

“By failing to  
prepare,  
you are  
preparing to  
fail”

- Benjamin Franklin




**Consulting with Iowa Early  
Childhood Care, Health and  
Education Providers on Emergency  
Preparedness**

# Agenda



- Welcome & Overview
- DHS regulations related to Emergency Preparedness
- Working with local emergency preparedness planners - *Gary Brown, President of Iowa Emergency Management Association*
- Consulting with Iowa Early Childhood Care, Health and Education Settings on Emergency Preparedness – *Analisa Pearson, Healthy Child Care Iowa*
- Question & Answer
- CEUs/Training Certificates & Evaluation

# Learning Objectives - Participants will be able to:



- Contact local emergency preparedness planners to advocate for the integration of early childhood care, health and education providers into community plans.
- Assess early childhood care, health and education providers written plans, policies, and procedures for evacuation, relocation, and reunification and make recommendations for improvement.
- Assist early childhood care, health, and education providers in planning for emergencies typical in Iowa.

# Status of Child Care in Disaster Planning



- "Children are 25 percent of the population but we've spent more time, energy and money on pets than we have on kids." *Mark Shriver, chairman of the National Commission on Children and Disasters and director of Save the Children*
- "State and local emergency managers are required by federal law to meet the needs of pets in their disaster plans, but not children." *NCCD Interim Report*
- FEMA Director Fugate when asked by NCCD, what related to children and disasters most concerned him-where are we the least prepared, stated: "child care".

# Why Should Child Care Providers Prepare?



- Save lives and/or prevent serious injuries.
- Protect home, business and investments - equipment, supplies, etc.
- Ensure their and their employees' income.
- Be able to provide child care for parents involved in disaster response.
- Support parents returning to work.
- Support your community infrastructure.



# Why Child Care Centers are Particularly Vulnerable to Disasters:



- Large numbers of very young children.
- Many part-time employees.
- Most are not part of a large corporation or chain.
- May have limited resources and support.
- Many entities rely on same vendors.
- Private businesses are not eligible for FEMA assistance



# Why Family Child Care Homes are Particularly Vulnerable to Disasters:



- Young age of children in care.
- Most providers work alone.
- Many providers have family members and home to protect in addition to children in care.
- Emergency services may not be aware children are in the home.
- Limited income and may not be fully insured.
- Isolation



# DHS Requirements related to center disaster planning in Iowa:



- **109.4(2) Required written policies.**
- **109.10(15) Emergency plans.**
  - Fire, tornado, flood, intruders, intoxicated parents, lost/abducted children, blizzards, power failures, bomb threats, chemical spills, earthquakes, nuclear, and other disaster that could create structural damage or pose a health hazard.
  - How to evacuate during these situations, with documented monthly fire and tornado drills
  - Documented staff training on procedures annually
  - Conduct a daily check to ensure that all exits are unobstructed.

# Child Development Home Emergency Planning Requirements in Iowa: 441—110.5(237A) Standards



- **110.5(1) Health and safety. Conditions in the home shall be safe, sanitary, and free of hazards.**
- Emergency plans in case of man-made or natural disaster clearly map building evacuation routes and shelter areas. Fire and tornado drills shall be practiced monthly and documented.
- One 2A 10BC rated fire extinguisher on each child-occupied floor and at least one single-station, battery-operated, UL-approved smoke detector in each child-occupied room and at the top of every stairway.



