



# IAEM ACCESS AND INCLUSION CAUCUS WEBINAR

## Emergency Managers' Guide to Best Practices For Disabilities, Access and Functional Needs Inclusion

COVID Response and Recovery: What Emergency Managers Need to Know

A Webinar presented by the IAEM Access and Inclusion Caucus, featuring

**Rodney Garrott**

Regional Disability Integration Specialist I Office  
of the Regional Administrator I FEMA Region 5

**Jim House**

Disability Integration Manager for Coalition of  
Inclusive Emergency Planning at WA State  
Independent Living

**Michael Houston**

Regional Disability Integration Specialist, FEMA  
Region VIII

**Sadie Martinez CDPS**

Access and Functional Needs Coordinator  
Colorado Division of Homeland Security and  
Emergency Management

**Bryan Russell**

Project Manager- State Access Coordinator  
Disability and Health Program at Florida Department of  
Health

**L. Vance Taylor**

Chief, Office of Access and Functional Needs at the  
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

**Moderator:** Anne-Marie McLaughlin, Director of Emergency Management and Continuity, NYU



## COVID Response and Recovery Issues

Key issues for People with Disabilities, Access and Functional Needs:

- Vaccination Site Best Practices - Vance Taylor
- COVID Response and Public Information - Bryan Russell
- Communication, Programmatic and Physical Access- Jim House
- Quarantine/Lockdown, Vaccination Sites - Sadie Martinez
- Federal - State Partnerships - Michael Houston
- Federal Resources - Rodney Garrott



***Cal* OES**

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

**L. Vance Taylor**  
**Chief, Office of Access and Functional  
Needs**

**CA Governor's Office of  
Emergency Services**



# On-site Effective Communication Resources

## **Biden Administration**

- Cal OES/FEMA pilot to provide vax to underserved communities
- 2 mega sites
- Creating the blueprint that will be used to roll sites out nationwide

## **Onsite Physical and programmatic accessibility**

- In-person ASL interpreters/All staff have VRI
- In-person Language (Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Tagalog, Mandarin and Cantonese)
- Free paratransit and Free shuttles to/from bus/train stops
- Dedicated paratransit lane
- Direct input from the Pacific ADA Center on accessibility (Fact Sheet & Checklist)
- ADA compliant restrooms, handwashing stations, isolation areas if unable to wear a face covering/mask
- Manual wheelchairs to/from site stations and chairs with and without armrests
- Temperature controlled tents

## **Mobile sites (two per site)**

- Sent out to CBOs (M-F and S-S)
- Working with partners to identify locations (ILCs)

## **MyTurn**

- We've been providing CBO codes for prioritization
- Will be dispensing individual codes moving forward
- All jurisdictions will use MyTurn
- The site is accessible, available in 6 languages



## *Questions?*

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# Department of Health

## Inluding Persons with Disabilities in Pandemic Response



Bryan Russell  
State Access Coordinator  
Disability and Health Program  
Manager  
May 13, 2021

# Pandemic Response for Persons with Disabilities

## Past disability and health COVID efforts:

- ✓ Coordinated conference calls with statewide disability partners to anticipate, identify and meet PWD needs
- ✓ ADA Coordinators and CILs identified and address any accessibility issues at state COVID testing sites
- ✓ Collaborated with Feeding Florida and CILs to deliver food to CIL clients and other PWD across the state
- ✓ Distributed clear masks and 3D-printed face shields to CILs, school districts, home health agencies and other organizations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among PWD
- ✓ Secured certified American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters for FEMA vaccine hub and spoke sites



# Pandemic Response for Persons with Disabilities

## Current Disability and Health Efforts:

- ✓ Establishing CIL partners as vaccine sites for their clients with disabilities
- ✓ Developing and sharing accessible COVID messages with PWD and disability partners
- ✓ ADA Coordinators and CILs identifying and addressing any accessibility issues at FEMA and state vaccine sites
- ✓ Providing sensory backpacks to all four FEMA Vaccine Hub sites to provide sensory items to assist persons with I/DD or autism getting their vaccine





# Pandemic Response for Persons with Disabilities

## Future Disability and Health COVID Efforts:

- ✓ Develop autism-friendly vaccine sites
- ✓ Expand on-site vaccine clinics to all CILs across the state
- ✓ Provide disability etiquette and awareness training to new vaccine clinic staff
- ✓ Develop more ASL videos on COVID vaccine efforts for deaf and hard of hearing community

