

Communication

Independence

Transportation



Maintaining  
Health

Support &  
Safety

# Annual Report

## Illinois Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee

July 1, 2025



Annual Report of the Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Advisory Committee  
July 1, 2025



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Annual Report of the Access and Functional Needs (AFN) Advisory Committee  
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## Letter From the Chairperson:



On behalf of the Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee, I am presenting our fourth annual report to the Governor, General Assembly, and the Director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS).

I am very proud that this Committee was formed based on legislative advocacy efforts led by disability advocates and allies, and our bill was unanimously passed by both the State Senate and House of Representatives, highlighting the fact that disability-related issues are and should be a bipartisan concern. Furthermore, state statute mandates that community members with disabilities reflect a diversity of one's experience of disability, age, gender, race, and ethnicity; following the incredibly important adage "nothing about us, without us", meaning that people with disabilities and other access and functional needs should be at the table where decisions are made regarding policies and services that directly impact our lives.

The committee has continued to advise IEMA-OHS as well as supporting state agencies involved in providing inclusive emergency management services on promising practices known to benefit our people with access and functional needs at state and local levels. Now that a new version of the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan is in revision, we have started engaging in important discussions on what the actual review and revision process will be. Furthermore, the Executive Committee and IEMA-OHS leadership have been working closely to improve the Committee's processes, communications, and workflow. Even though our Committee is relatively new, its existence has had a broader impact both statewide and nationally by addressing key issues with state agencies that impact how inclusive emergency management services are operationalized; assisting in the development of the Statewide Independent Living Councils of Illinois' most recent Statewide Plan for Independent Living to include goals for our Centers for Independent Living to increase their awareness of emergency management procedures as well as establishing collaborative relationship with their local emergency management agencies and public health departments; and by leading presentations to emergency managements and disability stakeholders interested in learning more about inclusive emergency management practices, such as how this model committee was formed.



Unfortunately, our committee has also been facing logistical challenges in light of the changes in requirements to comply with the Open Meetings Act. The Committee met virtually in October 2024 to continue its work on setting goals and activities; however, thereafter the Executive Committee has made four attempts to meet in person but was unable to reach a quorum in-person due to:

- Voting members residing throughout the state
- The Committee consisting of people with disabilities who face a number of barriers including accessing transportation to travel long distances, receiving personal care outside of their homes, financial limitations, and employment obligations.
- The Governor's Office is responsible for appointing individuals to these vacant positions:
  - 1 Local Emergency Manager
  - 4 First Responders
  - IEMA-OHS has expressed its commitment to working with the Governor's Office to ensure the necessary appointments are made in the near term and has made itself available to assist in facilitating the process as needed.

Consequently, the Executive Committee holds the concern that the current implementation of the Open Meetings Act undermines people with disabilities' ability to serve in positions of leadership.

In response, with support from IEMA-OHS, the Executive Committee worked with Representative Natalie Manley, and Senator Laura Fine introduced legislation HB1851 and SB2483 during the spring session of the 104th General Assembly to exempt the Committee from the Open Meetings Act statute that requires physical presence to count towards reaching a quorum and allow for remote participation via video and audio conference as well, especially for those voting members who have reported that they qualify for such reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Unfortunately, both HB1851 and SB2843 did not advance during the session and were re-referred to the Rules Committee.

From a disability perspective, providing all committee members access to video and audio conferencing serves as a universal design, as it is a priority of the committee to have voting members who reside throughout the state of Illinois and have firsthand experience of different urban, suburban, and rural communities. Furthermore, this issue has led to greater concern that the current interpretation and implementation of the Open Meetings is not in accordance with the ADA. As a result, the Executive Committee is currently in discussion with representatives from IEMA-OHS, the Attorney's General's Office, the Governor's Office, and the



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Great Lakes ADA Center to find a way to resolve this issue of the Committee meeting the requirements of both the Open Meetings Act and the ADA.

The following report is broken into three sections: 1) where we have been; 2) where we are; and 3) where we are going. First, it is important that we continue to include in this report the historical and legal landscape driving attention to the disparity between Illinois' emergency management services and the needs of people with disabilities as well as how that led to SB0921 of the 102nd General Assembly (Public Act 102-0361). Second, we detail where the Committee stands today, the current challenges we face, as well as what progress has been made. Third, we provide a spreadsheet depicting what the Committee wants to focus on this next year and in the years ahead.

On behalf of our Committee, we continue to be grateful to the General Assembly for making the Committee a reality, to the Governor's Office for supporting the implementation of SB0921, and to the leadership of IEMA-OHS for embracing the mission of our Committee and supporting our most recent legislative efforts.

Sincerely,  
Kira Meskin Schiff, Chairperson



## Where We Have Been: Advisory Committee's History

The impetus for the Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) was born in the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic when members of the disability community and their home care workers found themselves left out of the supply chain for personal protective equipment (PPE). As a result, PPE for People with Disabilities Coalition was developed through a partnership with disability advocates affiliated with Progress Center for Independent Living, Chicago ADAPT, Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition, and Alliance for Community Services; as well as academics and healthcare professionals affiliated with Rush University, University of Illinois (UIC) at Chicago, UIC’s Assistive Technology Unit, UIC’s Institute on Disability and Human Development, and University of Chicago’s Students for Disability Justice. Through collaboration, research, and the creation of a PPE distribution system through grassroots efforts, their mission was to improve access to necessary equipment and information so people with disabilities who live in the community and their home care workers could effectively protect themselves. Over time as they engaged in public policy advocacy, the coalition began to research promising practices that improve access to emergency management services for people who have access and functional needs.

Disability Advocates evaluated best practices from California, Colorado, Florida, Arizona, and other states, and thus realized that the State of Illinois would benefit from having the knowledge, energy, passion, and expertise of individuals with access and functional needs advising the Illinois Emergency Management Agency & Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) on related policy, planning, response, and recovery strategies.

