



Summary Statements

Jack Harrald, Chair

**Background and Introduction:
Issues of Children in Disasters**

Panel II

**Actions Needed to Improve
Provision for Mental Health
Services**

Panel III

**School Assistance for Recovery
from Disaster**

Panel III

Building Resilience in Children



Background and Introduction

Panel Suggestions

- **“Children are not little adults”; they lack resilience during disaster**
- **Catastrophic events impact social & economic systems**
- **Disproportionately effect vulnerable populations**
- **We need to fill gaps in knowledge, policy, science and the blending of these**
- **Need shared preparedness in this disaster decade, not benign neglect**



Background and Introduction (cont.)

Panel Suggestions

- **Youth preparedness offers:**
 - **Responsibility**
 - **Ideal demographics**
 - **Technology**
 - **Cultural shifts**
- **Include 0-18 age population in preparedness efforts**



Panel I. Actions for Improved Mental Health

Panel Suggestions

- **Cultivate survivorship, not victims**
- **Focus on psychological support**
- **Let kids help kids**
- **Don't wait for outside mental health**
- **Use available tools**
 - **triage support**
 - **focus on psychological First Aid**
 - **create multi-disciplined trauma systems**



Panel I. (cont') Actions for Improved Mental Health

Panel Suggestions

- **Focus on parity, integration, directives, prevention**
- **Horizontal integrations of “Cylinders of Excellence” needed**
- **Mental health disasters are serious, enduring, therefore kids need long-term treatment**
- **Recognize and provide protocols and plans for sub-populations (i.e. ADHD, wheelchair, autistic)**



Panel II. School Assistance for Disaster Recovery

Panel Suggestions

- **Focus on safety & security**
- **Involve all stakeholders**
- **Minimize rules, but create synergy & partnerships to overcome barriers**
- **Disasters are heterogeneous – need written plans for all general and specific scenarios**
- **Disseminate communication via various methods, but consider outages**



Panel II. (cont') School Assistance for Disaster Recovery

Panel Suggestions

- **Federal govt. should fund and implement preventative measures to reduce risk**
- **Teaching the 3 R's depends upon dealing with 2 R's: Resiliency and Recovery**
- **Consider time element – symptomology changes over time – research is needed**
- **Disasters become our history – use to teach lessons learned**



Panel III. Increasing the resilience of children

Panel suggestions:

- **Develop strategies that promote resiliency before disasters**
- **Resiliency is not a return to a pre-event state**
- **Children's resiliency is strengthened through their relationships with others**
- **Recognize that resiliency is learned**
- **Trained, prepared & equipped kids are resilient**



Panel III. (cont.) Increasing the resilience of children

Panel suggestions:

- **There are many successful national models (Smoky the Bear, Stop Drop & Roll, etc) - update, evaluate & bring forward**
- **Focus on what kids embrace as fun!**
- **Major disconnects:**
 - **Improper understanding of grief time and cycle**
 - **Memorialization – youth input**
 - **Mental health services**
 - **Limited disaster plans**
 - **empower youth through volunteerism via kid culture**



Unifying Themes

- 1. Include all stakeholders, especially children, in planning and implementation**
- 2. Integrate mental health and safety aspects at the community level**
- 3. Plan ahead for multiple, unexpected events**
- 4. Identify physical and human resources**
- 5. Provide inter-agency coordination before disasters – review and practice**
- 6. Create on-going growth and learning environment**
- 7. Identify champions to spearhead programs at every level to make this a daily responsibility**
- 8. Strong resiliency happens around a unifying entity (church, football, market) prior to a disaster**



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Thank You