

Resilient North Florida Summit Brings Support

As recovery begins in the 12 counties affected by Hurricane Michael, FLASH joined forces with AC Disaster Consulting, Salter Mitchell PR and the Inland Counties Long-Term Recovery Team to co-present the *Summit for a Resilient North Florida* on February 4 in Marianna. Citizens, community leaders, state and federal leaders as well as experts in all aspects of disaster response, recovery, and resilience came together. The participants connected for a daylong, information-rich event to share updates, identify challenges, and explore solutions as the Panhandle rebuilds. The Summit was free to attendees thanks to Rivertown Community Church who hosted the event as well as generous sponsors, including Atkins, CohnReznick, Florida Insurance Council, Hagerty Consulting Inc., IEM, International Code Council, Lowe's, Metric Engineering, Moen, Simpson Strong-Tie, and Smart Vent.

The morning agenda featured "check-in's" for local leaders to cite challenges and solutions on how to navigate recovery while simultaneously prepping for the upcoming 2019 hurricane season. Florida Division of Emergency Management Deputy Director Kevin Guthrie provided keynote remarks and anchored a panel with his recovery team. Panelists fielded questions and shared the latest insights on timelines and progress for grantmaking and debris removal reimbursements. Alyssa Carrier of AC Disaster Consulting provided a brief on the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 as well.

The afternoon focused on the strategies, tactics, and rewards for building back better via stronger model building codes and beyond-code programs. The first presentation included a building performance panel focused on FEMA post-Michael engineering findings. Subsequent briefings covered consumer survey research, the FLASH *#HurricaneStrong* Community Designation Program, insights on how six affordable homes survived Michael, details on the Florida wind mitigation incentive program, the new NIBS benefit cost ratios study for codes and mitigation, and more.

Organizations participating in the afternoon session included: FEMA, FLASH, Florida Division of Emergency Management, Florida Office of Insurance Regulation, International Code Council, and Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety.

Moving forward, a Facebook page [here](#) and the newly formed Long-Term Recovery Task Force will keep the participants connected virtually and alert interested stakeholders to future gatherings. For more information about the Summit, or to be informed of future gatherings, please email sarah@flash.org.