



KOIN Connection

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KOIN/KYFNC ITV Workshop Recap—Oct. 22, 2014

The 2014 annual Kentucky Outreach and Information Network/Functional Needs Collaborative (KOIN/KYFNC) Interactive Television (ITV) workshop was held on Oct. 22, 2014. It was broadcasted to 49 local health department ITV sites that signed up to participate with a total of 125 workshop participants. The ITV format allowed KOIN/KYFNC members located throughout the state to meet regionally at their local health departments to utilize the ITV technology and reduce the need to travel long distances for the annual meeting. It also allowed them to become better acquaint-

ed and form working relationships in the event they need to work together when disasters strike.

The workshop featured presentations on the Chronic Disease Resource Manual for Disaster Preparedness; an overview of the Kentucky Community Crisis Response Board; Kentucky Programs for the Elderly during Emergencies and Disasters; Medical Countermeasures for Community Preparedness; and an update on the KOIN and KYFNC.

Workshop participants received a packet of KOIN/KYFNC materials.

Planning for this year's workshop will begin shortly. If there are any areas in emergency preparedness that you would like to see addressed for the 2015 workshop, please contact Barbara Fox at BarbaraJ.Fox@ky.gov, (502) 564-6786, ext. 3102 or Kenyetta.Pinkston@ky.gov, (502) 564-7243, ext. 4049.

Thanks to all that participated in the 2014 KOIN/KYFNC workshop!

Updated Federal Access and Functional Needs Guidance

The Guidance on Integrating People with Access and Functional Needs into Disaster Preparedness Planning for States and Local Governments is available at <http://www.phe.gov/Preparedness/planning/abc/Pages/afn-guidance.aspx>.

This updated guidance will introduce and connect you to available resources and inclusive strategies for integrating access and functional needs of at-risk individuals into emergency preparedness, response and recovery planning at all jurisdictional levels.

Barbara Fox, KOIN Coordinator, worked closely with U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) officials to provide guidance and valuable input to this project. The KOIN is listed as a Promising Practice for communicating with Access and Functional Needs under the Promising Practices section of the website. The Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention (CDC) workbook for Defining, Locating and Reaching Vulnerable Populations, based off of the KOIN, is also listed as a guidance resource.

In addition, both the KOIN and KYFNC were highlighted in a federal webinar discussing successful programs for access and functional needs populations.

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State Program Gives the Gift of Hearing

The Kentucky Assistive Technology Service (KATS) Network's Statewide Hearing Aid Assistance and Reuse Program (SHARP) is a program that provides financial assistance to individuals to help cover the cost of the application fee for Hear Now to obtain hearing aids. Hear Now is an application-based program that provides hearing assistance to low-income Americans by fitting them with new, top-of-the-line digital hearing aids that are customized to their specific hearing loss.

The program encourages individuals to pay as much as they can afford towards the application fee, with SHARP providing financial assistance towards the remaining balance of the application fee for Hear Now. For individuals who do not qualify for Hear Now, SHARP in collaboration with Starkey Hearing Technologies All-Make Repair program, can provide financial assistance towards the cost of reconditioned hearing aids that are available through the Starkey All-Make Repair Program. This reconditioning program carries hearing aids from all of the major manufacturers. The SHARP's refurbishing program is dependent on donated hearing aids. If you have any hearing aids to donate, please contact the KATS Network at (800) 327-5287 to request a self-addressed stamped mailer, or you can drop off your used hearing aids at one of the participating collection centers.

To learn more about the SHARP program go to <http://katsnet.org/sharp> or contact the KATS Network at (800) 327-5287.

Join the National Preparedness Community

The National Preparedness Community website located at <http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/readynpm> is where you can connect and collaborate on emergency preparedness. It was initially designed to learn from each other and share resources, to connect with each other and emergency management personnel and to coordinate, participate in and engage others in preparedness activities.

Use it to empower yourself to prepare and to coordinate preparedness activities with their family, neighbors, co-workers and those with whom you may study or worship. Individuals can contribute what they can about what they know; ask for what they need; keep doing what is working; communicate about what is not working, and when possible, offer suggestions towards solutions. When people are connected and collaborate, they are more effective and efficient at educating and empowering them to prepare for disasters and emergencies.