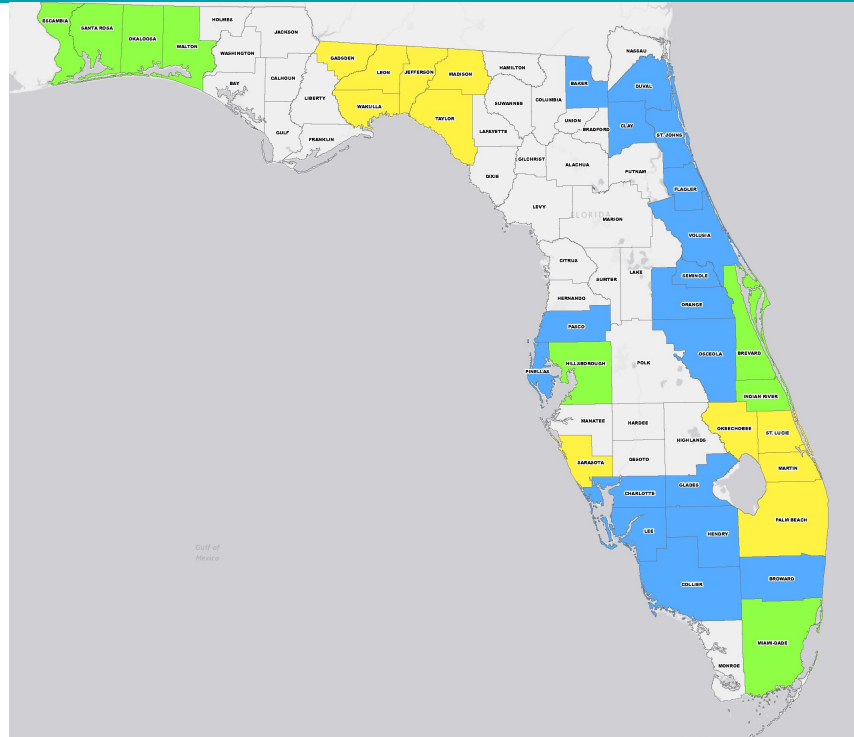


# Centers for Independent Living (CILs) Collaboration

- ✓ In March 2020, CIL representatives activated at the State EOC as part of the State Emergency Response Team with ESF-6
- ✓ FDEM provided CILs with sterilized durable medical equipment and PPE.
- ✓ In February 2021, CILs were approved as a vaccine site by DOH and FDEM to reach vulnerable populations
- ✓ Developing and sharing accessible COVID messages with PWD and disability partners
- ✓ CIL staff provided disability etiquette training to FEMA Vaccine site staff
- ✓ CILs also identified individuals that are homebound and notified DOH and FDEM.



# Vaccination Planning with Persons with Disabilities



# COVID-19 and Disability Vaccine Information

## COVID-19 Vaccine



If you have any questions or need help, call the COVID-19 Call Center: 1-866-779-6121. The center is open all day and every day.



1

**Social Story**: Infographic using plain language to educate PWD about COVID and the need for the vaccine.

Designed for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

**First Panel**: Shows need for vaccine and the vaccine process.



# COVID-19 and Disability Vaccine Information

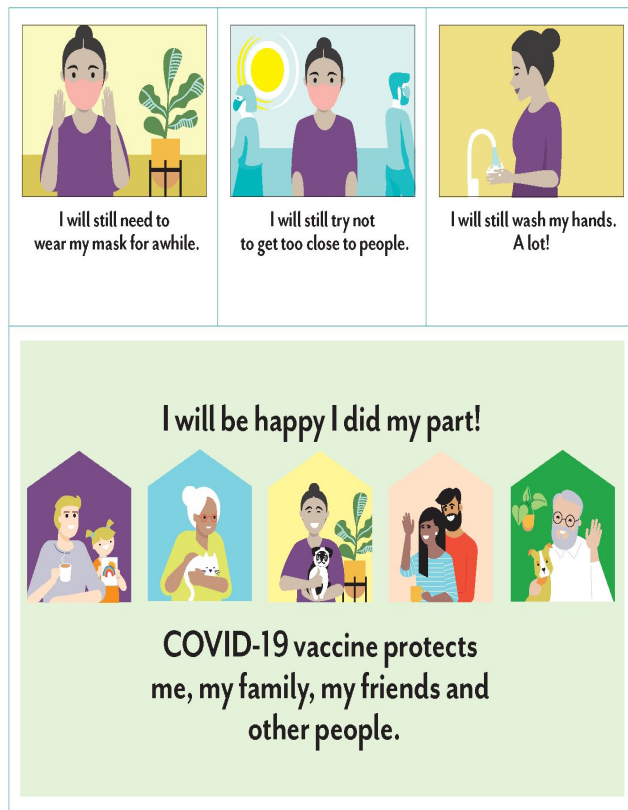


2

**Second Panel:** Shows process for second dose and side effect information



# COVID-19 and Disability Vaccine Information



**Third Panel:** Shows final COVID instructions and benefits of getting vaccinated.



# Questions?

## **Bryan Russell**

Manager, Disability and Health  
Program

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# Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning (CIEP)



A statewide disability advisory group that provides technical advice on inclusive emergency planning.

