

Community Connectors Activity Report

Type of Activity (See Attached Flyer)

The Community Disaster Resiliency event was held at the **Victoria Inn in Winnipeg on March 4th, 2009**. The event was facilitated by **Karen-Denise Cyr**, and was organized by **Volunteer Manitoba**. The breakdown of the day was as follows:

- 8:30-9:00am, **Registration**
- 9:00am-9:40am **Introductions**
- 9:40-10:10am **Presentation on Resiliency and Vulnerability by John Lindsay of Brandon University**
- Presentation on **Asset Mapping by Karen-Denise Cyr and Darlene Oshanski** (Manitoba Health Office of Disaster Management)
- 10:45am-12:15pm **Panel Presentation** featuring Don Mackinnon of Manitoba Emergency Measures Organization, Joe Kowal of the City of Winnipeg, Don Timmerman of The Salvation Army, Gerry Delorme of Manitoba Health and Healthy Living Office of Disaster Management, and Colleen Schneider of Family Services and Housing – Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
- 1:00-2:00pm **Roundtable Discussions.**
- 2:00-2:45pm **Presentation on Service Continuity Planning by Karen-Denise Cyr**
- 3:00-3:30 **Review of Service Continuity Tool and Disaster Preparedness Resources, by Karen-Denise Cyr**
- 3:30-3:45 **Presentation by Lois Nickel of the Manitoba Resiliency Network and Mennonite Disaster Services**
- 3:45 **Workshop Evaluation**
- 4:00pm **Conclusion**

Level of Voluntary Sector Participation

Total paid registration stood at **106, with 15 guests** attending at no charge (guest speakers etc). Some organizations represented included; child care organizations, seniors organizations, disability organizations, housing authorities, cultural organizations, disaster and emergency services organizations, aboriginal organizations, community health organizations, immigrant organizations, women's resource groups, church groups, addiction organizations, community councils, climate change organizations, and more.

Results of the Activity

Participants were offered opportunities to learn what disaster resiliency/vulnerability is and how disasters can impact at risk populations they serve. Many participants felt their "eyes were opened" to the potential impacts of a disaster on their staff, volunteers, clients, vendors and community stakeholders.

Participants were provided with an overview of service continuity planning, which included a review of the online SCP tool. Additional web based resources and a bibliography of publications relevant to disaster management were also provided. Many participants expressed a need for tools/templates to support the development of organization/program disaster plans and a follow up session more targeted to individual sectors, in particular the child care community.

Participants were introduced to local and provincial disaster management authorities through the use of a panel presentation. The panel served not only to outline the responsibilities of key agencies, but to engage authorities and begin a dialogue with voluntary sector organizations.

The Next Step (See Attached Flyer)

Efforts were made to address rural issues. However, there were requests to have a rural focus and more of a practical template/tools focus. As such, plans are in order to organize a smaller version of this event in a rural area, as well as one, possibly two, smaller versions in Winnipeg. These would be “brown bag” style workshops that are smaller in size and narrower in focus. A nominal fee would be charged, but numbers will be kept somewhat low so as to increase opportunities for collaboration/participation in the workshop. Karen-Denise Cyr has tentatively agreed to facilitate these workshops. These will likely take place between early summer and the fall of 2009. Attached is a flyer Volunteer Manitoba will be using to promote these events.