This realization led to communications with Senators Julie A. Morrison and Laura Fine, to determine how people with disabilities could best support state and local government officials and influence changes to state and local policies that would ensure inclusive emergency management programs. SB0921 of the 102nd General Assembly (Public Act 102-036) which amended the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act (IEMA Act), established the Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee.

The bill was passed by the Senate and was shepherded through the House by Representatives by Chief Co-Sponsor Representative Jonathon Carroll and numerous other co-sponsors. Passed unanimously by both houses on May 30, 2021, it was signed by the Governor on August 13, 2021, and went into effect immediately.



## Previous Work Completed

When the law passed both houses, the IEMA-OHS' Inter-Agency Strategic Planning Cell (ISPC) began an internal review of the state's emergency management program regarding the integration of inclusive emergency management strategies that address access and functional needs and found that, although it meets the intent of FEMA's guidance, new policies and plans must be developed, training and exercises must be rethought, and what the agency must do to enhance the methods and practices of local emergency management agencies (EMAs) to ensure their emergency preparedness programs address the needs of all citizens in their respective communities.

To meet the legislative mandate for a meeting on or before February 1, 2022, the Committee met informally for the first time on January 26, 2022. The meeting was chaired by IEMA-OHS and was limited to the general discussion because not enough members had yet been vetted and appointed to have a quorum. On May 5, 2022, the Committee met formally for the first time with a full agenda that primarily focused on legal and administrative issues. At this meeting, motions were passed to lay the leadership and administrative foundation for the Committee.

- The Committee's bylaws were adopted.

The statutory requirement for the Committee is to meet three times a year, but usually meets at least six times a year, with Executive Board meetings and Subcommittee meetings in between to enhance the effort of the overall Committee and its work.

IEMA-OHS took the first step by deciding to incorporate detailed access and functional needs-related planning into the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan (IEOP) by developing Annex 31 – Access and Functional Needs and nesting five appendices within it aligned with the CMIST Framework adopted by FEMA, CDC, and HHS. The appendices were:

- Appendix 31 X1 – Communications Services
- Appendix 31 X2 – Maintaining Health Services
- Appendix 31 X3 – Independence Devices and Equipment
- Appendix 31 X4 – Support and Safety Services
- Appendix 31 X5 – Non-Emergency Transportation Services

In 2023, IEMA-OHS initially coordinated with the Committee to review and provide input on these drafts. IEMA-OHS also drafted the Committee's bylaws for review, amendments, and approval at the first formal meeting and created an online space in Microsoft Teams where the



Committee's administrative records, work products, and resources can be accessed by all members.

In 2022, the Committee voted to hold regularly scheduled meetings every other month, exceeding the mandate of the law requiring three meetings each year. This continues to remain the current schedule the committee follows.

The following definitions have been voted on and approved by the Advisory Committee for use in the report, as well as committee efforts and updated planning addressed by IEMA-OHS and other local emergency management and public safety organizations throughout Illinois.

**Disability:** The term 'disability' means, with respect to an individual (*Americans with Disabilities Act [ADA]*), *42 U.S.C. 12102*).

- a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities of such an individual.
- a record of such an impairment; or
- being regarded as having such an impairment (as described in paragraph 3).

**Access and Functional Needs:** Individuals who need specific resources to manage disabilities, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and age-related needs, as defined by the Illinois Act on Aging, before, during, and after a disaster or public health emergency. Access-based and function-based needs are not mutually exclusive and may overlap.

- **Access-Based Needs:** Individuals who require access to specific resources to take part in daily activities, such as but not limited to assistive technology, interpretive and translation services, wheelchair ramps, durable medical equipment, service animals, specialized transportation, and medications to maintain health.
- **Function-Based Needs:** Individuals who have limitations of their physical or mental capacity or of their skills that prevent them from living independently, such as but not limited to paralysis, schizophrenia, or blindness, and may require regular health care, behavioral health, and/or personal care services.

Through the issuance of this report, the Committee formally requested that the Director of IEMA-OHS adopt these terms and definitions as agency standards and incorporate them into all policies, plans, and procedures related to the state's emergency management program.



The Committee requested that the Director work to incorporate these terms and definitions into Title 29 of state administrative code so that they become mandatory expectations of local emergency management agencies (EMAs) within all units of local government in the state. The proposed rule changes include adding to the definition of “Whole Community” to also include those with access and functional needs. Additionally, each ESDA shall demonstrate planning considerations for children, elderly, individuals with access and functional needs, limited English proficiency, and household pets.

At present, the Administration Code is still under review with significant requirements of local programs to engage the whole community in preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. The Committee aims to work with the General Assembly to embed these definitions in state statutes with requirements that ensure emergency management-related policies, plans, and procedures are developed by other state agencies, including the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), the Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA), and Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (IDHFS) that seamlessly integrate with the changes made to doctrine at IEMA-OHS that the Committee has assisted in developing.

## Where We Are

### **Current Membership of the Executive Board is as follows:**

- Chairperson: Kira Meskin Schiff, Disability Community Member
- Secretary: Jae Jin, Social justice advocate, educator, and ally with over 30 years of experience.

The Vice Chairperson position is currently vacant. Allison Anderson, Director of Emergency Management for Will County, previously served as Vice Chair and formally resigned March 2025.

## The Committee’s Voting Members

The following individuals have been appointed to fill seats for community members with disabilities:



The following community members have been appointed to fill seats from the Access and Functional Needs community. As mandated by SB0921 of the 102nd General Assembly (Public Act 102-0361), community members must reflect a diversity of disability, age, sex, race and ethnic backgrounds. It is also a priority of the Committee that the community members represent a wide array of the access and functional needs and geography of Illinois.