Jim House, CIEP Disability Integration Manager  
Washington State Independent Living Council  
(WASILC)

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IAEM Access and Inclusion Caucus

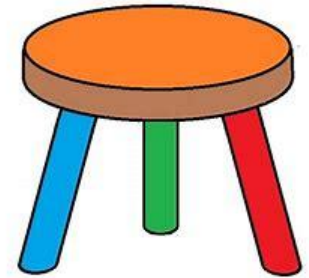
April 7, 2021



# Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning

## 3 Pillars of Accessibility:

- Effective Communication Access
- Programmatic Access
- Physical Access



Like a 3-legged stool, each pillar supports the other pillars

# Effective Communication Access

- Addressing best practices and gaps in access to 9-1-1 and other emergency notifications, including people who are deafblind.
- WA School for the Blind website with accessibility features designed for blind/low vision at [www.blindcovid.com](http://www.blindcovid.com)
- DOH ASL Educational Videos [www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/AmericanSignLanguage](http://www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/NovelCoronavirusOutbreak2020COVID19/AmericanSignLanguage)
- WASILC COVID-19 Resource Page [www.wasilc.org/post/novel-coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.wasilc.org/post/novel-coronavirus-covid-19)



# Programmatic Access

- COVID Protocols Maintained During Response to Simultaneous Disasters
  - Non-congregate shelters in motels used instead of high school gymnasiums in accordance with face covering and social distancing mandates
- [September Wildfires After Action Report](#)
  - Received several requests from American Red Cross to assist survivors in Central/Eastern Washington in replacing mobility equipment and housing lost during the wildfires.
- Pandemic Exposed Highlights and Gaps in Access and Functional Needs during Response
  - Timely access to critical information about vaccinations in languages other than English
  - Barriers to online registration sites for vaccinations
  - Technology and policy barriers in virtual conferencing technologies used for online work, school, medical, and social gatherings
  - Lack of internet access due to location and affordability



# Physical Access

- CARES Act funding for Centers for Independent Living for: PPE, rent/food assistance, affordable and accessible housing, mental health Monday's, addressing isolation through virtual programs, etc.
- ADA assessments for DOH and local shelters and vaccination sites
- Increasing capacity for AFN expertise in state and local emergency response plans.
- More awareness and participation by PWD in emergency preparedness



# Current WASILC/CIEP Network Efforts Addressing Systemic Changes

- Elevate disability voice to the larger community since COVID disproportionately affected the disability community
- Increased partnerships and collaboration between disability advocacy organizations and state agencies such as DOH, EMD, and other agencies
- All in WA grants to local CBO's to get vaccine information out to disability, LEP, and BIPOC communities
- Equitable vaccine distribution for people that:
  - cannot leave their homes or wait long in line for vaccinations
  - don't have access to technology
  - have difficulties navigating the system



# Questions?

Jim House

Emergency Planning Disability Integration  
Manager

Coalition on Inclusive Emergency Planning  
(CIEP)

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## Quarantine/Lockdown

- Messaging- ASL interpreter in messaging
  - Governor's COVID 19 press conferences
  - [COVID-19 Safer at Home Information in ASL](#)
  - COVID 19 Communication resource [Videos](#)
- Testing- Collaboration with RDIS, CRAD, ESF-8 & Access & Functional Needs Coordinator [AFN inclusion of COVID-19 Community Based Testing Recommendations](#)
- Shared good and promising practices, lessons learned, & resources
  - Created and started National state level Access & Functional Needs Monthly meeting with FEMA RDIS, and state level Access & Functional Needs leads & Access & Functional Needs Partners

## Vaccination Sites - Good & Promising Practices

- [Access & Functional Needs Inclusion in Mass Vaccination Distribution Discussion outline.docx](#)
- Access & Functional needs inclusion recommendations
  - [AFN Considerations\\_CVS COVID19\\_031021.pdf](#)
  - Access & Functional needs inclusion recommendations



## ***Questions?***

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## State-Level Approaches- Colorado (Region 8)

FEMA/State-- 3 C's to engaging locals

DI Advisor/Civil Rights Advisor engaging with  
ESF 5, 6, and 8: a strong team

National State-led calls (peer to peer)

Leading to Regional engagement calls

Resources created:

R8 HHS Resource Guide

CDPHE Community Based Testing Site playbook

# Questions?

**Michael Houston**

Region 8 Disability Integration Specialist

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**FEMA**

# Ensuring Equitable COVID-19 Vaccination



FEMA

# FEMA's Commitment to Equity

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- Civil Rights Advisory Group
- Field Civil Rights and Disability Integration Staff
- Regional Equity Planning Team
- Community Vaccination Centers



**FEMA**

# Ensuring Equity in Region 5

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Data  
Analytics

State, Local  
and Tribal  
Coordination

Targeted  
Resources

Vaccine  
Trust &  
Confidence



**FEMA**

# Questions?

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# FEMA