

## Catastrophic Mass Shelter Model

- Who – The local Red Cross staff and supplies will not be able to manage and run the full shelter program needed to support 88,000 people. When national assets arrive they can help offset the burden on the county.
  - County accepted Lead shelter role in catastrophic event
  - Department of County Human Services (DCHS) accepted role of ESF6 Coordination Lead
  - Sheltering in a catastrophic event will be an all hands on deck effort and will require multi-agency coordination with other county departments, cities, Red Cross, community organizations, and everyone who can lend a hand.
- What – the model for providing mass care services, and two common models came up:
  - Shelter models reviewed
    - Red Cross model: Smaller shelter sites that would require approximately 900 sites throughout the County – that was deemed unrealistic.
    - Mega shelter: Huge one room indoor shelter site, similar to used during Hurricane Katrina, located far away from impacted neighborhoods-- the planning team was opposed to this model
    - Separate medical shelters: – planning team preferred keeping people in need of limited medical support in same shelter a general population. Separate animal shelter: Locations away from general population shelters that supported pets. Case studies showed that many times people would not leave damaged homes in order to stay with their pets. The planning team preferred to co-locate people with their pets. Outdoor shelter spaces: Not everyone will come inside immediately following an earthquake. And following aftershocks, people will need to move outside the shelter until the space can be deemed safe to reenter. The planning team recognized the need for shelters to have both large inside and outside spaces. This outside space model was guided by the *Humanitarian Charter & Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response*.
  - Services and functional areas at Shelter Village sites (slide 10)
  - Staffing organizational structure and staffing guides (slides 12 & 13) informed by guidance from existing Red Cross and FEMA resources and adapted locally.
- Where
  - Reviewed existing hazard data: landslides, liquefaction, flooding hazard, hazardous materials, and unreinforced masonry buildings. These maps identified high risk areas to stay away from.
  - Also considered a Social Vulnerability Index and total population maps. Equity Group identified data to include in the Social Vulnerability Index.
  - Created a list of Property Characteristics (slide 15) to provide a guide for identifying sites that would meet the needs of a Shelter Village Model.
  - Compared existing Red Cross anticipated shelter locations to assist determine where Local-run sites could be placed.
  - Potential site property owners/stakeholders were engaged on a quarterly basis as part of a “Shelter Village Meeting” to talk through the expectations, build agreement, and

ended with the development of Memorandums of Understanding.. As of March 3, 2023 Multnomah County has five (5) signed MOUs. Still seeking a site in the SE Multnomah County area.

- 2016 Cascadia Rising Exercise
  - Was used to exercise the DRAFT Mass Shelter Plan. Significant findings were the bandwidth in the County EOC to support mass sheltering in Emergency Support Function (ESF) 6. This Exercise informed an updated ESF 6 organizational structure.
- Training
  - County staff began being trained on mass shelter manager and general staff roles – with a goal of 200 county staff trained and an additional 1,000 identified for Just In Time training.
- Supplies
  - Nearly \$250,000 of supplies has been brought in to support the implementation of mass care and sheltering capabilities. (slide 19)

### **All-Hazards Shelter Capabilities**

- Disaster Resource Center (DRC) model
  - This model can support small to medium sized events. The intent is for this model to be scalable based on the existing situation.
  - 130 partners came together to create 18 regional DRC training videos and a DRC just-in-time (JIT) flipbook.
  - Position descriptions have been developed for DRC positions
- Supplies & Equipment
  - Current (March 2023) capabilities ensure the set-up of 800 people at any time.
  - See slide #23 for more details on the specific supplies purchased for more regular DRC activations.
  - Multnomah County has a Logistics Warehouse that mainly focuses work and supplies for supporting DRC and sheltering.

### **Additional Plans Supporting Model**

- Reunification Plan (2019)
  - Includes components such as: Family Reunification Center, Call Center, Website, and Information Clearing House.
- Juvenile Detention Home Catastrophic Emergency Planning (2019)
  - A regional effort that supported local youth detention sites build preparedness related to catastrophic planning.
- Volunteer Management Plan (2018)
  - Under development to provide structure around internal and external recruitment, roles and responsibilities,
- Children & Youth in Disasters Guidance (2023)
  - Regional plan that identifies best practices for supporting critical service for children and youth throughout the disaster cycle..

