



The Arc[®]

Blair County

Emergency Preparedness...

For eVerYbody



The Arc®

Blair County

70+ YEARS STRONG

1954-2026



HISTORY

Evolvement of Committee

2006: Dan Boyles, Blair County Emergency Planning Director, began small one-on-one meetings with key stakeholders

A meeting with Dan and the county commissioners occurred at a Commissioners Meeting with several stakeholders in attendance to offer support

- ❖ The first of many conferences began. At first geared only toward professionals and with a how do we fix approach
- ❖ After time the conferences became trainings with people who have disabilities, family and support staff, and professionals co-mingling

**IT TAKES PATIENCE AND TIME TO GROW
Wait it Out!**

WHY?

Three dead after fire at Wisconsin group home: 2019



9 Dead in Assisted Living Facility, Fall River, Massachusetts - 2025

Employee accused of manslaughter for allegedly leaving three disabled people in a running car causing Carbon Monoxide poisoning, Salt Lake City, Utah - 2026



KATRINA - 2005

The background is a solid yellow color. There are four decorative blue arcs: one at the top left, one at the top right, one at the bottom left, and one at the bottom right. A central orange rectangle with a white border contains the text.

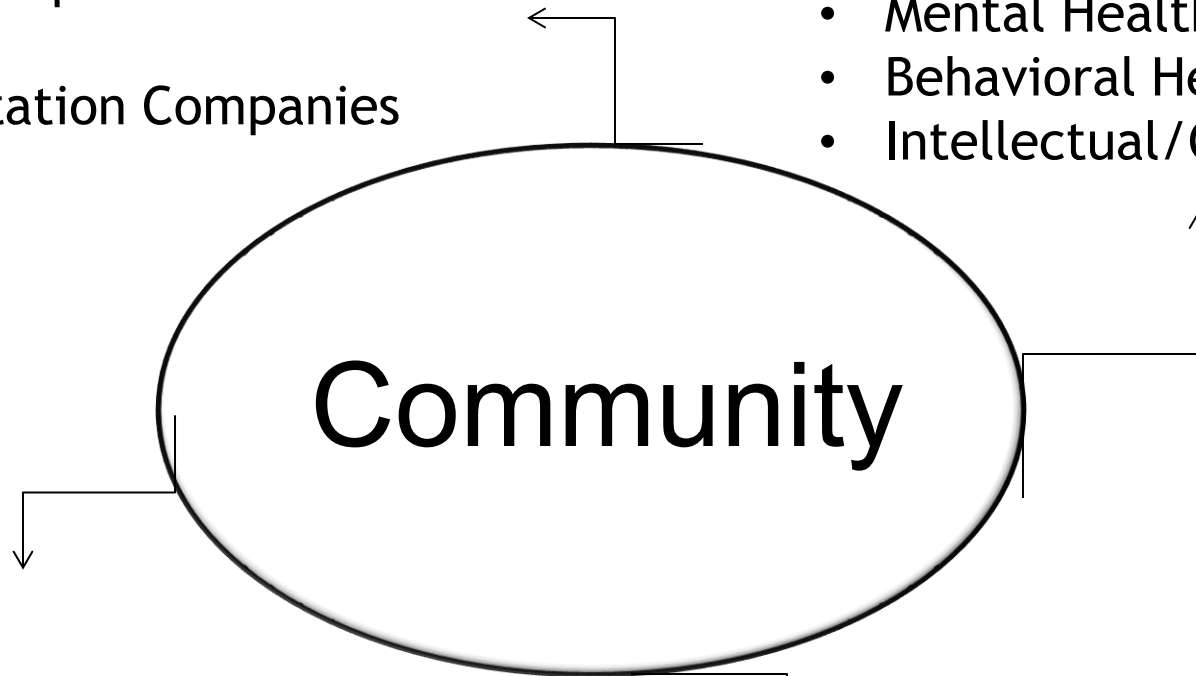
Getting Started

LIASONS

- Libraries
- Utility Companies
- Schools
- Transportation Companies

DISABILITY AGENCIES

- Physical Disabilities
- Mental Health Disabilities
- Behavioral Health
- Intellectual/Cognitive



GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

- Mayor
- City Council
- School Board
- County Commissioners
- Department Heads
- Don't Forget State and Feds

FIRST RESPONDERS

- Police - Sheriff
- Fire
- EMS
- Hospitals - VA

In Manhattan, supplies had to be hoisted into an apartment
in the days after Hurricane Sandy
Credit Nicole Bengiveno/The New York Times



Suggestions

- Start Small and Grow. “Mandatory” generally builds resentment. Show the need
- Encourage conversations within demographics to promote
- Focus on one subject material
- Repeat, repeat, repeat! Human nature is to forget. Train, train, train and reintroduce the same topics but in fresh perspective

**TIPS TO
SHARE**

“Functional Needs”

- People with similar disabilities may have very different functional needs
- People may have multiple impairments
- People who do not identify as having a disability may still have functional needs



Terminology

- Emergency
- Disaster
- Hazard (or potential hazard)
- Evacuate
- Shelter in place



What is a Go-Kit?

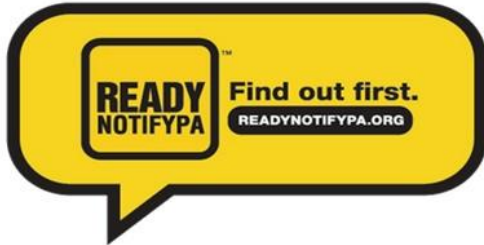
Also known as a:

- Go – Bag
- Emergency Kit
- 72-hour Kit

- Go-Kit versus a Shelter-in-Place Kit



Emergency Alerting




- Emergency Alert System (EAS)
- Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)
- ReadyNotifyPA
- Reverse 9-1-1

Basic Steps to Emergency Preparedness

- Download a copy of My Emergency Readiness Plan – PA



- Make a medical information list

EMERGENCY MEDICAL IDENTIFICATION 

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

NOTIFY IN EMERGENCY

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Physician _____

Phy Phone _____

Other Information _____

SEE OTHER SIDE

- Try to keep a seven-day supply of medications with you and fill your prescriptions as early as you can
- Know evacuation routes and safe places to go during an emergency
- List of important papers/documents/and medications

Resources

☐ American Red Cross

☐ www.redcross.org

☐ Pass It On Center

☐ www.passitoncenter.org

☐ Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency

☐ www.readypa.org

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/pema>

Questions?

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