



National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems

Strengths-Based Planning for Worse Case Scenarios: The Role of Person-Centered Planning in Disaster Preparation

Summary of a webinar from April 26, 2021

Introduction

This webinar is about person-centered planning in preparing for disasters. Marcie talked about the laws that protect against discrimination during emergencies. They include:

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Stafford Act
- Rehabilitation Act
- Public Health Emergency

People with disabilities are more at risk during emergencies. Community resilience means the ability to bounce back. This is can only happen if we include everyone in the community.

Remarks from the Panel

Koko is DeafBlind. He lives in Oregon. He shared his experiences during COVID-19 and the Oregon wildfires. Koko says it's important that accommodations are flexible to meet a person's needs.

Marcia talked about preparing for a disaster. She talked about three levels of preparedness. They are:

- Person/Family
- Providers
- Communities

Marcia says person-centered disaster planning should include what is important to and for the person in an emergency. Community resources must prepare to partner during a disaster.

Marcie says **everyone** is responsible for disaster planning. She says, "This is not just planning for people with disabilities, this is a whole community effort." Koko says it is important for the federal government to put out clear communication. He says that we should support and partner with states so that we can get it right.

The panelists also shared emergency preparedness links and resources.



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The speakers on this webinar were:



Korian “Koko” DeMont Thomas was born and raised in Dallas, Texas, and identifies as Black DeafBlind. Thomas earned a Bachelor of Social Work degree specializing in HIV education and a Master of Public Administration, both from Gallaudet University, and a master’s degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of North Texas. He has been an advocate of the DeafBlind community for more than 20 years.



Marcie Roth is Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer for the [World Institute on Disability](#), one of the first global disability rights organizations founded and continually led by people with disabilities. Ms. Roth has been establishing and leading coalitions committed to operationalizing disability inclusion as an intersectional imperative for global social justice since 1995. Ms. Roth joined WID in 2019, bringing her lifelong commitment to advancing the rights of over one billion people with disabilities and expanding disability leadership locally, nationally and globally.



Marcia Montague is a Clinical Assistant Professor in Special Education at Texas A&M University. Her research and service interests focus on equity in access for individuals with disabilities, including family empowerment, disaster preparation, and disaster recovery. She has nine years of special education experience teaching students with a wide range of disabilities. Her efforts support partnerships with surrounding school districts and work with many Local Authorities on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (LIDDAs) in Texas.