



Meeting minutes - San Patricio Health Equity Task Force Meeting #19

Date/Time: May 10, 2025, 10:30 am – 11:30 pm central time

Meeting Facilitators:

- Dee Grimm
- Kimberly Watson
- Christina Alfaro
- Allysa Rapadas

Executive Summary:

- The task force selected the focus: "How might we educate the general public about evacuation processes for San Patricio County for their safety during the threat of a hurricane?" with an emphasis on reaching people with disabilities.
- Multiple information distribution methods were proposed, including social media, public locations (libraries, schools, medical facilities), and community meetings. Stressed the importance of targeting locations frequently visited by people with disabilities.
- The group emphasized the need for strong partnerships with stakeholders (e.g., emergency management, medical providers, schools) and the community. Highlighted the importance of updating information with existing partners and involving representatives from each city or town.

Meeting Notes:

Meeting Context and Recap

- This task force has been ongoing for over a year, focusing on addressing issues related to emergency preparedness and response for people with disabilities.
- Previous meetings identified focus areas based on community and provider surveys, including:
 - Transportation
 - Provider competency and understanding the needs of people with disabilities
 - Accessibility
 - Communication (e.g., ineffective public information or lack of relevant information)
 - Access to mental health and healthcare services
- The task force has been using a whiteboard to track discussions and progress throughout the year.

Problem Statement and Goals

- Main problem: People with disabilities are not able to access transportation during blue skies and emergency situations. There is a gap in decision-making processes and a lack of resources within the acquisition process.
- Goal for this meeting: To choose a "How Might We" statement and develop actionable solutions based on it.
- Chosen statement: "How might we educate the general public about evacuation processes for San Patricio County for their safety during the threat of a hurricane?"

Proposed Solutions for Public Education

Information Distribution Methods

- Placing information sheets and flyers in various public locations
- Conducting classes and educational sessions
- Utilizing social media platforms (Facebook, etc.) as a significant distribution method
- Arranging interviews on news channels with appropriate staff
- Organizing community meetings within different towns
- Hosting in-person education and question-and-answer sessions
- Distributing information through radio channels
- Creating a central location for information pickup, allowing people to collect materials for themselves and family members

Key Locations for Information Sharing

- Public libraries (suggested as a great place to share information and potentially host classes)
- Schools (for students to take flyers home)
- Doctor's offices and medical facilities
 - Emphasized that many disabled community members frequently visit doctor's offices and rely on them for information
 - Suggestion to utilize existing displays and pamphlet areas in these offices
- Fire departments (ensuring each has information for their community)
- Home health and hospice agencies

Partnerships and Stakeholders

- Importance of partnering with current organizations, stakeholders, and service providers emphasized
- Specific partners mentioned:
 - Local community health workers
 - Emergency management staff
 - Medical providers and facilities
 - Home health and hospice agencies

- Schools, including special education departments
 - Law enforcement
 - Fire department
- Judy Telge (Judy) stressed the importance of involving organizations working with people with disabilities and aging populations, referencing experience with the functional needs support team in Corpus Christi, Nueces County
- Confirmed existing partnerships with law enforcement, fire department, and emergency management, but emphasized the need to update and fine-tune information with these partners

Engaging Community Members

- Judy Telge emphasized the need to identify the general public as partners in the process
- Suggestion to engage individual citizens by asking about their role in ensuring safety for themselves and their families
- Importance of getting individuals involved and excited about the process
- Highlighted the need for representatives from each city or town to address specific geographical needs and local knowledge

Implementation Considerations

Creating Information Templates

- Judy Telge suggested using templates based on successful examples from other communities
- Recommendation to adapt existing templates to local needs rather than starting from scratch
- Allysa Rapadas noted the importance of putting together templates and not "reinventing the wheel" since some flyers already exist

Language and Inclusivity Concerns

- Concerns raised about potential issues with DEI language in light of current political climate
- Discussion on how to ensure inclusive messaging without triggering potential funding or support issues
- Judy Telge suggested using alternative phrasing, such as "including" instead of "inclusive," to convey the same message while avoiding potential flags

Distribution Planning

- Emphasis on utilizing places frequently visited by people with disabilities, acknowledging transportation challenges
- Judy Telge stressed the importance of specifically mentioning people with disabilities and aging individuals in general public information

- Suggestion to invite medical providers to exercises or meetings, potentially offering food to encourage attendance
- Emphasized the need to reach as many people as possible, recognizing that different individuals access information through various channels
- Judy Telge suggested creating a comprehensive distribution plan, leveraging lessons from other successful initiatives like the Aging and Disability Resource Directory

Next Steps and Action Items

- Determine the current status of existing flyers and information sheets for San Patricio County
- Identify and reach out to key partners for collaboration on information distribution
- Begin drafting templates for informational materials, potentially adapting from existing resources
- Develop a strategy for engaging community members, including those with disabilities, in the planning process
- Create a distribution plan that incorporates the various methods and locations discussed
- Follow up on concerns regarding inclusive language to ensure messaging is effective and widely acceptable
- Organize a meeting with law enforcement, fire department, and emergency management to update and fine-tune evacuation information
- Explore the use of social media as a key component of the distribution strategy

End of Meeting Minutes