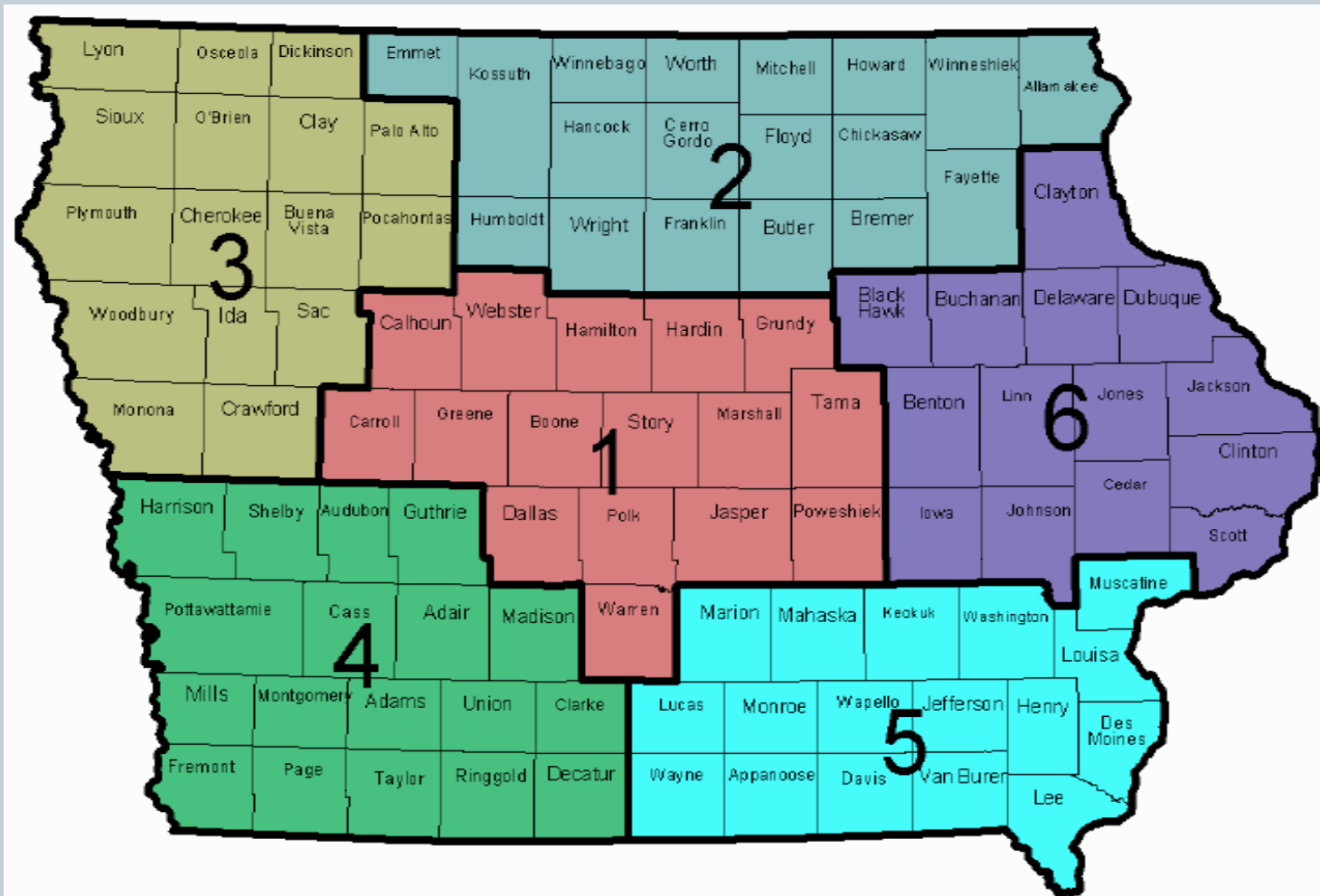
“Regardless of the preparation individual child care providers may carry out, their efforts will not be productive unless the communities, states and regions in which they are located are also prepared for natural and other types of disasters.”

