



# KOIN Connection

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 2 CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES SUMMER 2011

## September is National Preparedness Month

This year marks the ten year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks so it is fitting that the theme for this year's National Preparedness Month is *2011: A Time to Remember, A Time to Prepare*. As citizens are encouraged to prepare for emergencies and disasters, the main focus for this year is on honoring the local first responders that keep communities safe. Although 9/11 is a prominent part of this year's National Preparedness Month's observation, it is important to stress that preparedness is for all hazards, both natural and manmade.

National Preparedness Month is also an opportune time for local volunteer organizations to host events and make the community aware of organizations such as the Kentucky Health Emergency Listing of Professionals for Surge (K HELPS) and Citizen Corps. These organizations are the ones that operate year-round, generally through volunteer programs and trainings in support of emergencies and disaster response. Recent surveys have found that individuals greatly rely on their local communities for assistance in a disaster. They trust

their local first responders, faith-based organizations and neighborhood organizations for receiving assistance and information. Having individuals be aware of the vulnerabilities that exist in their local communities motivates them to prepare well in advance of an emergency.

To learn more about 2011 National Preparedness Month and how you can assist, visit <http://www.ready.gov/>.

## 2011 KOIN Workshop Report

The 2011 annual KOIN workshop was held on April 27-28, 2011. The face-to-face workshop was conducted at Berry Hill Mansion in Frankfort and the interactive television (ITV) session workshop was broadcasted from the Kentucky Department for Public Health (DPH) to all local health departments that signed up to participate. The ITV format allowed KOIN 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 acquainted and form working relationships in the event they need to work together when disasters

strike.

This year's workshop focused on defining and building a resilient KOIN through strengthening KOIN members' capabilities to serve as conduits of information and through exercising the network. A review of findings from the 2010 KOIN Communication and Technology Survey was discussed. Workshop attendees also participated in The Great

Central U.S. ShakeOut earthquake drill on April 28, in addition to discussing the National Level Exercise that occurred May 16-20, 2011.

Workshop participants received a packet of materials, which included a resource CD of various tools and resources to support and enhance KOIN members' capabilities to carry out key functions of the network.

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# Upcoming Conference to Foster Relationships Between Emergency Management and Disability Communities

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Be sure to check your calendars for the upcoming Appalachian Inclusive Emergency Preparedness Conference scheduled for Oct. 14-15, 2011 at Jenny Wiley State Park in Prestonsburg. The goal of the preparedness conference is to foster relationships between Emergency Management and disability communities in Kentucky.

Conference sessions will cover the following topics:

- New FEMA Functional Needs Support Services Sheltering Guidelines
- Greater Understanding of Disability and Emergency Management Communities
- Accessible Communications and Outreach Capabilities
- The Importance of Collaborative Community Partnerships in Rural Communities
- Responding to Citizens with Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities
- Cost-effective Temporary Accessible Modifications to Shelters
- Keynote Speeches
- Interactive Panel Discussions and Facilitated Audience Discussion Sessions
- Accessible Technology Demonstrations
- Networking Opportunities
- Exhibitor Booths

Registration is limited to 150 attendees (first priority will be given to Eastern Kentucky attendees). Registration fee of \$20 includes breakfast and lunch for both days and conference materials. Lodging is available at Jenny Wiley Resort if needed.

For more information visit the conference website at [www.enableus.org](http://www.enableus.org).



## Free KOIN Materials Available

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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](mailto: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 us.

# Introducing the Kentucky Functional Needs Collaborative

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The Kentucky Functional Needs Collaborate (KFNC) has recently been established to ensure an effective public health emergency response system in Kentucky for populations with functional and access needs.

The role of the collaborate is to develop a long term strategy designed to:

- Serve as a conduit for representing consumers and obtain consumer input and feedback.
- Support the work of the Kentucky Department for the Public Health's Preparedness Branch.
- Advise, consult with and make recommendations for establishing priorities for the Preparedness Branch on matters relating to grant applications, programs, the work of the At-Risk Population Planning Coordinator and implementation of emergency preparedness efforts for populations with functional and access needs.
- Support and assist in the development of statewide partnerships between public health, hospitals and clinic services, businesses, faith-based entities, allied health professionals and populations with functional and access needs.

The KFNC is comprised of subject matter experts and advocates that reflect the diversity of the preparedness stakeholders across Kentucky. The KFNC may include, but not be limited to, representatives from:

- Department for Aging and Independent Living
- A non-governmental/nonprofit agency
- Public Health Agency
- Behavioral Health and Intellectual Disability
- Developmental and Intellectual Disability
- Regional preparedness coordinator, trainer, or epidemiologist
- Kentucky Division of Emergency Management or local EM or representative of local public safety organization
- Education (P-12, post-secondary)
- Faith-based Community
- Homeland Security
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Agency
- Centers for Accessible Living (Louisville)
- KY Homeless Coalition
- Office for the Blind

Quarterly public meetings will be conducted to provide information to the preparedness stakeholder community and interested general public members. The next meeting will occur on October 26, 2011, at noon at the KCTCS campus (300 N. Main Street, Versailles).

For more information on the KFNC, please contact Pay Seybold, Executive Director, Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities at [Pat.Seybold@ky.gov](mailto:Pat.Seybold@ky.gov), (502) 564-7841, or Gayle Brown, At-Risk Populations Coordinator, at [GayleJ.Brown@ky.gov](mailto:GayleJ.Brown@ky.gov) or call (502) 564-7243, ext. 3136.

## **WANTED: INFORMATIVE TIPS AND IDEAS**

The *KOIN Connection* newsletter is seeking information from KOIN members on ways to improve the newsletter. If you have any suggestions on topics for articles in future editions or if you would like to nominate someone to be featured in our future newsletters, please forward to [BarbaraJ.Fox@ky.gov](mailto:BarbaraJ.Fox@ky.gov).

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#### **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**

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

#### ***Please Remember...***

The KOIN network is a two-way communication tool. When a KOIN message is sent out to KOIN members, we would like to hear back from you. During emergencies, resources and services may be unavailable to residents. While the KOIN cannot guarantee that these services will be restored quickly, the network would like to know your communities needs are being met, especially concerning the needs of vulnerable population groups. It only takes a few seconds to drop us a note. We'd be most appreciative if we'd hear back from you! It could result in a more productive emergency communications network.