- To access these specific documents, please reach out to the MCEM Interim Planning Division Lead, David Lentzner ([david.lentzner@multco.us](mailto:david.lentzner@multco.us)).

## Group Discussion

- Location planning – did geographic islanding come into play? **Certainly was taken into consideration.**
- Reunification – did any part of the planning process look into use of non-routine communications methods (considering the call center element)? **Communications were considered, including redundant options outside routine communications such as a reunification physical board that would be at Shelter Village sites.**
- Mass evacuation & transportation – is that a component of this model? **Certainly part of the effort, but the focus of this plan was the shelter model: who, what, where. Locating sites within, or near to, communities that will likely need shelter, will hopefully reduce the transportation needs to some degree.**
- Is there still a funding stream to continue this effort – **there is no additional funding for the plan specifically, but there have been and continue to be opportunities for us to bring in funding to support mass care and shelter capabilities.** Can you share a map or list of the current Shelter Villages with executed MOUs? Even approximate locations, so that we have a sense of what areas are covered already? **There were many conversations about whether to publish or not publish the potential sites publically. with the unanimous recommendation by the Equity Group, Advisory Team and potential shelter village sites was to **not** publish the sites. The rationale was that we just don't know exactly what we will need and where we will need it. We also don't know which sites will be safe to open. The intent is to communicate through BEECN sites and all communication avenues that we have available when and when shelter village sites will open and which services will be available at each. This information can definitely be shared internally with the partners on this meeting. COAD community partners are making plans and have funding to develop community-focused shelter sites would benefit from knowing where these larger sites are. We can coordinate with city, regional and state partners on locations. We'd love to coordinate with COADs on where they are citing mass care and shelter supplies, But at this point we are not able to share locations with the broader community.**
- Mass Shelter Plan currently states updates will take place annually. I believe the rationale was that with each activation, as we learn more, we update our processes. That is certainly what we are doing with the DRC model, The plan itself it also probably due for an update. During the plan update we would certainly want to ensure the COADs are included. Integrating new/existing mass care and shelter plans from partner organizations sounds like it could a priority for this plan's next update. I'm also curious to hear what else the group prioritizes during this mass care seminar series.
- What conversations have been had regarding the anticipated 14,000 shelter works to serve the anticipated 88,000 guests? Yes, even with the significant work that is being done around shelter staff training, there is still a huge gap. **Strategies to fill the staffing could be a component of the next plan update. The work being done on the Volunteer Management Plan will also inform that conversation.**
- Can we plan to recruit people staying in the shelters to volunteer with just in time training? **Yes! We know that offering shelter residents volunteer opportunities can be empowering and can help in their personal recovery.**

- I'm wondering if there is any collaboration happening between public health & emergency/disaster teams? OHA's community outreach and environmental health teams have lessons learned when collaborating/activating OR CBOs through our most recent disaster, COVID. They allocated funding, and identified Oregon 501s and locations that worked with engaging "hard to reach" communities in a crisis. (many of these CBOs center services to vulnerable. Yes, we partner with many organizations, such as the Medical Reserve Corps, to support DRC roles, **The Medical and Behavioral Health position is one example.**
- Does the plan consider supporting spontaneous or informal "shelter villages" that are likely to emerge following a catastrophic event. Would the plan be to supply them, relocate them to formal village sites? Some combination or something else? **Expectation of this happening was discussed during the planning process. The concept is to centralize services at shelter villages. s. Supplies, such as tarps, a grocery bag of food and water would be available at Community Points of Distribution (CPODs). Everyone is welcome to get service at the Shelter Village and supplies at the CPODs.CPODs are likely to be a component of the upcoming Mass Care Day on June 13.**

### **Chat Comments**

- I'm excited to see various vulnerability index being used. What research (in state/national/global planning data) informs our approach/models for planning? I've heard some counties use "brigades" and various alerts options to use local networks as frontline support. There is a Mexican Earthquake Risk Mitigation speaker in Portland on, March 6th, 2023,12:00 - 1:00 PM Mexico has the world's oldest public earthquake early warning system. (in case folks here are interested in joining!) [Link](#).