The site features sections on preparedness resources, regional groups, communities of practice, preparedness discussions, national announcements and community evaluation surveys.

Radio Eye - Your Eye on the Written World

Radio Eye, Inc. is a volunteer-based Radio Reading Service in Lexington, Kentucky. It has been in continuous operation since it was founded in 1990 by Dr. Alfred Crabb. Radio Eye broadcasts live and recorded readings of newspapers and other printed material to people who are blind, visually impaired, or physically handicapped or those with reading problems due to the natural aging process, surgery or injury.

The service is provided free of charge, and the closed-circuit radio broadcast can be heard in 27 counties in Central Kentucky and the Greater Louisville Area 24 hours a day, every day throughout the year. Listeners tune in on a Sub-Carrier Authorization (SCA) radio, which is loaned to eligible individuals free of charge.

Each day, Radio Eye airs locally produced programming in which volunteers read state, regional and national newspapers including the *Lexington Herald-Leader* and the *Louisville Courier-Journal*. Listeners can also hear locally produced programming of readings from a variety of magazines and health periodicals.

On March 11, 2002, Radio Eye began broadcasting the reading of the *Lexington Herald-Leader* and other morning programming on Library Channel 20 on Lexington Insight Cable TV. This audio broadcast is intended for use by individuals who have difficulties reading but is available to anyone with Lexington Insight Communications Cable TV service by tuning into Channel 20 Monday through Saturday, 8-10 a.m., and Sunday from 9-11 a.m. Earlier this year, Frankfort Cable began broadcasting the 24-hour program on Channel 2.

For more information on the services provided by Radio Eye or to make a donation, please go to www.RadioEye.org or call 859) 422-6390.

Eye on Kentucky Tip Line to Report Suspicious Activity

Eye on Kentucky is an anonymous telephone tip line that allows Kentuckians to report any suspicious criminal or terrorist activity that is observed or heard. The tip line is sponsored by the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security and Kentucky Intelligence Fusion Center.

The tip line is **1-866-EYE-ON-KY (1-866-393-6659)**. Citizens can also report suspicious activity regarding homeland security or crime online at <http://homelandsecurity.ky.gov/sar>. There is also a Smartphone app called Eyes and Ears on Kentucky to report suspicious activity or items.

Suspicious activity may include persons:

- asking unusual questions about building security;
- taking photographs or videos of buildings, bridges or other locations;
- asking detailed questions about the schedules of public transportation;
- observed timing the arrival and departure of public transportation;
- loitering around reservoirs, water treatment plants, dams or power generating plants;
- watching a building for extended periods of time.

Citizens should also be aware of suspicious vehicles parked in unusual places or at unusual times.

In cases of emergency, individuals should call 911 or local law enforcement.

Free KOIN Materials Available

There are plenty of free KOIN materials available to members by simply requesting them. If you are interested in obtaining KOIN materials, please contact Barbara Fox, KOIN Coordinator, at BarbaraJ.Fox@ky.gov or call (502) 564-6786, ext. 3102. When requesting materials, please provide the name of the material(s), the quantity requested and a mailing address.

Free Materials Available:

- Folding Pandemic Flu Brochure (English and Spanish versions available)
- Be Safe. Be Prepared. Children's Emergency Preparedness Coloring Book
- Emergency Preparedness Refrigerator Magnet (English, Spanish and Braille versions available)
- Updated KOIN Training Video DVD with Accompanying User's Manual
- KOIN ID Badges
- Kentucky Emergency Guide Folding Pocket Card
- Updated Kentucky Department for Public Health Brochure with Pictograms (English and Spanish versions available)

All requests for materials are promptly mailed out so please request your KOIN materials today.

If you have any suggestions for future KOIN materials related to public health preparedness, please contact Barbara Fox.

HELPFUL EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO:

How to Get Help/Medical Emergency - Dial 911

Poison Control Hotline - 800-222-1222

Disease Reporting Hotline - 800-973-7678

**Division of Emergency Management -
800-255-2587 or 502-607-1611**

KY Dept. for Public Health - 502-564-3970

**Cabinet for Health and Family Services Office of
Communications - 502-564-6786**

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We're on the Web!
<http://healthalerts.ky.gov/KOIN>