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NON-COMPETITIVE DIVISION

Access and Functional Needs Hospital Disaster Guidebook

Access and Functional Needs (AFN) is a term developed by FEMA, referring to those individuals who may need additional assistance before, during and after an emergency event, in areas including maintaining independence, communication, transportation, supervision and medical care. FEMA has estimated that at least 40% of the nation's population, some 150 million individuals, has one or more AFN requirements.

Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, (PVHMC), a 451 bed Level II Trauma Center in Northeastern Los Angeles County, had partnered with the California Office of Emergency Services, (Cal/OES), in 2016 to develop an AFN Disaster program. An AFN Task Force was created, composed of experts in the field including hospital emergency managers, clinicians, and organization and agency leaders. This groundbreaking project earned the two organizations the IAEM 2017 "Partners in Preparedness" award. Since then, several presentations at annual conferences, including The Joint Commission and the California Hospital Association, have been given.

PVHMC was awarded a grant by the California Community Foundation early in 2021, to develop an AFN Hospital Disaster Guidebook. The Guidebook lists selected websites for AFN agencies and organizations nationwide that the PVHMC AFN Task Force, under the direction of Steve Storbakken, Director of Emergency Preparedness and Environmental Safety at PVHMC, has determined are best in providing disaster guidance for each of the 25 primary AFN communities, and their innumerable sub-communities.

The AFN Guidebook will serve as an educational reference tool to hospital emergency preparedness managers, as they seek to broaden their understanding of the diverse needs and restrictions of AFN communities in a disaster. These managers then become better equipped to develop their hospital's policies and procedures, risk assessments, and Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) toward meeting the needs of the AFN communities they serve.

Presentation Theme: Research to develop website listings for AFN agencies and organizations

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