**Community Members’ whose terms are current:**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Date Appointed</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Angela Botz	<i>February 25, 2022</i>	<i>February 25, 2026</i>
Dorothy Cox-Stowe	<i>February 25, 2022</i>	<i>February 25, 2028</i>
Robin Jones	<i>September 16, 2022</i>	<i>September 16, 2024</i>
Jae Jin Pak	<i>April 21, 2022</i>	<i>April 21, 2026</i>
Kira Meskin Schiff	<i>February 16, 2022</i>	<i>February 16, 2026</i>
Todd Roach	<i>February 7, 2022</i>	<i>February 7, 2026</i>

**Community Members’ whose terms have expired, but are still serving at the pleasure of the Governor and Executive Committee:**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Date Appointed</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Randy Colón	<i>March 28, 2022</i>	<i>March 28, 2024</i>
Kenneth Jennings	<i>March 16, 2022</i>	<i>March 16, 2024</i>
Sam Knight	<i>March 30, 2022</i>	<i>March 30, 2024</i>



**Chairperson, Kira Meskin Schiff**

*Appointed February 16, 2022 | Term Expires February 16, 2026*



Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, Kira has been the primary co-leader of the PPE for People with Disabilities Coalition, which is led by and for people with disabilities and is who helped draft and pass SB0921 of the 102nd General Assembly (Public Act 102-0361). She oversaw the coalition's efforts to access and distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) to people with disabilities living in the community (who oftentimes are utilizing Home and Community-Based Services) and Personal Assistants in Chicagoland. As part of this distribution work, Kira collaborated with Progress Center for Independent Living (PCIL) to establish it as a PPE distribution site. In this role, Kira assisted PCIL to serve as a distribution site for the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), in collaboration with Illinois Partners for Human Services, to distribute over 75,000 KN95 masks to state-funded non-profit organizations. Progress Center was the only Center for Independent Living that took on this role in our state.

She currently is a member of The Arc of Illinois' Public Policy Committee, the Going Home Coalition, Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities' Advisory Committee, and The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies.

Kira has previously served as a Community Reintegration Advocate at Progress Center, assisting consumers who reside in nursing homes and long-term care facilities against their choice, and helping them navigate Illinois' Consent Decree transition programs so that they can live effectively in the community. This experience has greatly shaped how she views and addresses issues relating to inclusive emergency management.

Additionally, she is an Occupational Therapist, and, because of her training, she is that much more aware and knowledgeable of how our physical and social environments can impact individuals' health and quality of life. In November 2024, Kira was awarded the Political Action Award by the Illinois Occupational Therapy Association.

*\*The Vice Chairperson position is currently vacant, until the next in-person meeting is able to take place and an election can be conducted.*



**Secretary, Jae Jin Pak**

University of Illinois Chicago

*Appointed April 21, 2022 | Term Expires April 21, 2026*



Jae Jin Pak is a social justice advocate, educator, and ally with over 30 years of experience. He identifies as an Asian immigrant with disabilities. He has worked on issues of gender-based violence, anti-trafficking prevention, mental health, disability, immigration justice, and anti-oppression. He has conducted thousands of hours of training with diverse communities and professionals nationally. His core values of collaboration and recognizing intersectionality have allowed him to build strong connections with diverse communities and providers. He is a co-founder of the Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition (DPOCC), which works to promote disability pride in communities of color in the Chicagoland area, and even globally. Chicagoland DPOCC brings awareness to the issues that face the disabled, autistic, deaf, and neurodivergent people of color.

Jae Jin is the Coordinator of Community Education for the Institute on Disability and Human Development and Self Advocacy Training Mentor for Illinois LEND at the University of IL Chicago (UIC). He serves on the Quality Care Board, the Health & Human Services Taskforce, the Disability and Immigration Task force of IL, and The National Human Trafficking & Disability Working Group.

He is a graduate of Northern Illinois University and an IL LEND Fellow.

**Angela Botz**

IMPACT Center for Independent Living

*Appointed February 25, 2022 | Term Expires February 25, 2026*



Angela Botz is a leader, mentor, civil rights advocate, and civil liberties proponent. Angela is committed to her community, both state and national, as well as the people and world around her.

Ms. Botz started her professional career as the sole art designer at Picturesque Graphics in St. Louis, Missouri, then left to pursue her community advocate career after 25 years as Art Director.

Ms. Botz has years of experience in leadership, value-based decision-making, and mentoring. She is a Community Outreach Coordinator and Independent Living Specialist for Deaf Services at IMPACT Center for Independent Living in Alton, Illinois. Angela became the first deaf woman



to serve a second consecutive term as President of the Illinois Association of the Deaf. In 2001, she became President of Show-Me Accessible Health Care, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping deaf and hard of hearing individuals increase access to, and improve the quality of, health care in the Saint Louis metropolitan area as well as other counties in Missouri and Illinois.

In 2012, Angela received the Robert M. Greenmun Memorial Award, a National Association of the Deaf honor recognizing a State Association member who has demonstrated volunteer leadership excellence and contributions to his or her State Association. She also received the Legislative Advocate of the Year Award from LINC, Inc. Ms. Botz recently received the 2021 Meritorious Service Award from the Illinois Association of the Deaf.

Ms. Botz is involved in numerous committees and boards, including the Illinois School for the Deaf Advisory Board. She was the current State Association Affiliate Coordinator (SAAC) for the National Association of the Deaf (NAD). She was the Sponsorship and Exhibition Coordinator as well as Gala Coordinator for the 2016 St. Louis DEA Festival. Angela is currently a District 5 Representative for the Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation. Angela is currently Co-Chair of the 2023 United National Conference Art Gallery and gala committee member for Deaf Women United's Deaf Women of Chicago. Ms. Botz is currently Co-Chair of the Illinois Network Centers of Independent Living Advocacy Team. In addition, Co-Chair the Illinois Statewide Deaf Services Coordinators.

Operating under her given name, Angela owns a custom art business creating commissioned pieces on contract. Ms. Botz was a solopreneur, having been a Mary Kay Cosmetics business owner for over 14 years. Ms. Botz graduated from Illinois School for the Deaf in 1985 and then studied at Florissant Valley Community College and Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Ms. Botz plans to continue to build a professional and positive image and brand for the deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind, including the people with disabilities community, by assisting individuals through self-advocacy, political empowerment, cultural preservation, and disability awareness for equality so this community can continue to be a driving force to empower all generations.