*(NACCRRA)*

# Gary Brown, Iowa Emergency Management Association, President



# Iowa Emergency Preparedness Regions



# How Can You Help Providers Be Ready?



- Participate in community/regional planning meetings (LEPC):
  - Monday, March 29, 10 a.m.  
Region 2 Homeland Security Board  
Cerro Gordo County EOC  
78 S. Georgia Ave, Mason City
  - Tuesday, April 13, 9 a.m.  
Region 6 Homeland Security Board  
Linn County EOC, Kirkwood Community College  
6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids



# Who Can Help Providers Be Ready?



- County Emergency Management Agency & IEMA
- Local Public Health Department
- Local Emergency Services – fire, police, etc.
- Iowa Homeland Security
- Iowa DNR
- Iowa Department of Public Health
  - Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
  - Center for Disaster Operations and Response
  - Healthy Child Care Iowa
- FEMA, CDC, Office of Homeland Security, Save the Children, NACCRRA



# Early Childhood Care, Health, and Education Emergency Plans

- Save the Children:
  - Evacuation plan
    - Shelter in place plan
  - Relocation plan
  - Reunification plan
  - Children with special needs plan
    - Continuity of operations plan
    - Communication plan



# Evacuation Plan



- Encourage staff to be prepared at home and have a family plan.
- Home providers need family members to know the plan, and what their role and responsibility is in the plan.
- Pet plan.
- Clearly state roles and responsibilities of each staff member and families in policies.
- Have a back up plan/person for all critical roles - all staff need to know how to respond.

# Relocation Plan



- Identify shelter sites:
  - Close by– walk-able
  - Moderate – for neighborhood event
  - Distant –community concern
  - Listen to media for official information
- Site set up plan and stocked with emergency supplies or bring to site
- ✦ Emergency transportation plan

# Continuity of Operations Planning -The 4 R's



- **Reinforce:** Services that must continue and may even be expanded in an emergency.
- **Run:** Services that must run and have high priority.
- **Reduce:** Services that may have some critical functions, but the majority can be reduced or removed.
- **Remove:** Services that can be removed completely to shift resources to more critical functions or programs.

# Plan for Children and Staff with Special Needs



- Necessary supplies such as dressings, catheters, medications, nebulizer and tubing, etc.
- Generator or battery backup for all electrical medical equipment and extra batteries for hearing aids, communication devices, etc.
- Manual wheelchairs.
- Special foods and adaptive equipment.
- Appropriate, manageable transportation and evacuation planning.
- Transition, mental and behavioral health supports.

# Relocation Plan



- Vital business records
  - Insurance
  - Inventory
  - Child files
  - Payroll information, CCDF, parent payment
  - MOA/MOU, service contracts
  - Business contact information –vendors, etc.



# Communication Plan



- Do providers know when they need to communicate with you, under what circumstances, where in the chain of communication?
- Planned messages – scripts, PIO
- How will facilities communicate with you about the problem, where they are and what the plan is?
  - Text message
  - Website, recorded message, personal cell phones
  - When there is no electricity or phone service?
  - Agency emergency plan – chain of command

# Reunification Plan



- How much information do they really have on the children's families?
- What is their plan if they cannot get in contact with anyone?
- How will they assure no children are lost during evacuation, and relocation?
  - Extra volunteers, helpers, emergency personnel, etc.
  - If clothing is lost?
- Death of immediate family members-release child with next of kin, police, DHS, friend, etc.?
- Check-out plan if at a relocation site, outside, etc.

# Helping Providers Be Ready



- Carefully review emergency plans
- Be involved in facility planning
- Advocate for child care involvement
- Pass along resources
- Help make drills count
- Know your community plan
- Clearly state your role, expectations, resources
- “Stranger test” the plan – could you follow it, does it give enough information, etc.



Emergency Preparation Plan      Emergency Plan

**Child Care Facility  
Emergency Plan**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Plan \_\_\_\_\_

# Helping Providers Be Ready



- Have a system for communicating with all the programs you work with (and back up plans)
- Provide training
- Have provider show you where and how to turn off water, gas, and electricity at main switches



# Helping Providers Be Ready



- NOAA weather radios, dual sensor smoke detectors, regular heating and air conditioning maintenance, etc.
- Helping set goals/accountability for making preparations
- Be knowledgeable, assign at least one consultant in your agency or have a partnership regarding adequate insurance coverage needed
- Ask to see their inventory list.



