet list to send to Kim
- Leveraging CERT teams for survey outreach
- Conducting analysis of survey data and feedback for next meeting discussion
- Continuing to document gaps and concerns for discussion in next meeting

End of Meeting Minutes