Ms. Botz is known for her enthusiastic personality, optimistic attitude, and undeniable passion and fight for civil and disability rights. Angela is an expert fundraiser, having acquired sponsorship, donations, and contributions, as well as arranging event preparations, event activities, and all manner of event planning. Her interests include painting, traveling, graphic design, and spending time with her family and friends.



### Randy Colón

#### ADA Participatory Action Research Consortium (ADA PARC)

*Appointed March 28, 2022 | Term Expires March 28, 2024*



Randy is a research assistant for the ADA Participation Action Research Consortium (ADA PARC). He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Disability Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is working on a tool that will allow communities to assess whether people with disabilities are attaining affordable, accessible, and integrated housing. He is also legally blind.

### Dorothy Cox-Stowe

#### Home Services Advocate for Independent Living

*Appointed February 25, 2022 | Term Expires February 25, 2028*



Dorothy Cox-Stowe has four adult children and resides in Decatur, Illinois. She is a widow, as her husband, Joe L. Stowe, was the first person in Macon County to succumb to the COVID-19 Virus. He passed away on April 7, 2020. He was a resident of the Fairhaven nursing facility. He was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2006. Dorothy had to place him in a facility in 2012 because she could no longer care for him at home.

She retired from Soyland Access to Independent Living in 2018 after 9 years and 9 months of being the Home Services Advocate (Coordinator). She enjoyed her work assisting people with disabilities. The position was often challenging, but very rewarding. She has a disability as well, therefore, the information she acquired was and still is very helpful in her daily life. The point, the importance of having a better quality of life hit home for her. Dorothy previously worked for the State of Illinois in the position of Mental Health Tech at Adolf Meyer Zone Ctr., as well as Elgin State Mental Health in Elgin, Illinois, Decatur Mental Health (Detox Unit, and Halfway House). She is grateful for the opportunity to serve on this committee.



### Kenneth Jennings

#### Disability Community Member

*Appointed March 16, 2022 | Term Expires March 16, 2024*



Kenneth Jennings was paralyzed 33 years ago while playing high school football, God turned a tragedy into a blessing. Kenneth Jennings is the CEO of Gridiron Alliance a non-profit organization, a peer-mentor at LIFE Center at Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, and a football coach, an advocate, motivational speaker, and poet. He also does 2 podcasts, works for a California company named Neuralink, is on the board of Bright Promises Foundation, and is soon to be the author of his book titled “How 8 Seconds Change My Life”.

Kenneth is the father of a 28-year-old daughter and a 4-year-old grandson. He lives by his own motto: Blessed To Be Able.

### Robin Jones

#### Director of the Great Lakes ADA Center

*Appointed September 16, 2022 | Term Expires September 16, 2024*



Robin Jones is the Director of the Great Lakes ADA Center and an Instructor in the Department on Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Robin has served as director since the Center’s inception in 1991. Formerly, she served as director of the Progress Center for Independent Living and as an Occupational Therapy practitioner at the institution formerly known as the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. She has extensive experience assisting individuals and entities to understand their

rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Robin has served on several state and local task forces and committees related to disability policy and procedure to further the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society.



**Sam Knight**

Disability Resource Center

*Appointed March 30, 2022 | Term Expires March 30, 2024*



Samuel Knight is an Independent Living Advocate with the Disability Resource Center in Will County. He has worked for the Disability Resource Center in Joliet since 2012, 9 ½ years now. Before that, he worked for Progress Center for Independent Living in Suburban Cook County from 2006 until 2012. He has largely worked on the issues of affordable accessible housing and public transportation. He sits on the Advocacy, Housing, and Transportation Committees within Centers for Independent Living. He has a bachelor’s degree in business administration from Concordia University.

**Todd Roach**

Disability Community Member

*Appointed February 7, 2022 | Term Expires February 7, 2026*



Todd is the Human Resources Director for The Marmon Group, as well as an alderman for the City of O’Fallon. Todd has been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and is a member of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The following individuals have been appointed to fill seats from state agencies:

**Christopher Dodd**

Illinois Emergency Management Agency & Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS)



Christopher Dodd serves as Chief of Operations for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) and was appointed to represent the agency on the Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee (AFNAC). He



oversees statewide strategic planning, training, exercises, and response operations—ensuring access and functional needs are integrated at all levels of emergency management in Illinois.

In his role Christopher prioritizes equity, accessibility, and whole-community engagement across preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. His work with this committee supports ongoing improvements to inclusive planning and coordination statewide.

### Judith Levitan

#### Office of the Illinois Attorney General



Judith is the Chief of the Disability Right Bureau at the Illinois Attorney General’s Office. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education of the Hearing Impaired; a Juris Doctorate from Northwestern University School of Law; and a Master of Laws in Child and Family Law from Loyola University Chicago School of Law. In addition to this Committee, Judith also serves on three other state committees working to advance the rights of individuals with disabilities.

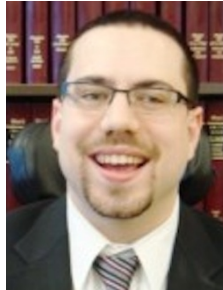
The Disability Rights Bureau enforces state and federal laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities in Illinois. The Bureau has exclusive authority to enforce the Illinois Environmental Barriers Act and its design standards, the Illinois Accessibility Code. These laws and regulations require physical accessibility in new construction, additions, and alterations to public facilities, and new multi-story housing.

The Disability Rights Bureau also enforces the Illinois Human Rights Act, which provides jurisdiction to investigate complaints that allege a pattern and practice of disability discrimination in housing, public accommodations, employment, or financial services. The Disability Rights Bureau also investigates pattern and practice discrimination complaints under relevant federal laws, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Fair Housing Act. In addition to the Bureau’s enforcement work, the Disability Rights Bureau regularly provides technical assistance and referrals to individuals with disabilities and public and private entities seeking to comply with disability rights laws. The Bureau conducts disability rights training programs for law enforcement, architects, engineers, building code officials and inspectors, judges and court personnel, business owners, disability rights organizations, and other groups all in furtherance of its mission to advance the rights of individuals with disabilities to access all aspects of society in Illinois.



