



# KOIN Connection

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 2 CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES SUMMER 2013

## Upcoming KOIN/FAN ITV Workshop—Oct. 29, 2013

This year’s joint KOIN workshop will continue to combine the efforts of the KOIN and Kentucky Functional Access Needs (FAN) Collaborative, as both groups work closely together for the needs of these populations in the state.

The workshop will be conducted via interactive television (ITV) format on **Tuesday, Oct. 29, 2013, 10 a.m.-noon ET** with KOIN/FAN Collaborative members and local health departments participating. Guest speakers will be presenting a variety of topics related to emer-

gency preparedness measures specifically focused on functional access needs/at-risk populations in Kentucky.

Most local health departments across the state will have their ITVs available for regional KOIN and KY Functional Access Needs Collaborative members. This will be an ideal time to form working relationships with local first responders and health department staff before the need for their emergency services arises.

If you are interested in partici-

pating, please contact Barbara Fox (BarbaraJ.Fox@ky.gov) and provide the name of the health department where you would like to attend. **If you require a sign language interpreter please notify Barbara Fox by Sept. 15.**

For more information, please contact Barbara Fox at BarbaraJ.Fox@ky.gov, (502) 564-6786, ext. 3102 or Kenyetta Pinkston@ky.gov, (502) 564-7243, ext. 4049.

We look forward to seeing you on Oct. 29!

## 2013 Great Central U.S. Shake Out Earthquake Drill

Mark your calendars for the upcoming 2013 Great Central U.S. Shake Out Earthquake Drill to be held on **October 17, 2013 at 10:17 a.m.** Sign up at [www.shakeout.org](http://www.shakeout.org).

To date, more than 600,000 people have registered to participate in the drill and related activities. This year the goal is to have 3 million people participate in earthquake safety, preparedness and mitigation activities.

Use this as an opportunity to practice additional aspects of your emergency plans and procedures.

Earthquakes can happen at any time and any location throughout Kentucky. It is critical that our citizens, communities and schools are prepared for natural disasters. A catastrophic earthquake in the New Madrid Zone of western Kentucky would impact not only Kentucky, but several surrounding states as well.

The overall impact could equal or even surpass the devastating disaster of Hurricane Katrina in comparison.

Be aware of the recommended earthquake safety actions of **DROP, TAKE COVER and HOLD ON.** Earthquakes occur without any warning and may

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# A Helping (Monetary) Hand

*Assistive Technology Loan Opens Doors (and Roads) for State Worker and KOIN Member*

*Reprinted with permission from Exceptional Family Magazine, a publication of the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disabilities.*

My name is Lanny Taulbee and I was diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis at the age of seven. I am 57 years old, 4'-4" tall, with extremely limited range of motion. The short stature is due to steroids given for the arthritis when I was a child. I use crutches, scooters and power chairs for mobility.



**Lanny Taulbee**

I've had a severe disability for over half a century! Yes, like you, people with severe disabilities do get older. I have been chasing the dream of independence for decades. I grew up knowing that I would not have the same opportunities everyone had, not because of my disability, but because of the limitations others placed on me because of that disability. I learned early-on to "accept the things I cannot change, to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference..." as the old saying goes.

But that does not mean that I can't wish for or dream about obtaining something I know would make my life easier, better or safer. For years I watched as technology exploded with so many assistive devices that would make my life so much easier – gadgets and gizmos, computers, cell phones, laptops, roll-in showers, ramps for the home and even ramps to get in and out of vans...If only!?!

But, what about the cost? How could I afford to get those assistive devices or that van with the ramp on the side? I navigated through a tangled maze of SSDI, SSI, Medicare, food stamps, this program and that program. I explored every avenue seeking out possibilities that would make things easier for me and those around me. In 1998, I discovered how I could purchase my own home through the Kentucky Housing Corporation and I could have it modified to meet my needs by accessing various housing programs. In 2005, another seeming impossible dream was realized. I was hired as the Disabilities Coordinator for the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service. All of my past experiences with disability support services became a vital resource to assist others with disabilities.

As I transitioned from receiving disability income to gainful employment, my physical activity increased dramatically. I needed – more than wanted – new technology. For those of us with severe disabilities, questionable credit scores and limited funds, getting that technology can prove to be a daunting task. Because my needs were primarily employment related, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation provided a power chair and could provide modifications to a van once I purchased one. That's when I learned about the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation (KATLC). The KATLC has made owning that assistive equipment possible. Even though this funding is in fact a loan, it is more flexible than standard bank loans with generally lower interest rates and often longer payment terms meaning smaller, more affordable monthly payments. Finally, it was possible to have my very own van with the fold-down ramp and power chair. I soon realized that I needed a safe way to get from my house to the detached garage when using crutches during inclement weather. Again, I was able to utilize the KATLC process to meet my mobility needs. That was more than seven years ago. The loan for the van has been repaid and I am in the process of paying off the second loan. As the years go by and age takes its toll, new assistive technology and mobility devices are becoming more essential to my career and my quality of life.

I am now employed as the Physical Disabilities Advocate for the Department for Aging and Independent Living within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. In this position, I am able to continue assisting others with disabilities by drawing upon my past experiences with so many programs and services. Thanks to the Kentucky Housing Corporation, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, KATLC and many other supports and services for making the seemingly impossible possible. I am excited to be able to share my story with you and hope it will inspire you to think outside the box and use whatever supports and services available to you to improve your quality of life. Although not everyone qualifies for a KATLC loan, it is one possibility that might change your life forever. It certainly has made a huge difference for me!

# A Helping (Monetary) Hand (continued)

For more information on the Kentucky Assistive Technology Loan Corporation, visit their website at <http://katlc.ky.gov> or call toll free (877) 675-0195.

## 2013 Great Central U.S. Shake Out Earthquake Drill (continued)

be so violent that you cannot run or crawl. Individuals with disabilities and other functional access needs may need to adapt the **DROP, TAKE COVER** and **HOLD ON** technique to meet their specific situation.

For additional information visit [www.dropcoverholdon.org](http://www.dropcoverholdon.org). Registration for the drill is available at [www.shakeout.org/centralus](http://www.shakeout.org/centralus).

## 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](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 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>**