



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Rolling Perspective

News from the Office of Access and Functional Needs

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Issue 2

Introduction

Welcome to *Rolling Perspective*, the quarterly newsletter by the Office of Access and Functional Needs aimed at keeping you informed and up to date on the great work our office does! *Rolling Perspective* highlights our efforts to integrate access and functional needs (AFN) within the State's emergency planning systems. In this issue, we focus on the four P's: *Projects, Partnerships, Planning, and Preparedness*.

To be added to our list, please send us an [email](#) with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line. Join us for the ride as we share our work with you!



Office of Access and Functional Needs Staff
(left to right: LaCandice McCray, Vance Taylor [center], Christopher Johnson, and Linell Walker)

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The AFN Geographic Information System Web Map



Photo courtesy of ESRI

A key component of disaster response is the capability to rapidly identify and deploy the resources needed before, during, and after emergencies. These resources, which are limited in number and availability, are critical to an effective response and essential to supporting individuals with disabilities and others with access and functional needs in impacted areas.

To that end, OAFN, in collaboration with [Cal OES' Geographic Information Systems \(GIS\) division](#) is in the process of developing an interactive GIS web map that will be the definitive, comprehensive, statewide resource for AFN-related assets/resources.

The web map will contain geographically searchable AFN-relevant information categorized into areas such as:

- Assistive technology providers;
- Accessible transportation providers;
- American Sign Language interpreting services;
- Independent Living Centers; and
- Functional Assessment Service Team coordinators.

When completed, the OAFN web map will enable Cal OES and its partners to identify, locate and reach AFN-related resource providers throughout the state. Having such a resource during the Valley and Butte fires would have saved countless hours spent pursuing and procuring accessible porta potties, accessible showers and durable medical equipment such as canes, wheelchairs and other assistive technologies for disaster survivors with access and functional needs.

In addition to leveraging the interactive web map to quickly identify resources during emergencies, OAFN will use it to direct partner agencies and logistical staff to resources across the state so they can plan during non-emergencies.

This project supports the Cal OES mission of capacity building and its vision of leveraging effective partnerships (by collaborating with local and state partners to populate the map), enhancing our technology (to build an innovative, original resource) and continuous improvement (by developing a tool to serve underrepresented populations) while ensuring a safer more resilient California. Most importantly, it will impact lives and enhance the way we respond to meet the AFN mission during disasters.

The current timetable for completion of the web map is summer 2016.

Active Shooter Guidance



Inland Regional Center

On December 2, 2015, terrorists attacked the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino. Because the center serves individuals with intellectual disabilities, initial reports indicated the attack was an assault on the disabled. Though we later learned this was not the case; the thought of an attack on individuals with disabilities raised serious concerns over the current lack of guidance regarding the AFN considerations associated with an active shooter attack.

OAFN is working to develop an AFN Active Shooter Guidance document and training curriculum. This first-of-its-kind effort will be a joint project with [Cal OES Law Enforcement](#), the [California Specialized Training Institute](#), the Department of Homeland Security's [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#), the [State Council on Developmental Disabilities](#) and other disability stakeholders. The outcomes of this important project will be to develop a guidance that outlines what individuals with a disability or an AFN should do to preserve life and promote safety and to inform law enforcement and first responders about the AFN considerations they need to integrate within their active shooter protocols.

We are looking to have the training components include a stand-alone online course on the guidance, as well as slides/materials that will be integrated into new and existing active shooter curriculums. Our hope is that the integration of this guidance statewide and nationally will

benefit public agencies; it will also be made available to our partners in the private sector. Once completed, this project will help yield a safer, more resilient whole community.

The OAFN Resource Library



Every week we receive inquiries from across the state (and the nation) from community leaders, state agencies, advocacy organizations, emergency managers and others all asking for AFN-related planning resources. Whether it's best practices, lessons learned or guidance docs; people want to know what AFN resources exist and where they can go to find them. To provide leadership and assistance in this area, OAFN is developing a central, online repository/clearinghouse of AFN-related planning resources.