David Kuriniec

Illinois Department of Human Services



David Kuriniec has spent his career advocating on behalf of people with disabilities, beginning when he could not enter the door of his high school. Quickly thereafter, he worked with the facility managers to ensure that automatic openers were placed on the doors at the school. This experience, along with meetings with members of Congress and the Illinois Legislature to discuss physical and attitudinal reforms that could benefit people with disabilities, convinced David that a career in the law/government was most appropriate.

After graduating from Lake Forest College summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Communications, David received his law degree from the University of Illinois College of Law. He has spent nearly a decade in state government, first with the Department of Healthcare and Family Services and currently serving as Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Home and Community Based Supports, Administering the Home Services Program (HSP), a Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services waiver that provides in-home supports including, among other things, personal assistants, home-delivered meals, and emergency home response services to over 35,000 Illinoisans with disabilities. He is a lifelong Chicago White Sox fan, and both an avid concert goer and reader. David resides in Springfield with his wife and two children.

John Eckert

Illinois Department on Aging



John is the Deputy Division Manager for the Division of Planning, Research, Development, and Training at the Illinois Department on Aging, where he has worked for nearly 17 years. His primary focus is ensuring people with disabilities and the elderly have every opportunity to live independently. He has an M.A. in Rehabilitation Administration and Services from SIU-Carbondale.



## Lynette Cale

Illinois Department of Public Health



Lynette Cale is an experienced public health professional with over 25 years of expertise in local and state public health administration, as well as emergency preparedness.

She currently serves as the Access and Functional Needs and Community Readiness Planner at the Illinois Department of Public Health in the Office of Preparedness and Response. Her focus is planning and coordinating health emergency preparedness efforts with a concentration on strategies to support vulnerable populations during public health emergencies. Additionally, she brings 15 years of experience as a public health administrator for Illinois local health departments, where she led community health initiatives and managed various public health programs. Her background also includes work as an adjunct health science instructor at Western Illinois University, where she still teaches as her schedule allows, and as a grant consultant, helping organizations secure funding for health-related projects.

Lynette's academic background includes a Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Science with an emphasis on Dietetics and a Master of Science in Health Education and Promotion (Health Sciences), both from Western Illinois University. Throughout her career, Lynette has been dedicated to improving public health systems and emergency preparedness, recently focusing on planning for access and functional needs during crises, and the ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program and CDC Public Health Preparedness Program.

Lynette is committed to enhancing the health and safety of Illinois residents through collaborative planning and innovative public health strategies.

**\*Presently, the Committee has five vacant positions needing to be appointed by the Governor's Office:**

- (1) Local Emergency Manager
- (4) First Responders



IEMA-OHS has expressed its commitment to working with the Governor's Office to ensure the necessary appointments are made in the near term and has made itself available to assist in facilitating the process as needed.

## The Committee's Non-Voting Advisory Members

The Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee is pleased to have the following non-voting advisory members engaged in the process and effort to enhance emergency planning at both the state and local levels in Illinois. The following individuals participate regularly in the committee's bi-monthly meetings and sub-committee meetings.

- Barbara Pritchard, Statewide Independent Living Council, Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, Institutional Rescue and Recovery Coalition
- Karen Tamley, Access Living
- Kristin Busch
- Laura VanPuymbrouck, Rush University
- Libby Oxenham, LINC Center for Independent Living
- Megan Norlin, Illinois Network for Centers for Independent Living
- Pam Heavens, UCP-Center for Disability Services
- Scott Clarke, American Red Cross
- Shelly Richardson, Statewide Independent Living Council
- Susan Johnson, Illinois Dept. of Public Health's Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Thane Hunt, Advocates for Access Center for Independent Living
- Tyler Woodard, Illinois Dept. of Public Health's Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response

## Challenges Faced by the Committee in Light of Changes in Requirements to Comply With the Open Meetings Act

The Committee met virtually in October 2024 to continue its work on setting goals and activities. The committee also called for nominations to prepare for Executive Committee elections early 2025 and was working on reconvening the Subcommittees to continue their work to review and give guidance to IEMA-OHS's review and revision process for the most current draft of the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan.



Since then, the Executive Committee was notified that the Open Meetings Act rule that allowed boards and committees to meet quorum virtually had expired. Based on the current implementation of 5 ILCS 120/7 of the Open Meetings Act, this meant that the quorum must be met by in-person attendance in order for formal business to be conducted. In consultation with staff from IEMA-OHS and the Attorney General's Office, the Executive committee learned that once an in-person quorum is met, a majority vote by voting members participating in person could then allow voting members with disabilities to be able to participate via video and audio conference in order to be able to participate and function in their appointed roles:

(5 ILCS 120/7)

Sec. 7. Attendance by a means other than physical presence.

(a) If a quorum of the members of the public body is physically present as required by Section 2.01, a majority of the public body may allow a member of that body to attend the meeting by other means if the member is prevented from physically attending because of: (i) personal illness or disability; (ii) employment purposes or the business of the public body; (iii) a family or other emergency; or (iv) unexpected childcare obligations. "Other means" is by video or audio conference.

(b) If a member wishes to attend a meeting by other means, the member must notify the recording secretary or clerk of the public body before the meeting unless advance notice is impractical.

(c) A majority of the public body may allow a member to attend a meeting by other means only in accordance with and to the extent allowed by rules adopted by the public body. The rules must conform to the requirements and restrictions of this Section, may further limit the extent to which attendance by other means is allowed, and may provide for the giving of additional notice to the public or further facilitate public access to meetings...

