FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT SERVICE TEAMS
PIERCE COUNTY PILOT PROJECT

Presenters
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Objectives
- Define FAST’s purpose
- Relate the history of FAST
- Describe FAST concepts and its function
- Discuss the Pierce County Pilot Project
- Identify sustainability activities and next steps

Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST)
A FAST consists of trained government and non-government personnel ready to respond to disaster areas to work in disaster shelters.

FAST members work with shelter staff to conduct assessments of people with access and functional needs (PAFN) in emergency shelters.

FAST members facilitate the process of getting resources needed by the people with access and functional needs.

Access and Functional Needs
- **Special Needs** - “Special,” they are often thought of as marginal individuals who have needs, not rights.
- **Vulnerable Populations** - “Vulnerable” people must have things done for them; they’re recipients, not participants.
- **Access** – accommodations mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and other Federal and State laws
- **Functional** – a condition the necessitates additional support
- **PAFN** – Person with Access and Functional Needs

Why is FAST Needed?

LESSES LEARNED
54 Million Americans with disabilities (About one in five)

Source: 2010 U.S. Census Bureau; all categories not mutually exclusive; persons may also have more than one disability.

Hurricane Katrina was a Wake-up Call

According to CBS News following Katrina, of those who stayed behind:

38% did not evacuate because they had a disability or were caring for individuals with a disability.

Hurricane Katrina was a Wake-up Call

Special Need Assessment of Katrina Evacuees (SNAKE)

Shelter staff not only were not prepared to support people with access and functional needs, but had no idea where to turn for help.

Resulted in adoption of FEMA's Whole Community Concept for disaster planning

FEMA's Whole Community Concept

• Understanding and meeting the true needs of the entire affected community.
• Engaging all aspects of the community (public, private, and civic) in both defining those needs and devising ways to meet them.
• Strengthening the processes that work well in communities on a daily basis to improve resilience and emergency management outcomes.

FEMA's Whole Community Concept

History of FAST

FROM CALIFORNIA TO WASHINGTON
Where it All Began

- State of California was not prepared to shelter thousands of victims during wild fires in 2003, especially people with access and functional needs.
- California began developing FAST in 2005, and then Katrina hit, making it even more evident of its need.

Where it All Began

- Began at state level, with many partners across state agencies, including American Red Cross and many disability agencies and organizations
- Continues to be a model nationwide
- Pierce County Pilot started in September 2011

How FAST Works

ASSESS, REQUEST, SUPPORT

How does FAST help?

- FAST supports general shelter staff and preserves vital medical resources for those with the most severe needs.
- FAST frees up other emergency resources to focus on emergency incidents rather than on mitigating complications.

FAST Concept

- FAST members are trained professionals in social service disciplines.

FAST Concept

- FAST will help assess people with accommodation needs and assist them by getting what they need to stay in a shelter.
- FAST will help distinguish people who have functional needs from those with acute medical needs.
FEMA's Areas of Access and Functional Needs
- Communication
- Medical
- Independence
- Supervision
- Transportation

Conduct functional needs assessments of individuals at shelters and arrange for support with resources such as:
- Durable medical equipment (DME)
- Consumable medical supplies (CMS)
- Essential medications
- Communication access
- Personal assistants (PAs)

Members have a combined experience in one or more areas:
- Aging
- Developmental and/or other cognitive disabilities
- Chronic health conditions (nursing support services)
- Hearing disabilities
- Mental health disabilities
- Physical disabilities
- Substance abuse/alcoholism
- Vision/blind disabilities

Two years of professional experience providing services to clients in one or more social service disciplines
- ICS 100/200/700 – offered in classrooms or online
- Pass background check (either by employer or Pierce County DEM)
- Ability to work under difficult and stressful conditions
High Risk Population Disaster Planning in Pierce

- 2006 – Formation of Pierce County High Risk Populations (HRP) Disaster Planning Coalition
- Pierce County HRP Disaster Planning Summit
  - Half day conference to introduce agencies to emergency planning – 2013 will be full day
- Emergency Preparedness Institute
  - 2 day training twice a year
- Quarterly Disaster Preparedness Seminars
  - Death in disasters; Setting management on fire; Winter storm preparations; How to survive an active shooter

Pierce County Project Partners

- Pierce County Emergency Management
- Pierce County Community Connections
- Tacoma Area Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities (TACID)
- American Red Cross, Mount Rainier Chapter
- Associated Ministries
- Center for Independence
- CS Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resource Specialists
- City of Lakewood
- City of Tacoma
- Federal Emergency Management Agency Region X
- Hearing Speech and Deafness Center
- Helping Hand House
- Northwest Center for Independent Living
- OptumHealth
- Tacoma Goodwill Industries
- Tacoma Pierce County Health Department
- U.S. Health and Human Services, Children and Family Services
- Washington State Dept. of Social and Health Services
- Association of Centers for Independent Living in Washington

FAST in Pierce County

- September 2011 – Kick-off with interested agencies and creation of ‘Core Planning Team’
- Community Forum held in October
- November 2011 – ‘Curriculum Subcommittee’ starts updating two-day FAST curriculum (eight months of work)

FAST Curriculum

- Length: 16 hours over two consecutive days
- Number of participants for each session: Limit 40
- Trainers represent a variety of disciplines
  - Emergency Management
  - Sheltering
  - Access and Functional Needs

FAST in Pierce County

- May 2012 – First two-day FAST training held
- July 2012 – Pierce County Shelter Summit – first sheltering exercise for FAST team
- October 2012 – Second two-day FAST training
FAST Team Sustainability and ‘Next Steps’

MOVING FORWARD

Monthly FAST Team Member Trainings

• For all members or interested members
• Presentation by a social service discipline subject matter expert (usually draw from FAST members)
• Scenario-based discussion
• Networking
• Several tabletop exercises during the year

Continued FAST Trainings

• Two trainings scheduled for 2013
  - April 30 & May 1
  - October 29 & 30
• New Unit Leader Training
  - Dates to be determined
• People outside of Pierce County welcome to attend

Next Steps

• Include more counties in the FAST process
• Work on a more sustainable format for monthly trainings (webinars, flipbooks, etc.)
• Establish MOUs with employers
• Work with FEMA approved personal assistance providers in FAST process

Next Steps

• Establish MOU with ASL interpreters
• Develop a standard operating guideline manual
• Increase trainer recruitment
• Update ESF 6 to include FAST teams

Get Deployed!
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Contact information

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