# Helping Providers Be Ready



- Keep vital records for the business
- Keep a vendor list, for child care related products
- Assure that your vital records regarding the businesses you serve are safe



# General Public/Family Planning Documents

- Help providers sort through useable family and general public planning information:
  - Fill bathtubs with water
  - Boil water
  - Peanut butter, nuts, trail mix, granola bars
  - Confidentiality
  - Travel



# Hazard Mitigation



- Would/could it break, fall or spill, and hurt someone?
- Would/could it break or fall, and block a primary exit from the room?
- Could it fall, break, or leak and start a fire?
- Could it easily be removed, fixed, replaced, etc.
- Flood risk, submersion, poison, suffocation, etc.



# Assisting after a disaster



- Accurate information on assessing damage, documentation of damage, clean up, PPE for staff involved in clean up
- Advocate for and assist in connecting facility with mental health resources for staff and children\*
- Consult with health department, schools, DHS, etc. on needs of displaced families
- Provide a list of supplies and equipment that could be donated and a mechanism for donation

# Case Scenario



- Last night a tornado hit a small town in rural Iowa. It took a mile-wide swath through part of the community, leveling homes, and businesses. Bridget Brown has operated a child care center (CD home) in the community for many years.
- It is several days before Bridget can return to the property. When she does, she finds everything destroyed either by the tornado, the wind, or the rain that followed. None of the records can be found. A church (her aunt) offers to let her set up in their Sunday School rooms (home) until she can decide what to do.

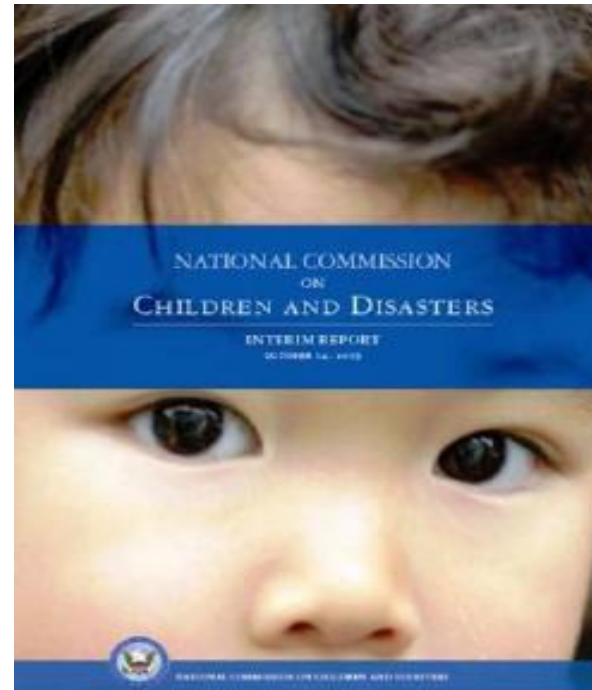
# Case Scenario



- A Child Care Center is located near a major highway in a large Iowa city. An 18-wheeler loaded with a yet to be identified substance has gone over the side of an overpass and the contents have spilled. Everyone within two miles of the accident has been ordered to evacuate the area. The program has successfully evacuated the children to a library outside the area of danger. None of the parents know where their children are. In the rush to leave the building, no records or supplies were brought along. Library closes at 5pm, the center usually provides care until 6pm it is now 3:30 pm, no prior arrangements were made with parents or the library.



The Commission is calling on the President and Congress to enact sweeping changes to end the cycle of "benign neglect" of children in disaster planning and management.