To meet these requirements, the Executive Committee has made 4 attempts since being notified by IEMA-OHS leadership to schedule in-person meetings in February, March, April, and May 2025. Also, in collaboration with IEMA-OHS staff, the Executive Committee provided:

- 3 physical locations throughout the state of Illinois
- Provide American Sign Language interpreters both in-person and via video conference
- Provide video and audio conferencing via WebEx for both Voting and Non-Voting Advisory Members



**Nonetheless, the Committee faces the following challenges that have been impeding their ability to be able meet this statute:**

- Voting members reside throughout the state since it is a priority for our committee members to have firsthand experience living in different urban, suburban, and rural settings.
- The Committee consists of people with disabilities who face a number of barriers, including accessing transportation to travel long distances, receiving personal care outside of their homes, financial limitations, and employment obligations.

Hence, the Executive Committee holds the concern that the current implementation of the Open Meetings Act undermines people with disabilities' ability to serve in positions of leadership.

Additionally, there are Voting Members from the disability community who have reported to the Chairperson and IEMA-OHS that they qualify for reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act to continue to participate remotely via video or audio conference, as they have been doing previously. **This has led to greater concern by the Committee that the current interpretation and implementation of the Open Meetings is not in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).** As a result, the Executive Committee recently held a meeting with representatives from IEMA-OHS, the Attorney General's Office, the Governor's Office, and the Great Lakes ADA Center to find a way to resolve this issue of the Committee meeting the requirements of both the Open Meetings Act and the ADA.

Furthermore, with support from IEMA-OHS, the Executive Committee worked with Representative Natalie Manley, and Senator Laura Fine introduced legislation HB1851 and SB2483 during the spring session of the 104th General Assembly to exempt the Committee from the Open Meetings Act statute that requires physical presence to count towards reaching a quorum and allow for remote participation via video and audio conference as well, particularly for those voting members who qualify for such reasonable accommodations under the ADA. Unfortunately, both HB1851 and SB2843 did not advance during the session and were re-referred to the Rules Committee.

From a disability perspective, providing all committee members access to video and audio conferencing serves as universal design, especially when it is the priority of the committee to have voting members who reside throughout the state of Illinois and have firsthand experience of different urban, suburban, and rural communities.



## Subcommittees

In mid-2022, the Committee voted to adopt a Subcommittee structure to begin reviewing plans and documents presented by IEMA-OHS to the committee. In addition, these committees were charged to meet frequently, between whole committee meetings, on the topic areas of their respective committee and report back findings and recommendations, as well as create products as appropriate to the topic. The design of the subcommittee structure was established to mimic the existing federal CMIST framework. The following subcommittees have been established and are active at this time:

- Communications Subcommittee
- Maintaining Health Subcommittee
- Independence and Autonomy Subcommittee
- Support, Safety, and Self-Determination Subcommittee
- Transportation Subcommittee

Each Subcommittee appointed leadership and an Executive Committee Member assigned to them to provide guidance and direction as necessary. The subcommittees have been assigned a CMIST issue to address in the development of a local emergency manager's guide that includes self-evaluation checklist, recommendations for best practices to implement in their programming that are known to more effectively address the needs people with access and functional needs, as well as resources and organizational contacts (state-wide) to that could potentially assist with implementing such strategies and procedures for programs needing to enhance their preparedness posture.

Subcommittees began their review process and provided initial feedback to IEMA-OHS; however, currently the Subcommittees have paused their work with IEMA-OHS in light of the Committee facing logistical challenges and needing to reconcile questions regarding the Open Meetings Act (OMA) requirements for the Committees to meet in person in order to reach a quorum and conduct business.

Below is the outline provided to all committee members that delineates the structure and scope of the subcommittees as they engage in subcommittee work:



## **Outline for Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security (IEMA-OHS) Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee's Subcommittees**

*Based on the CMIST Framework and Whole Community Approach:*

State agencies should incorporate the CMIST framework and a Whole Community Approach in all phases of emergency planning, such as those addressing preparation, notification, evacuation, transportation, sheltering, medical and social services, temporary lodging and/or housing, clean-up, and remediation. The CMIST framework is a tool for identifying the functional needs of people with disabilities before, during, and after a disaster:

[https://emilms.fema.gov/is\\_0368/groups/22.html](https://emilms.fema.gov/is_0368/groups/22.html)

CMIST is the acronym for:

1. **C**ommunication
2. **M**aintaining Health
3. **I**ndependence
4. **S**afety, Support Services, and Self-Determination; and
5. **T**ransportation

The Whole Community Approach is a means by which residents, emergency management practitioners, organizational and community leaders, and government officials can collectively understand and assess the needs of their respective communities and determine the best ways to organize and strengthen their assets, capacities, and interests. By doing so, a more effective path to societal security and resilience is built. In a sense, Whole Community is a philosophical approach on how to think about conducting emergency management:

[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/whole\\_community\\_dec2011\\_2.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/whole_community_dec2011_2.pdf)

### **Communication Subcommittee:**

The Communication Subcommittee will focus on ensuring the utilization of effective and accessible communication for individuals who speak sign language, who have limited English proficiency (LEP), and face challenges with speaking, seeing, hearing, and/or processing information. People with communication and/or literacy needs may have limited ability to hear announcements, see signs, understand messages, or verbalize their emergency needs and concerns.

This Subcommittee will also recommend strategies to enhance communication between state agencies (i.e. IEMA-OHS, Dept. of Public Health, Dept. of Human Services, Dept. of Aging, Dept. of Healthcare and Family Services, etc.) as well as trusted community partners (i.e. Centers for Independent Living, Area Agencies on Aging, Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters,



community and faith-based organizations, businesses, assistive technology centers, local disability and ethnic groups, home health agencies, etc.) in order to effectively integrate emergency management services for people with access and functional needs.

#### **Maintaining Health Subcommittee:**

The Maintaining Health Subcommittee will focus on emergency preparedness and response for individuals who may require specific medications, supplies, services, durable medical equipment, electricity for life-maintaining equipment, breastfeeding and infant/childcare, personal care services, nutrition, etc. This includes shelters having access to secure refrigeration for medications and to food for people with medical conditions who have specific diets.

