

Task Force on Emergency Preparedness and Response for Targeted Populations

December 2008

Mr. Tim Manning, State Director
Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
13 Bataan Blvd
Santa Fe NM 87504

Subject: Task Force Report: Emergency Preparedness and Response for Targeted Populations

Dear Mr. Manning,

In December 2006, you endorsed the New Mexico Task Force on Emergency Preparedness and Response for Targeted Populations. The mission of this Task Force dovetailed DHS/FEMA's concern and mandate following Katrina relating to response needs of populations with special needs. New Mexico took the initiative and brought together representatives from various agencies and communities to define the issues and identify ways to address them.

The Task Force created four Work Groups to review existing plans and activities as they speak to the functional needs of different populations requiring additional assistance in a state emergency or disaster:

Work Group I	Individuals housed in institutions and wards of the State of New Mexico
Work Group II	People with disabilities
Work Group III	People with chronic mental illness and/or substance abuse disorders
Work Group IV	Other vulnerable populations (i.e., elderly, homeless, and children)

We are attaching the Task Force's Final Report for your information. Its conclusions and recommendations demonstrate a range of social to physical to psychological needs that must be addressed by the individual, community and state.

We appreciate your endorsement in sponsoring the Task Force on Emergency Preparedness and Response for Targeted Populations. The report demonstrates that we have not ended our journey as a state. The recommendations involve ongoing collaboration and monitoring among state agencies, local emergency management, and the population itself.

Sincerely

Task Force on Emergency Preparedness and Response for Targeted Populations

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