The repository, which will reside in the new "Library" section of the OAFN website, will be free and accessible to our partners and the public. The resources we house will cover a wide array of AFN-specific topics and needs. So, whether you're looking for information on effective communication, sheltering or integration; our clearinghouse will be the one-stop-shop to finding the best available resources out there!

Understanding that our partners produce and consume a tremendous amount of AFN-related information, we hope you'll let us know if there are specific tools, documents or resources you would like us to include in the clearinghouse. If there are, please send them to us via email: OAFN@caloes.ca.gov.

The clearinghouse is scheduled to go live this summer.

OAFN Staff Spotlight: "Meet our Program Manager"

LaCandice McCray is the Program Manager of the Office and Access and Functional Needs at the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. She is responsible for project management, training & outreach, administrative processes, and supporting emergency response and recovery operations.

Born and raised in Louisiana, LaCandice began her civil service career with the Department of Rehabilitation as a lead staff assigned to the California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. Prior to civil service, she worked at several disability non-profits in the areas

of independent living, community outreach, and protection & advocacy. She is a family member of persons with disabilities.

LaCandice holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Ethnic Studies from the University of California, San Diego and a Master's of Science in Assistive Technology & Human Services from California State University Northridge. In her free time, she enjoys running, eating at local restaurants, and spending time with her in-laws in the Central Valley. LaCandice lives in Sacramento with her prometido Omar.



LaCandice McCray

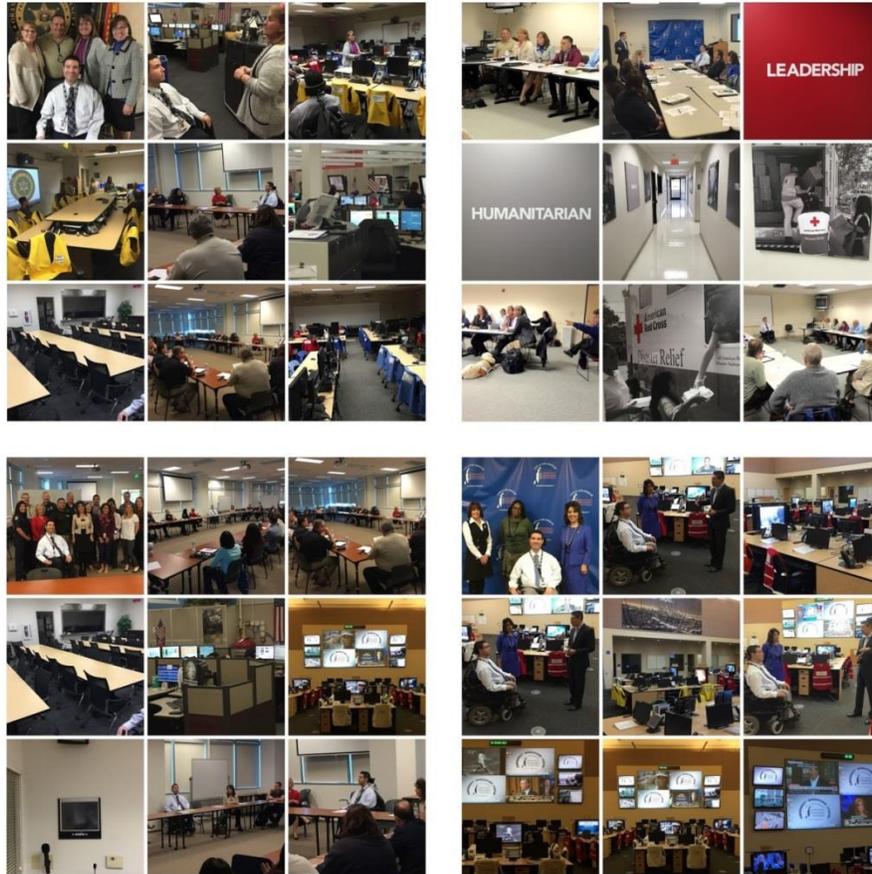
OAFN Tours Southern Region

In February, OAFN Chief Vance Taylor visited California's Southern Region. The trip was a great opportunity to spend quality time with local emergency managers and community partners. Over the course of the visit, the operational areas were able to brief out on the tremendous work being done to integrate access and functional needs in the region, to discuss their respective challenges and to ask questions regarding best practices.

