

SOC Meeting Summary for 3-18-25

Please reach to me (Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov) for any of the attachments referenced in this summary!

Good afternoon,

Thank you to everyone for attending today's SOC meeting and/or providing resources. Your contributions make this a wonderfully informative and supportive group and that improves services being provided to people when they most need it! A special thank you to our guest presenters today, **Kathy Kay, The Whole Person and Jonathan Kurtz with the NWS or National Weather Service**. Our focus this month was on recognizing that it is "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month" and with particular emphasis on children and further, severe weather season and its impact on everyone but especially, people with disabilities.

I have included links and one attachment for information from a related presentation given on March 12th at the Kansas City Regional COAD meeting. The presenter there was David Whalen, Niagara University and Mr. Whalen specializes in training emergency management, case managers, first responders, and more in the full inclusion of people with disabilities in disaster planning. Mr. Whalen's email for reference is: dwhalen@niagara.edu. Further, you will find an attachment for an upcoming CDRN exercise that will assist you and your organization with being prepared in the event of an active threat. This is a wonderful opportunity for organizations of all sizes to test their plans or develop a plan for times when there is an active threat of some sort.

The following is a summary of today's meeting:

1. Kathy Kay, Chief Executive Officer, The Whole Person

Email: kkay@thewholeperson.org

Phone: 816-561-0304

Websites: <https://thewholeperson.org/>

- **Ms. Kay's slide deck is attached for your review.**
- **The discussion focused on introducing people to what The Whole Person does, it being "Developmental Disability Awareness Month", understanding disasters, preparedness for people with disabilities and varying kinds of disabilities, building a Disaster Preparedness Kit, creating support networks, and resources.**

- Discussed the issue of transportation during disasters, making that accessible as well as shelters needing to be accessible.
- Talked about what Emergency Managers need to know to best support people with disabilities during disasters.
- Discussed best-practices for communication during disasters with people who have disabilities.
- Reviewed that durable medical equipment may be lost during disasters and emergencies and possible resources for replacement.
- The Whole Person has a Safety Committee there and we talked about how that entity could partner with the KCR COAD and a number of their respective committees to improve disaster planning and response for people who have access and functional needs.

2. Jonathan Kurtz, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service-Kansas City, MO

Email: Jonathan.Kurtz@noaa.gov

Phone: 816-540-6132, Extension 726; 24/7 Operations: 816-540-5147

Website: www.weather.gov/kc

- Mr. Kurtz's slide deck is attached for your review.
- Severe weather safety and disaster preparedness was discussed.
- Historical information was given about the NWS Forecast Office in Kansas City.
- Discussed was who the NWS supports.
- The Watch to Warning process was explained.
- Outlook to watch to warning was explained.
- Discussed the Integrated Warning Team
- Reviewed all severe weather hazards.
- Discussed thunderstorm hazards and types in detail.
- Storm Planning Timeline was reviewed.
- Discussed NWS warnings.
- Talked about tornado sheltering guidelines.

- Know where to go.
- Discussed tornado and road safety.
- Discussed flash floods.
- Extreme heat planning was reviewed.
- Reviewed resources for severe weather.
- Mr. Kurtz advised he may have a few weather radios for distribution but also advised that Midland Radios is often able to give radios out. The SOC can also again provide some weather radios completely free of cost as we have done in the past!
- Less than 6 inches of water can carry a car away!
- Discussed an upcoming spotter training up North. Information about this is under the following link: <http://weather.gov/kc/skywarn>
- Current weather packet information can always be found at: <https://www.weather.gov/media/eax/DssPacket.pdf>
- Reviewed myths involving weather (i.e., open windows to prevent pressure building up)
- VIP to remember that the road underneath the water may be GONE! Do NOT drive through water, turn around!

3. **Resources from the March 12th KCR COAD Presentation on the Full Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Disaster Planning**

- <https://www.nfpa.org/downloadable-resources/Guides/Evacuation-Guide-PDF>
- file:///sdmhfip4303/users/mulheuj/1_2%20day%20To%20go.pdf
- <https://www.marc.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/personal-preparedness-inventory.pdf>

4. Additional resources:

- https://hazards.colorado.edu/uploads/publications/36_2010_Peek_Stough.pdf

- <https://www.unicef.org/disabilities/inclusive-humanitarian-action-guidance#:~:text=Children%20and%20adults%20with%20disabilities,they%20can%20also%20create%20opportunities.>
- <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7228281/>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/children-and-school-preparedness/special-healthcare-needs/index.html>
- <https://disability.mo.gov/emergency.htm>

5. My updates and announcements:

- I reminded people that the SOC Health Fair is on April 12th from 9-2, flyer attached. There will be 15 tables of various kinds of vendors. This is through our Cancel Cancer initiative with medical, mental health, family, and other sorts of resources that all promote wellness!
- The SOC/FEMA Region 7 workshop on integrating the needs of children, mental health needs, etc. into disaster planning and response is on May 9th. Flyer is attached. Tickets are still available via Event Brite but are about half gone already so please register ASAP. We had a waiting list last year!
- Discussed the importance of the Kansas City Regional COAD, the need to be involved, and how that may look. Our next meeting is set at this time for **May 21st at 1:30 p.m. and is on Webex and the Red Cross KC.**
- I reminded everyone that we continue to have a Gas Card program and can distribute them to organizations as supplies permit!

6. Gary Brock, PBS advised that they have an upcoming event on June 7th from 11-2. Be My Neighbor is a fun event for children and families that will have many activities, Daniel Tiger making an appearance, face painting, emergency vehicles available for tour and to learn more about, Happy Feet, and many more fun activities. This will be at the Cleaver YMCA. More details to come!!!

Our next SOC meeting is on **April 15th at 1 p.m. on Webex.** Thank you so much for your time and participation in the SOC, it is very much appreciated. Please never hesitate to reach out if we can do anything to support you in helping others.

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. L'Heureux, Ph.D.

Chief of Children's Community Operations-Northwest

Department of Mental Health-Division of Behavioral Health

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