NATIONAL COMMISSION ON  
CHILDREN AND DISASTERS



## Recommendation 6.1: Require disaster planning capabilities for child care providers. NCCD Interim Report



- *Require state child care regulatory agencies to include disaster planning, training and exercising requirements within the scope of the state's minimum health and safety standards for child care licensure or registration.*
- *Require state child care administrators to develop statewide child care plans in coordination with state and local emergency managers, public health, child care regulatory agencies and child care resource and referral agencies.*

## 6.2: Improve capacity to provide child care services in the immediate aftermath of and recovery from a disaster.



- *Include the provision of child care as a human service activity within the National Response Framework (NRF).*
- *Provide reimbursement under the Stafford Act, amending the Act as necessary, to support child care services to displaced families, establishment of temporary disaster child care and the repair or reconstruction of child care facilities.*
- According to NACCRA, many, if not most, are private businesses that operate for profit, thus precluding them from receiving Stafford Act funds

# Small Business Administration



- Certain private non-profit child care facilities may be eligible for reimbursement for repairs and reconstruction under the Stafford Act, if they fail to qualify for disaster loans administered by the Small Business Administration. *(NCCD Interim Report)*
- After the President or the SBA administrator declares a disaster, homeowners, renters, and businesses of all size may apply for low-interest SBA disaster loans.

# Small Business Administration



- Physical Disaster Loans: Available for non-farm businesses of any size and some non-profit organizations. SBA makes loans to repair or replace damaged property, inventory, and equipment.
- Economic Injury Disaster Loans: Small businesses or agricultural cooperatives may be eligible for SBA assistance if they have suffered substantial economic injury in a declared disaster area.
- **[www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) or call 1-800-659-2955.**

# National Commission on Children and Disasters Field Visit to Cedar Rapids, IA



- Every preparedness and recovery plan should include child care.
- Child care sites should be identified in local e.m. plans and made priorities for fire marshal inspections after disasters, as fire marshals are not always immediately available to conduct inspections necessary for licensing.
- The state should assist local emergency managers in knowing the location of child care providers and relevant details needed for planning.

# NCCD Field Visit – Cedar Rapids



- Form and foster community partnerships that help to manage children's issues in disaster response and recovery
- Mitigate known disaster vulnerabilities at schools, child care centers, camps, sporting venues and all other facilities where children congregate
- Develop a program to educate children about disaster response, including what to do if they are separated from their parents or guardians or if they require rescue

# NCCD Field Visit – Cedar Rapids



- Child care providers should be involved in the disaster case management process.
- In disaster planning, the focus should be on bringing the services back to the community rather than bringing the survivors to services in other areas.
- Provide federal guidance on disaster planning for child care, for both local emergency managers and child care providers.

# NCCD Field Visit – Cedar Rapids



- Establish an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Children's Issues Coordinator
- Develop systems, protocols and points of contact for sharing information on children between the office emergency management and facilities that care for children prior to incidents
- FEMA should go beyond a programmatic damage assessment and identify unmet needs.

# NCCD Field Visit – Cedar Rapids



- Transportation information
  - Inventory of vehicles that could be used to transport children during an evacuation or following a disaster
  - Status of child-safety devices or capacities of the vehicles
  - Address and contact information for transportation providers
  - Probable evacuation routes and plans for facilities serving/housing children

# NCCD Field Visit – Cedar Rapids



- Resource Database
  - List of suppliers who can provide emergency supplies and equipment related to the care of children (diapers, wipes, formula, feeding implements, etc.), including address and contact information
  - Inventory and pricing information for relevant supplies and equipment



# Questions?



# Evaluation, CEU, and Training Certificates



- Email with 4 links
- Two categories – Early Childhood Care, Health and Education PROVIDER & Consultant
- Two links:
  - Evaluation
  - Training Certificate / Nurse or Social Work CEU Request
- Certificate/CEU Request Closes April 9
- CEU Request only
  - Send a sign in sheet. NONE was provided. No one at your site is designated to send it in – you are responsible. Must be a signature, NOT a LIST of names.