The Subcommittee will focus on early identification and planning for access and functional needs to reduce the negative impacts of a disaster on individuals' health. This includes:

- Maintaining chronic health conditions
- Minimizing preventable medical conditions
- Avoiding decompensation or worsening of an individual's health status

#### **Independence and Autonomy Subcommittee:**

The independence and autonomy subcommittee will focus on emergency preparedness and response for individuals who function independently and autonomously with assistance from mobility/assistive devices, assistive technology, durable medical equipment, vision and communication aids, service animals, personal care services, etc.

The Subcommittee will work to ensure individuals' independence, autonomy, and self-determination so that a person's access and functional needs are addressed as long as they are not separated from their mobility/assistive devices, assistive technology, aids, service animals, personal care services, etc.

#### **Safety, Support Services, and Self-Determination Subcommittee:**

The Safety, Support Services, and Self-Determination Subcommittee will focus on the emergency preparedness and response needs of individuals who may become separated from caregivers, service animals, and need additional personal care assistance; experience higher levels of distress and need support for anxiety, psychological, or behavioral health needs; or require a trauma-informed approach or support for personal safety.

The Subcommittee will focus on early identification and planning for access and functional needs to reduce the negative impacts of a disaster on individuals' well-being. Some people may lose caregiver assistance or support animals and require additional support; some individuals



may find it difficult to cope in a new or strange environment or have difficulty understanding or remembering information; some individuals may have experienced trauma or be victims of abuse.

All state-recognized and state-supported emergency shelters are required to be ADA-compliant and accessible to all people. Accessibility applies to the routes to, from and within the facility, as well as the usability of public facilities, such as the restrooms and showers. Additionally, pet-friendly shelters are critical for individuals who require service animals. Access and functional needs related emergency equipment also needs to be made available for use during crises. This may include specialized evacuation chairs, transfer-height cots, communication boards, accessible bathrooms, and reverse 911 notification systems that have been reviewed and trialed by the appropriate members of the disability community and emergency professionals before such items are written into plans or purchased by municipalities.

#### **Transportation Subcommittee:**

The Transportation Subcommittee will focus on emergency preparedness and response for individuals who lack access to personal transportation, are unable to drive due to mobility needs that may come with age and/or disability, temporary conditions, injury, or legal restriction.

Disasters can significantly reduce transportation options, inhibiting individuals from accessing services, personal care supports from accessing an individual they work for, staying connected, etc. Disaster planning requires coordination with mass transit and accessible transportation services providers as well as statewide and local transit authorities to establish accessible evacuation routes and door-to-door pick-ups.

## **Where We Are Going**

Currently, IEMA-OHS is in the process of adopting the C-MIST methodology across all emergency support functions to establish a truly whole community-centric plan that will be viewed as an industry best practice to ensure all needs of people are considered in emergencies. This year, IEMA-OHS also hired a Mass Care and Access and Functional Needs Coordinator.

IEMA-OHS has embarked on a statewide review process to enhance the IEOP into a truly whole-community centric document that may be the first of its kind in the industry. The plan will



engage each of the Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) (state agency and partner organizations) and review each and every role and responsibility in the plan to expand it to ensure that all Illinoisans no matter their access and functional need, are considered.

IEMA-OHS has provided instructions to each of the state agencies and partner organizations who have roles and responsibilities within the IEOP for reviewing and updating applicable sections. They are expected to review their existing roles and responsibilities, validate their current capability and capacity to address them during a disaster, edit them as necessary and denote a reason for the change and who might be able to address the resource gap if identified per the schedule above.

In addition, all agencies and partner organizations were given specific instructions on widening out their roles and responsibilities as appropriate to ensure all people and their needs per the CMIST construct were addressed. Agencies and partner organizations have been provided guidance to revise their roles and responsibilities that address people's needs by enhancing them to address what right looks like and annotate what barriers (regulatory/statutory, budgetary, etc.) or shortfalls (capabilities or capacity gaps) exist so that as a collective program we can understand the potential resource and service gaps present for addressing in the plan and program.

Based on the Committee's request, IEMA-OHS has confirmed their intent to update the IEOP ensure that the Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee has the opportunity to review and provide input along the way. Once completed, the IEOP will cover tasks and responsibilities that are necessary to assist all people in the state to be able to prepare for and recover from disasters in Illinois.

Finally, IEMA-OHS is working to develop a class to complement the guidance document mentioned above to help guide and teach local emergency managers and programs on incorporating CMIST into their programs.



## Status of Recommendations

In 2022 in the first submission of this report, the Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee developed priorities and recommendations of effort for itself and state agencies who are represented on the Access and Functional Advisory Committee. The listing of recommendations and priorities was divided into three timeline categories:

- Short-Term – July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025
- Intermediate - July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026
- Long-Term – after June 30, 2026

\*The timeframes have been delayed 1 year due to the change in current requirements of the Open Meetings Act.

The following pages of this annual report will address the recommendations and priorities established by the Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee, their status, and any new efforts or work being undertaken by the committee for the upcoming year and years ahead.



Goals	Actions Taken	Responsible Agencies	Timeline Category	Status
<p>Develop and finalize the Committee's strategic framework, encompassing its mission, vision, objectives, and core strategies, while delineating short-term, intermediate, and long-term priorities.</p>	<p>This goal was completed in 2022 to provide content and structure to the committees' initiatives and focus.</p>	<p>Primary: Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Short-term</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Establish a robust sub-committee framework designed to facilitate collaboration among individuals possessing specialized knowledge, experience, and dedication, enabling them to convene and work together outside of full Committee meetings. This structure will empower members to conduct thorough research and propose innovative policy, technological, and resource-based solutions aimed at addressing challenges related to communication, health maintenance, independence and autonomy, support, safety and self-determination, and non-emergency transportation (CMIST Framework).</p>	<p>Executive Committee provided the whole committee with a document that delineates the structure and scope of the subcommittees. Both voting and non-voting advisory members volunteered to be part of each subcommittee. Within the subcommittees, one member was selected as their Chair to serve as a liaison</p>	<p>Primary: Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Short-term</p>	<p>Completed</p>