OAFN extends gratitude to our partners in Southern California for being so welcoming, for giving such great briefings and for the dynamic ways they are working to integrate AFN into every aspect of emergency planning. We also want to thank Cal OES' Southern Region

Administrator, Mona Bontty and her extraordinary team for their logistical and administrative support in coordinating this fantastic trip.

Highlights from the visit include meeting with the following partners: City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, Orange County and Riverside County.



Southern Region Tour Photo Collage

Outreach and Partnership Development

OAFN has been quite busy meeting with state partners, local emergency managers, AFN workgroups and stakeholders throughout California. Being with our partners in the field has been a delight! Highlights from our outreach efforts this quarter include: a meet and greet with [Emergency Medical Services Authority](#), tour of [Alameda County Emergency Operations Center](#), tour of [Parents Helping Parents iTECH Center](#) and presentation to the [State Council on Developmental Disabilities](#), Self Advocates Advisory Committee.



Outreach and Partnership Development Photo Collage

Disaster Planning

The core mission of OAFN is to identify the needs of people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs before, during, and after a disaster and to integrate them into the State's emergency management systems. One of the key ways we do that is by working collaboratively with emergency managers and planners to develop state and local emergency plans.

Over the past three months, OAFN has provided guidance and feedback on the following planning initiatives:

- State Emergency Plan
- Bay Area Earthquake Plan
- Northern California Catastrophic Flood Response Plan
- California Disaster Recovery Framework
- DR-4220 CA: Valley & Butte Fires Recovery Support Strategy
- City of Sacramento, People with Access and Functional Needs Annex

Working with state and local partners to help ensure Cal OES can better prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the impacts of hazards and threats for all Californians is an immense opportunity and privilege. As these plans continue to evolve, OAFN

looks forward to continuing to partner with our state, local, tribal and community stakeholders to advance this great work.

Personal Preparedness: Evacuation Plans



In the event of an emergency evacuation, are you and your family prepared? If not, the time to plan is now!

When community evacuations become necessary, local officials use a variety of tools including television, radio, text alerts, emails and telephone calls to notify the public. Regardless of the methods used to communicate, it's important to understand that you may need to take action quickly. For this reason, and many more, it is essential to have a personal emergency plan.

As you develop your [personal emergency plan](#), consider how you will assemble your family, what supplies (including medicines) you may need and decide where you might go to evacuate (e.g. a friend's house, a hotel or the local shelter). Try to plan for a few different disaster scenarios. If you use communication aids or assistive devices, make sure that you have charging cables, extra batteries, etc.

Don't underestimate the importance of [customizing your plan](#) based on the AFN-related communication, transportation, shelter and healthcare needs of you and your family. Having your health and medical information ready to go will assist in emergency evacuation and transport. Utilizing planning tools, such as [Vial of Life](#) are simple ways to coordinate and communicate medical needs with family, friends and first responders during emergencies.

As you plan, remember to work with your healthcare providers to have medical records and supplies in place prior to an emergency. If you receive in-home assistance, personal assistance services or meals on wheels, work with your provider agency as you develop your plan.

Disasters and emergencies can happen on any day at any time. Preparing ahead of these events is critical to keeping you and your family safe and will help ensure your needs are met during evacuations.

L-197 Integrating Access and Functional Needs into Emergency Planning, Lake County



OAFN staff completing training discussions with Cal OES and tribal partners

On January 6 – 7, 2016, OAFN, in partnership with the [Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians California](#) and the Cal OES' [Office of Tribal Coordination](#), hosted FEMA's L197: Integrating Access and Functional Needs into Emergency Planning course in Middletown, CA.

The purpose of this training was to empower tribal emergency managers and planners by providing them with an understanding of access and functional needs and a framework they can use to integrate disability access and inclusive practices into their plans and processes.

Following the course, participants indicated having gained a greater capability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies with the whole community in mind. We appreciate the warm reception of our hosts and look forward to further collaboration with our tribal partners.