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	between the whole committee and subcommittee.			
Review the advisory committee’s current bylaws. A subcommittee will be formed to independently review the bylaws, with the Executive Committee providing consultative support. Once proposed revisions are made, IEMA-OHS will consult with their legal team to ensure that the bylaws are in compliance with the mandated law.		Primary: Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee Secondary: IEMA-OHS	Short-term	In Progress
Work with IEMA-OHS to develop an access and functional needs-related operational playbook that guides local emergency managers on how to vertically integrate their access and functional needs-related policies, planning, and response operations with the policy and planning completed by IEMA-OHS with advice from the Committee.		Primary: Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee Secondary: IEMA-OHS	Short-term	In Progress
Collaborate with IEMA-OHS representatives and supporting state agencies to complete an in-depth review of the Illinois Emergency Operations Plan (IEOP) annexes and appendices, identifying areas where strategies may not accurately align with effectively addressing the preparedness, response, and recovery requirements of individuals with access and functional needs; assisting	Process has been initiated by IEMA-OHS	Primary: Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee Secondary: IEMA-OHS	Intermediate	Review process has begun, with a goal of completion by Q1 2026



<p>IEMA-OHS to redevelop the IEOP into a whole community-centric plan.</p>				
<p>Collaborate closely with IEMA-OHS to revise its Crisis Communications, Public Education, and Information Plan, focusing on enhancing procedures and technology infrastructure to guarantee that all disaster communications directed towards the public are readily accessible to individuals with access and functional needs. This initiative involves comprehensive reengineering efforts to ensure inclusivity and effective dissemination of critical information during emergencies.</p>	<p>Process has been initiated by IEMA-OHS</p>	<p>Primary: IEMA-OHS Secondary: Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>Q1 2026 to align to review and revision process of State’s EM Accreditation.</p>
<p>Collaborate with representatives from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to assess the IDPH Emergency Support Function 8 Plan and its Access and Functional Needs Annex. Identify areas where strategies and tactics may not align with effectively addressing the preparedness, response, and recovery requirements of individuals with access and functional needs. Recommend pertinent modifications to enhance inclusivity and efficacy, ensuring that the IDPH is optimally positioned to meet the diverse needs of all populations during emergencies.</p>		<p>Primary: IDPH and Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>Not Started</p>
<p>Collaborate closely with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (IDHFS) to formulate</p>		<p>Primary: Illinois Department of</p>	<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>Not Started</p>



<p>comprehensive plans and procedures aimed at bolstering the state's capacity to assist local Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs) in fulfilling their requirements for non-emergency transportation services tailored to individuals with access and functional needs. This initiative involves developing robust frameworks to ensure timely and effective support for transportation needs during non-emergency situations, thereby enhancing the state's overall preparedness and response capabilities.</p>		<p>Healthcare and Family Services and Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee</p>		
<p>Collaborate closely with IDHFS, and other support agencies and organizations identified in the IEOP to formulate comprehensive plans and procedures aimed at bolstering the state's capacity to assist local EMAs in fulfilling their requirements for providing assistive devices and equipment for individuals with access and functional needs that are critical to maintaining their independence and autonomy. This initiative involves developing robust frameworks to ensure an in-state cache and timely provision of equipment during emergency situations, thereby enhancing the state's overall preparedness and response capabilities.</p>		<p>Primary: Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services</p> <p>Secondary: Support agencies and organizations identified in the IEOP</p>	<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>Not Started</p>



<p>Evaluate the IEMA-OHS Act to determine what deficiencies may need to be addressed that would legislatively mandate the inclusion of access and functional needs-related strategies in the state’s emergency management program, including the related efforts of state agencies with responsibilities under the IEOP, and the emergency management programs of local units of government.</p>		<p>Primary: Access and Functional Needs Advisory Secondary: IEMA-OHS</p>	<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>Not Started</p>
<p>Evaluate Title 29 of the state administrative code to determine what deficiencies may need to be addressed that would outline and mandate and outline specific inclusive activities to effectively address access and functional needs in IEMA-OHS policies and plans and those managed by local EMAs.</p>		<p>Primary: Access and Functional Needs Advisory Secondary: IEMA-OHS</p>	<p>Intermediate</p>	<p>Not Started</p>



## Best Practices

The following initiatives are best practices that the Access and Functional Needs Advisory Committee supports to ensure an inclusive approach to emergency preparedness; however, the implementation is outside the mandated requirements of the committee:

- IEMA-OHS, Illinois Dept. Of Human Services (IDHS), and Illinois Dept. Of Aging (IDoA), and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) develop a Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST) and Mobile Support Team (MST) with consideration of the model adopted by California.
- IDHS evaluate the Illinois Department of Human Services Act, Disabled Persons Rehabilitation Act, and Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code to determine what deficiencies may need to be addressed that would legislatively mandate the inclusion of access and function needs-related strategies in IDHS' emergency management program.
- IDoA evaluate the Illinois Act on the Aging to determine what deficiencies may need to be addressed that would legislatively mandate the inclusion of access and functional needs-related strategies in IDoA's emergency management program.
- IDPH evaluate the Illinois Department of Public Health Act to determine what deficiencies may need to be addressed that would legislatively mandate the inclusion of access and functional needs-related strategies in IDPH's emergency management program.
- IDPH evaluate Title 77, Chapter I, Subchapter f, Section 515.240 of the state administrative code to determine what deficiencies may need to be addressed that would outline and mandate inclusive strategies associated with access and functional needs, which would be included in the activities of regional health care coalitions (HCCs) funded by subgrants from IDPH's Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP).
- IDPH evaluate Title 77, Chapter I, Subchapter h of the state administrative code to determine what deficiencies may need to be addressed that would outline and mandate strategies associated with access and functional needs, which would be included in the activities of local health departments funded by subgrants from the IDPH's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP).