

PENNSYLVANIA

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND
HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE

20
23



MEETING
THE CHALLENGE
OF TOMORROW

OCTOBER 15 TO 17, 2023

BLAIR COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER

KEYSTONE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

6th Annual Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Conference

Conference Information Packet

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6th Annual Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Conference

Conference Information Packet

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This conference would not be possible without the significant investment of grant funds and support provided by PEMA.

KEMA would like to thank our Conference Partners: the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security, Pennsylvania Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, the Pennsylvania Association of Hazardous Materials Technicians, and the Pennsylvania Association of School Recourse Officers.

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Welcome

The Keystone Emergency Management Association's (KEMA) **6th Annual Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Conference (#KEMACon2023)** is scheduled to take place at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona, Pennsylvania, from October 15th to the 17th. Guided by the theme "*Meeting the Challenge of Tomorrow*," this conference aims to equip attendees with the indispensable tools and concepts needed to navigate the ever-changing landscape of disaster and emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

What sets this conference apart is its exceptional breadth, offering over 50 carefully curated educational sessions. With a wide array of topics and speakers, the conference ensures that participants can delve into new concepts and explore the latest advancements in emergency preparedness and homeland security. These captivating sessions will showcase cutting-edge concepts, technologies, processes, and evidence-based practices in emergency management and homeland security. Regardless of your level of expertise, whether you are a seasoned professional seeking to stay up-to-date, or a newcomer aiming to establish a solid foundation, our sessions cater to all.

By attending this conference, you can expect to gain invaluable insights and skills to effectively prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. This extraordinary opportunity not only allows you to enhance your emergency preparedness knowledge but also provides a platform for networking with industry professionals.

The Keystone Emergency Management Association stands as Pennsylvania's singular, all-inclusive professional association for emergency preparedness, response, and management professionals. We welcome both career and volunteer individuals from the public and private sectors, representing various industries and disciplines.

Join us at **#KEMACon2023** and be part of an enriching experience that empowers you to meet the challenges of tomorrow head-on.

Important Dates

Early bird registration starts	5/22/2023
Regular registration starts	7/16/2023
Late registration starts	8/14/2023
Registration ends	9/15/2023

Registration Information

Early bird registration	\$100
Regular registration	\$150
Late registration	\$200
Registration at the door	\$300

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Registration Information

Conference Registration and Hotel Links are available in the Conference website at <http://KEMAConference.com>

Join KEMA

KEMA is a statewide non-profit organization that offers a platform for emergency preparedness, emergency management, and homeland security professionals to exchange ideas, techniques, and best practices. By joining KEMA, you can expand your network, connect with colleagues, seek information on relevant issues, and increase your knowledge of the field. Join today at: <http://kema-pa.com/membership/>

KEMA membership is open to all emergency management and public safety professionals working in local, state, or federal government, educational, non-profit, or voluntary organizations, private sector, or to anyone interested in gaining an understanding of emergency management in the Commonwealth. Becoming a member of KEMA is an excellent way to stay up-to-date with the latest developments and trends in emergency management, as well as contribute to enhancing the overall emergency management program in Pennsylvania.

Membership Benefits

As a KEMA member, you'll have access to a broad network of emergency management professionals and subject matter experts in Pennsylvania, who can provide you with guidance on various topics. Additionally, you'll have opportunities to connect and network with local, state, and federal officials to build professional relationships.

You'll also receive exclusive access to the annual conference and training summits, where you can participate in valuable learning opportunities and stay updated on the latest developments in emergency management.

As a KEMA member, you'll have voting and nomination privileges, and we encourage you to be active in the decision-making process. You can also take advantage of growth and development opportunities by serving on various committees that contribute to fulfilling KEMA's mission.

You will be kept updated on pending legislation and opportunities to provide input on changes to the state Emergency Management Certification Program. Additionally, KEMA offers mentoring opportunities, prospective employment opportunities, the potential for collaborative partnerships, and other opportunities to help you grow and develop your skills and career in emergency management.

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Conference Schedule

Sunday, October 15

Times	Event	Location
11:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration Open	Allegheny Mountains Lobby
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Breakout Sessions	Rooms 202 to 208 and Ballrooms 1 & 2
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	BREAK – <i>Coffee & Snacks provided</i>	Grand Lobby
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Breakout Sessions	Rooms 202 to 208 and Ballrooms 1 & 2
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Vendor Showcase <i>Hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar</i>	Grand Lobby
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm	PA VOAD Meeting and Dinner	Ballroom 3

Monday, October 16

Times	Event	Location
7:00 am – 8:00 am 10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Registration Open	Allegheny Mountains Lobby
7:00 am – 8:00 am	Breakfast <i>Orange and cranberry juices, fresh fruit, scrambled eggs, home fries, bacon, sausage, bagels, English muffins, pastries, butter, cream cheese and preserves.</i>	Ballroom 3
8:00 am – 6:00 pm	Vendor Area Open	Grand Lobby
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Opening Ceremony & Welcome	Ballroom 3
9:00 am – 10:00 am	Keynote Speaker	Ballroom 3
10:00 am – 10:30 am	BREAK – <i>Coffee provided</i>	Grand Lobby
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Breakout Sessions	Rooms 202 to 208 and Ballrooms 1 & 2
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	Lunch <i>Soup, Salad, & Sandwiches (Italian Grinder, Tarragon Chicken Salad, & Turkey Club).</i>	Ballroom 3
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Breakout Sessions	Rooms 202 to 208 and Ballrooms 1 & 2
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	BREAK – <i>Coffee & Snacks provided</i>	Grand Lobby
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Breakout Sessions	Rooms 202 to 208 and Ballrooms 1 & 2
5:00 pm – 5:30 pm	KEMA Annual Membership Meeting	Ballroom 3
5:30 pm – 8:00 pm	KEMA Annual Awards Dinner	Ballroom 3

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Tuesday, October 17

Times	Event	Location
7:30 am – 8:30 am	Continental Breakfast <i>Selection of juices, bagels, pastries, butter, cream cheese, preserves and hot beverages.</i>	Ballroom 3
8:30 am – 10:00 am	Breakout Sessions	Rooms 202 to 208 and Ballrooms 1 & 2
10:00 am – 10:30 am	BREAK – <i>Coffee & Snacks provided</i>	Grand Lobby
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Breakout Sessions	Rooms 202 to 208 and Ballrooms 1 & 2

Disclaimers and Notices

Please note that conference courses and faculty are subject to change without notice. While we strive to ensure that the program remains as advertised, unforeseen circumstances may necessitate alterations to the schedule. In the event that a course is changed, the event organizers will make every effort to secure a suitable replacement with similar subject matter.

Photographs and videos will be taken during the Pennsylvania Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Conference. By registering for the conference and participating in the sponsored classes, events, and activities, as well as visiting the convention center and/or exhibitors, you acknowledge and consent to the use of your image, audio, or video recording by the Keystone Emergency Management Association for marketing purposes. Please note that you will not be entitled to any compensation for the use of your image, audio, or video recording.

Please ensure that any noise-producing items, such as phones, radios, pagers, or other electronic devices, are either turned off or set to silent mode while classes are in session.

To protect the privacy of our faculty members and their intellectual property, please note that any video or audio recording of classes or faculty is strictly prohibited without the explicit consent of the faculty member and the conference management.

Only Service Animals, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Pennsylvania 2018 Act 118 (Assistance and Service Animal Integrity Act), are permitted inside the Convention Center during the event. *Please note that ‘therapy,’ ‘assistance,’ or ‘emotional support’ animals do not meet the definition of Service Animals and are not permitted.*

We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to your participation in the conference.

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Educational Presentations Schedule

Sunday, October 15, 2023

Times	Title	Room
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Eyes in the Sky: How Drones are Revolutionizing Disaster Response	202 & 203
	Building Resilient and Sustainable Communities using a National Preparedness System, Social Equity, Whole Community Centered Approach	204
	Not Being Heard – Gaps in Communication for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Populations During Emergency Response	205
	Engaging Local Level Emergency Responders in Emergency Management	206
	Civil Rights Compliance in Emergency Management	207
	Disconnected by Choice: Ongoing Efforts across the National Weather Service to Protect Life and Property in the Amish/Plain Communities	208
	PEMA Central Area Update	Ballroom 1
	Mental Health First Aid	Ballroom 2
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	BREAK	Grand Lobby
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	It Starts with Education	202 & 203
	Including People with Disabilities in Emergency Preparation	204
	Meeting The Challenge of Tomorrow: Recruiting, Retaining, and Mentoring Gen Z	205
	Benefits of Protective Security Advisor Services	206
	Bridging the Gap-Building a Recovery Team	207
	Building Resiliency During a Global Climate Crisis	208
	Hybrid EOC: Lessons Learned and Takeaways in a Post-Pandemic World	Ballroom 1
	Improving Your Preparedness with Actionable After-Action Reviews	Ballroom 2

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October 16, 2023

Times	Title	Room
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Mitigating Vulnerabilities and Protecting Our Schools for Tomorrow's Challenges	202 & 203
	Disaster Response and Recovery is For Everyone	204
	EMS & Healthcare Preparedness in the Commonwealth	205
	What Impact Will This Have? Utilizing GIS and GIS Data in Hazard Mitigation Planning	206
	The Importance of Disaster Legal Services in Response & Recovery	207
	ICE-ICE BABY 2018	208
	PEMA Eastern Area Update	Ballroom 1
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	LUNCH and LEARN	Ballroom 3
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Swatting Trends, Response, and Mitigations	202 & 203
	Overnight Sheltering for those with Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs	204
	Developing a County-Level THIRA/SPR – Involve the Whole Community!	205
	Understanding Legislative Advocacy and Outreach	206
	Incident Management – Beyond ICS	207
	Building Stronger Partnerships of Yesterday for Tomorrow	208
	The Next Generation of Emergency Management and Homeland Security: The AI Revolution	Ballroom 1
Realistic Emergency Preparedness Training: Role-Playing in a Miniature City (Session 1)	Ballroom 2	
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	BREAK	Grand Lobby
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	FEMA Region 3	202 & 203
	Interagency Recovery Coordination: Bringing Partner and Stakeholders to the Table to Support Post-Disaster Recovery	204
	What Kind of Resilience Innovator Are You?	205
	Strategic Planning for Emergency Services Organizations	206
	Being A Good Next-door Neighbor on Social Media: Strategy and Rumor Control	207
	The Emergency Manager and the Jurisdiction: Exploring the Relationship Between Emergency Management Leaders and Elected Officials	208
	Exercising for Tomorrow's Mass Care Needs: 2024 Keystone 6 Exercise	Ballroom 1
Realistic Emergency Preparedness Training: Role-Playing in a Miniature City (Session 2)	Ballroom 2	

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October 17, 2023

Times	Title	Room
8:30 am – 10:00 am	The Wild and Wacky World of (Federal) Agricultural Emergency Management	202 & 203
	Right-wing Narratives Associated with Cognitive Predictors of Radicalization: Direct User-Engagement Drives Radicalization	204
	Private Sector Integration to Emergency Management at the Local Level	205
	Think Analytically, Politically, and Critically – An Emergency Leaders Mindset	206
	Navigating EM Procurement Planning to Your Advantage	207
	Thinking Outside the Silo: An Integrate Approach to Emergency Management Planning, Training, and Exercise	208
	PEMA Western Area Update	Ballroom 1
	The Night I Almost Jumped: EMS and the Stigma of Mental Health	Ballroom 2
10:00 am – 10:30 am	BREAK	Grand Lobby
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Lessons learned from the Tree of Life Event	202 & 203
	Supporting Emergency Medical & Healthcare Systems Across the Commonwealth	204
	Partnerships with Community-Based Organizations in Disaster Response and Recovery	205
	Integrating Section 406 Hazard Mitigation into Public Assistance Grants	206
	Understanding Radiological Hazards: Ask a Nuclear Engineer	207
	Future Threats in Public Health Preparedness	208
	Flood Inundation Mapping Services for Pennsylvania	Ballroom 1
	Whole Community Response to Environmental-Technology Caused Disaster	Ballroom 2

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Alignment of Presentations to Mission Areas and Community Lifelines

Presentation Title	Mission Areas					Community Lifelines						
	Prevention	Protection	Response	Mitigation	Recovery	Safety and Security	Food, Water, Shelter	Health and Medical	Energy	Communications	Transportation	Hazardous Materials
Being A Good NextDoor Neighbor on Social Media	✓									✓		
Benefits of Protective Security Advisor Services	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bridging the Gap-Building a Recovery Team					✓	✓	✓			✓		
Building Resilient and Sustainable Communities Using a National Preparedness System, Social Equity, Whole Community Centered Approach		✓				✓				✓	✓	
Building Resilient and Sustainable Communities		✓		✓		✓					✓	
Building Stronger Partnerships of Yesterday for Tomorrow		✓	✓					✓		✓		
Civil Rights Compliance in Emergency Management		✓								✓		
Developing a County-Level THIRA/SPR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Disaster Response and Recovery is For Everyone	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Disconnected by Choice: Ongoing Efforts across the National Weather Service to Protect Life and Property in the Amish/Plain Communities	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓		
EMS & Healthcare Preparedness in the Commonwealth	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Engaging Local Level Emergency Responders in Emergency Management	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Exercising for Tomorrow's Mass Care Needs			✓		✓		✓					
Eyes in the Sky: How Drones are Revolutionizing Disaster Response		✓	✓		✓	✓						✓
Flood Inundation Mapping Services for Pennsylvania	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Future Threats in Public Health Preparedness		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				

Presentation Title	Mission Areas					Community Lifelines						
	Prevention	Protection	Response	Mitigation	Recovery	Safety and Security	Food, Water, Shelter	Health and Medical	Energy	Communications	Transportation	Hazardous Materials
Hybrid EOC: Lessons Learned and Takeaways in a Post-Pandemic World	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ICE-ICE BABY 2018			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Improving Your Preparedness with Actionable After-Action Reviews					✓			✓				
Incident Management - Beyond ICS			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Including People with Disabilities in Emergency Preparation				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Integrating Section 406 Hazard Mitigation into Public Assistance Grants	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						
Interagency Recovery Coordination: Bringing Partner and Stakeholders to the Table to Support Post-Disaster Recovery				✓						✓		
It Starts with Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Lessons Learned from the Tree of Life Event	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Meeting The Challenge of Tomorrow: Recruiting, Retaining, and Mentoring Gen Z			✓							✓		
Mental Health First Aid	✓							✓				
Mitigating Vulnerabilities and Protecting Our Schools for Tomorrows Challenges	✓	✓		✓		✓				✓		
Navigating EM Procurement Planning to Your Advantage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Not Being Heard - Gaps in Communication for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Populations During Emergency Response.	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓		
Overnight Sheltering for Those with Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs	✓		✓		✓		✓					

Presentation Title	Mission Areas					Community Lifelines						
	Prevention	Protection	Response	Mitigation	Recovery	Safety and Security	Food, Water, Shelter	Health and Medical	Energy	Communications	Transportation	Hazardous Materials
Thinking Outside the Silo: An Integrate Approach to Emergency Management Planning, Training, and Exercise	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Understanding Legislative Advocacy and Outreach	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Understanding Radiological Hazards		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓				✓
What Impact Will This Have?	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
What Kind of Resilience Innovator Are You?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		
Whole Community Response to Environmental-Technology Caused Disaster	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Guest Speakers

Keynote Speaker



Kelly R. McKinney, PE, CBCP

Assistant Vice President, *Emergency Management and Enterprise Resilience* at NYU Langone Health

PA VOAD Dinner Speaker



Marcus Coleman, Jr.

Director, *Department of Homeland Security's Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships*

KEMA Dinner Speaker

To Be Announced

Full biographies are available on the Conference Website: www.KEMAConference.com

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Educational Presentation Descriptions

Being A Good NextDoor Neighbor on Social Media: Strategy and Rumor Control

Amanda Hancher, *Public Affairs Specialist, FEMA*

The presentation will primarily focus on NextDoor. As such, NextDoor is a unique social media platform that is designed to be a local communications tool. This neighborhood forum subverts some of the rules of social media engagement and can lead to a high volume of genuine engagement with individuals and families. After eight months of data collection, the region has learned some best practices, potential pitfalls, and rules of the road for this platform. Additionally, this presentation will go over the foundational principles of information management on social media for emergency management purposes. Topics will hit on recognizing rumors, misinformation, and disinformation, and explain how to vet and report social media data through a variety of techniques.

Benefits of Protective Security Advisor Services

Bob Winters, *Protective Security Advisor, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency*

Dave Wood, *Protective Security Advisor, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency*

Going beyond the web site descriptions of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security (CISA) Protective Security Advisor (PSA) services, the Pennsylvania Protective Security Advisor team will delve into the outcomes of how some agencies and companies have leveraged their local PSA-delivered assessments, training, and exercises into tangible organizational benefits that are directly applicable to other entities and the first responders who serve them. Demonstrating success in these free protection, prevention, and resilience services and the underling story of partnership it entails makes our joint effort most advantageous.

Bridging the Gap-Building a Recovery Team

Michele Whiting Zona, *AFN/Recovery Coordinator, Westmoreland County DPS*

Angela Emerick, *Administrative Assistant, Somerset County EMA*

This presentation will discuss two different recovery teams including their differences, similarities and how they work in their communities. The discussion will be interactive and will encourage others to think “outside the box” to develop and foster recovery teams in their communities.

Building Resiliency During a Global Climate Crisis

William Howard, *Traffic Emergency Management Specialist, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission*

Keith Jack, *Director of Facilities Operations, Pennsylvania Turnpike Association*

Climate change makes natural disasters more frequent, severe, and costly. With the acceleration of the global climate crisis, preparation is critical to mitigating the long-term impacts on transportation systems.

In every project, the PA Turnpike Commission (PTC) adopts the 17 U.N. Sustainable Development Goals, prioritizing clean water, affordable and clean energy, and climate action. The PTC uses innovative approaches to building and maintaining sustainable roadways to reduce its carbon footprint and build resiliency.

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Emergency management plays an essential role in identifying risks and reducing vulnerabilities. In the past several years, the PTC has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of its internal planning, operations, and best management practices related to extreme weather events and emergency planning and response. Its Extreme Weather and Climate Resiliency Report assessed internal planning, processes, and best management practices.

In addition, the Extreme Weather Management Playbook outlines the coordination, communication, and department response to extreme weather activity. These procedures focus on pre-event planning and during-event communication protocols to ensure flexibility to adapt to changing conditions. The key products in the Playbook include Department-specific checklists based on the weather event severity type that guide strategy implementation and communication steps.

Building Resilient and Sustainable Communities Using a National Preparedness System, Social Equity, Whole Community Centered Approach

Michael Brown, *President, O.W.O.W., Inc.*

Adopting a social equity (SE) centered framework in emergency management will strengthen integrative emergency management and help build resilient communities of color. Emergency management organizations have not embraced SE as an actionable dimension capable of providing effective preparedness strategies to enhance resilience within marginalized communities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency Whole Community Approach is supposed to strengthen security, safety, and build resilience in an all-of-nation concept. This approach will not work while inequities exist within marginalized communities. However, social disruptions are local therefore the responsibility rests on local jurisdictional governments to ensure assessments are performed revealing the equitable needs of the community in the event of a disaster. Further, disasters like Hurricanes Katrina, the Flint, Michigan water disaster, and the COVID-19 response disproportionately impacted communities of color reflecting inequity within emergency management preparedness. Further, proliferation of environmental injustices has increased all-hazard exposure in Black communities. Though the federal government has defined equity it is the responsibility of each subordinate jurisdiction to embrace a fair and equitable and distributive culture in emergency management. This can be accomplished by applying social equity criteria.

Building Stronger Partnerships of Yesterday for Tomorrow

Tyler Fotiou, *Communications Section Chief, 3rd WMD CST*

Cesar Allen, *Physician Assistant, 3rd WMD CST*

The 3rd CST has participated in many exercises, planned large events and responses over the years. In that time faces and names have changed but the overall mission of each agency has not. In order to be prepared for any challenges of tomorrow, solid partnerships need to be built to effectively prevent hazards and protect the people of the local communities. It has been said many times that communication is the key. Endless training can prepare one for emergency responses but if effective communication is not achieved during times of immediate response, all the training cannot make up for the inability to communicate tasks or objectives. The 3rd CST provides unique abilities to enable means of communication when other methods are unavailable or to keep mixed agency response teams unified. In addition to a suite of communications assets, the 3rd CST has medical subject matter experts, highly trained to identify CBRN signs and symptoms and provide

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recommendations for proper medical care. The ability to identify such hazards and properly communicate to local hospitals or emergency response assets is a key way to ensure each individual affected has a chance to face tomorrow without doing it alone.

Civil Rights Compliance in Emergency Management

Tania Serrano Gonzalez, *Civil Rights Advisor, FEMA*

In this presentation, we will introduce the regional civil rights advisor and provide an overview of civil rights authorities, focusing on the mission and vision of FEMA's Office of Equal Rights. We will emphasize the cadre's survivor-focused approach and their collaboration with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners to uphold civil rights in emergency situations. Additionally, we will discuss the importance of civil rights compliance in public-facing events, aiming to address any disparities or inequalities that may arise and create an inclusive environment that respects the rights of all individuals involved. Lastly, we will introduce the Community Assessment Tool, a valuable resource for evaluating the needs and priorities of communities affected by emergencies. This tool helps us understand the unique challenges faced by different communities, enabling us to tailor our response accordingly. Overall, this presentation covers the regional civil rights advisor, the Office of Equal Rights' mission and vision, collaboration with partners, civil rights compliance in public events, and the Community Assessment Tool, all contributing to FEMA's commitment to upholding civil rights and ensuring equal treatment for all.

Developing a County-Level THIRA/SPR - Involve the Whole Community!

Cody Santiago, *Director of Emergency Management, York County Office of Emergency Management*

Everyone knows county-level THIRA/SPRs are not required by PEMA or FEMA and have traditionally been completed at a regional level. However, THIRA/SPRs should drive everything that we do at a county and local level, which should then be implemented into our Integrated Preparedness Plan. Join this session to learn how you can start a THIRA/SPR process within your own county, how you can utilize it within your regional submission, and how completing your own THIRA/SPR can impact your comprehensive emergency management program.

Disaster Response and Recovery is For Everyone

Ceena Jenkins, *Disaster Disability Integration Specialist, PA Department of Human Services*

Karl Jones, *Disaster Coordinator/Communications Coordinator, United Church of Christ/PAVOAD*

FEMA's Whole Community approach to Disaster Recovery has core objectives that focus on engaging the whole community: (1) Understanding and meeting the actual needs of the whole community; (2) Engaging and empowering all parts of the community; and (3) Strengthening what works well in communities on a daily basis. This session will offer an overview of these core objectives and how the Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST) program can strengthen your agency's whole community engagement practices.

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Disconnected by Choice: Ongoing Efforts across the National Weather Service to Protect Life and Property in the Amish/Plain Communities

Jonathan Guseman, *Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service State College*
John Banghoff, *Meteorologist, National Weather Service State College*

A defining characteristic of Amish and Plain communities is their selective use of technology. The Amish believe that technology, if left untamed, will interfere with traditions and separate close-knit communities. The choice to reject internet access and television in particular renders many common sources of weather information inaccessible and makes them especially vulnerable to hazardous weather. Over the last year, several National Weather Service offices including State College, PA have sought to narrow the communication gap with these communities and mitigate the self-imposed vulnerabilities they face.

This presentation will highlight two main areas of emphasis: improved dissemination given technological constraints and education/outreach activities with these communities. In order to provide accurate and timely forecasts and warnings, the NWS has developed automated forecast phone recordings for several Amish hotspots around Central Pennsylvania, is helping with the development of a NOAA Weather Radio for the Amish/Plain community, and is piloting the use of AlertPA to notify Amish families of impending weather. To improve preparedness for and response to impactful hazardous weather events, the NWS had developed weather safety handouts that can be delivered to Amish and Plain communities through both in-person engagement and print media sources that these communities trust.

EMS & Healthcare Preparedness in the Commonwealth

Thomas Alsted, *Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Emergency Health Services Federation*
Christopher Confalone, *Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Eastern PA EMS Council*

This program is designed to provide an overview of the EMS Preparedness Coordination Program in the Commonwealth. It will also provide details about the deployable assets available to EMS Providers and Healthcare Facilities in crisis. The program will also highlight the request process for those assets and show practical applications of the assets in the field.

Engaging Local Level Emergency Responders in Emergency Management

Kevin Dippolito, *Emergency Management Director, Bristol Township Emergency Management*

This program will discuss the various information local emergency responders (Police, Fire & EMS), as well as code enforcement staff can provide to assist with your emergency operations plan.

Exercising for Tomorrow's Mass Care Needs: 2024 Keystone 6 Exercise

Christine Heyser, *Mass Care Coordinator, PA Dept of Human Services*

In this session we will discuss the May 2024 Keystone 6 Mass Care Exercise. This exercise will be hosted by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (PADHS) and will be the basis for PEMA's spring all hazards exercise.

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The exercise will be based on a real-world incident that prompts a large-scale feeding and sheltering response and Stafford Act Declaration. PADHS's play will be limited to response and early recovery activities and will include establishment of a Commonwealth Managed Shelter and activation of the Commonwealth's Mass Care Task Forces. Coordination between states and among various levels of government, the private sector, NGO, and VOADs is expected. KEMA Conference attendees are welcome to learn how they can participate in 2024's exercise which is planned to be a bigger, better, bolder version of the 2016 Keystone 6 Exercise.

During this session participants will also receive an overview of PADHS staff and assets available to bolster local level mass care capabilities. This includes the Commonwealth Managed Sheltering program, trained Disaster Human Services Response Team, sheltering and communications equipment, Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST), Disaster Accessibility Kits, and coordination support for disaster caused Feeding, Sheltering, and Disability related needs via operational/planning Task Forces.

Eyes in the Sky: How Drones are Revolutionizing Disaster Response

Robert Gerlach, *Training and Exercise Coordinator, Allegheny County Emergency Services*

This presentation provides an overview of drones and their importance in emergency management. It begins with a definition of drones and a brief overview of drone technology, emphasizing how drones can aid in emergency situations. The presentation then highlights the different types of drones used in emergency management and the advantages of each. The advantages of drones in emergency management include speed, safety, cost-effectiveness, flexibility, and versatility. Applications of drones in emergency management include search and rescue operations, damage assessment, wildfire management, flood response, tornado and hurricane response, chemical and biological disaster response, and earthquake response. The presentation also covers the legal and regulatory issues for drones in emergency management, including federal aviation administration regulations, state and local regulations, and privacy issues. The presentation includes case studies of drones used in emergency management during Hurricane Harvey, California wildfires, Nepal earthquake, and Fukushima nuclear disaster, and the future of drones in emergency management. It concludes by discussing the advancements in drone technology, the challenges and opportunities, and the integration of drones with other technologies. Overall, this presentation provides a comprehensive understanding of the role of drones in emergency management and how they can benefit communities during emergencies.

Flood Inundation Mapping Services for Pennsylvania

Alicia Miller, *Senior Service Hydrologist, National Weather Service Pittsburgh*

Charles Ross, *Senior Service Hydrologist, National Weather Service State College*

For over two decades, the emergency management community and other government officials have articulated a growing need for real-time, detailed, actionable, street-level Flood Inundation Maps (FIM) depicting the extent, depth, and infrastructure impacted by flood waters. This year the National Weather Service (NWS) Offices in State College, Pittsburgh, Binghamton, and the Middle Atlantic and Ohio River Forecast Centers are part of an initiative with the NWS National Water Center to be one of the first regions in the country to provide FIM services to our regions, including the state of Pennsylvania. Our presentation will give an overview of NWS FIM services and how to use this information to help make decisions.

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Future Threats in Public Health Preparedness

Nate Wardle, *Special Response/Projects Manager, Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response*

In a post-COVID-19 pandemic world, there are many threats that exist in public health. Our world is more interconnected than it has ever been, and with that ease of travel, comes the ability for emerging infectious diseases to affect the world in a short time period. Beyond pandemics and diseases, the effects of climate change threaten to change the way that public health delivers services. Extreme heat will become an issue that is pervasive across the United States. Flooding will continue to leave communities, and their vital health services crippled, and will occur with increasing frequency. Manmade incidents such as acts of violence on healthcare providers, cyber attacks on health care institutions and more are leading to workforce shortages. However, our all-hazards planning, and continued relationship building coming out of the pandemic response sets us at a place to address these issues head-on in Pennsylvania, with the collaboration of our colleagues in emergency management.

Hybrid EOC: Lessons Learned and Takeaways in a Post-Pandemic World

Steve Imbarlina, *Assistant Chief of Fire and EMS, Allegheny County Emergency Services*
Matthew Brown, *Chief, Allegheny County Emergency Services*

This session will describe how a transition to a virtual EOC during the pandemic has led to the concept of not just future virtual EOCs, but leveraging this technology to work in a hybrid virtual/in person formats. Establishing and merging EOCs from multiple levels of government and getting private sector and Non Government Organizations into the hybrid EOC will strengthen the public/private partnership that is needed to ensure that all stakeholders are represented. Hybrid EOCs can easily transition through all phases of coordination, response and recovery efforts from incident occurrence through final demobilization and recovery, for both planned and unplanned events.

ICE-ICE BABY 2018

Michelle Dietrich, *Director, Union County Emergency Management Agency*

Response to an Ice Jam in 2018 that stranded more than 300 residents. Facing the Challenges of what took place on a holiday weekend and how overcoming those challenges can lead to challenges in the future based on how the Ice Jam was resolved and what the future expectations are to resolve such situations.

Improving Your Preparedness With Actionable After Action Reviews

Scott Mickalonis, *Director, System Emergency Management and Business Continuity, Penn State Health*

Last fall, Penn State Health's west region hospitals experienced several significant incidents in a short timeframe, that required internal and external stakeholder response and coordination. Of the events that occurred, each one impacted the organization in different ways and for varying lengths of time. However, there were several issues that were noted in each incident that created a need for the organization to formally review plans, policies and processes. Through best practices, the organization conducted and participated in After Action Review's (AAR's) internally and externally, where numerous improvements were recognized. As a part of regulatory

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compliance and with a desire to improve, the organization worked to develop a way to validate improvement strategies and insure identified corrective action resolution.

The organization developed a consolidated correction action improvement planning process utilizing data and technology to track improvement status among varying and diverse stakeholders. The organization continues to build an understanding of areas of common reoccurrence across the different events with a goal of mitigating known issues, so they won't reoccur. The team leverages this resource to work alongside partners from across the organization, track progress of improvement action items and document compliance, with the goal of becoming a more prepared, compliant and resilient organization.

Incident Management - Beyond ICS

Tim Riecker, Partner, *Emergency Preparedness Solutions, LLC*

The Incident Command System (ICS) provides an important foundation to incident management by grounding us in standards, providing structure and processes which help mitigate against the fact that all incidents themselves are unique. Our greatest obstacle to effective incident management, however, is overreliance on ICS. ICS is not the solution to incident management – it's a tool. For incident management to be truly effective, we need to think beyond ICS.

Effective incident management requires proven leadership and management skills at all levels, not just of the incident commander. Further, effective incident management requires a grasp of emergency management, especially an awareness of plans and capabilities of partner agencies and organizations. Incident managers must also understand the fundamentals of project management and apply them within the scope of incident action planning and execution of those plans.

Incident management is also a technical skill, and one that can diminish over time. To maintain proficiency, it requires use, practice, and continued training to learn new approaches and tools. This presentation will discuss all these factors and more to support a more comprehensive perspective of incident management, beyond ICS.

Including People with Disabilities in Emergency Preparation

George Palmer, *Executive Director, The Center for Independent Living of South Central PA*

Individuals with Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs are disproportionately affected by disasters. Emergency alerts and messaging may not be accessible to all individuals. Community members, including those with disabilities, may not be adequately prepared for emergencies and disaster. Resources available during a disaster may be inadequate to support those with disabilities, especially those who require specialized equipment or personnel to support their activities of daily living.

People with Disabilities should be included in Emergency and Disaster Preparedness. This necessitates the creation of partnerships between Disability subject matter experts and emergency management at all levels. This ensures that consideration for these needs is “baked into” everything we do instead of “layered on” as an afterthought.

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Disability stakeholders are non-traditional disaster responders who may be able to provide resources you might never have imagined. Building partnerships pre-disaster will help you meet the needs of people with disabilities when it matters the most. In this session, you will learn how to identify and involve appropriate disability stakeholder groups to plan inclusively for the whole community. We will discuss best practices for training and exercises, planning, and response.

Integrating Section 406 Hazard Mitigation into Public Assistance Grants

Michael Oppenheim, *Pennsylvania Project Manager, Public Assistance Disaster Operations, FEMA Region 3*
Drew Bumbak, *Disaster Operations Coordinator, FEMA Region 3*

As more frequent disasters occur, FEMA has looked to multiple methods to build communities back more resilient for future weather events under the Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation programs. During a declaration, Section 406 under the Stafford Act authorizes Public Assistance to fund certain cost-effective Hazard Mitigation measures in the repair of event damaged structures to prevent repetitive damage in the future. This presentation will go over previous examples and potential avenues future applicants could consider for integrating Section 406 Hazard Mitigation into their recovery process.

Interagency Recovery Coordination: Bringing Partner and Stakeholders to the Table to Support Post-Disaster Recovery

Wynne Kwan, *Community Assistance (CA) Coordinator, FEMA*

With the recent focus on long-term recovery from the White House for disaster operations from Kentucky to Florida, federal interagency teams, known as recovery support functions (RSFs), are being sent earlier to the disaster operations to support long-term recovery. But what are the RSFs and what do they do to support long-term recovery in communities post-disaster? Does Pennsylvania have these in place too, and what do they do? And, what can communities do now, pre-disaster, to ensure similar structures are in place at the local level to help them plan and manage recovery post-disaster?

This presentation provides an overview of the key concepts of the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF), specifically the federal interagency coordination structure, the Recovery Support Functions (RSFs). The presentation will discuss the RSF activation process and how the RSFs work together and with state and local governments, as well as other organizations, to identify and address long-term recovery issues and challenges communities are facing post-disaster.

At the state level, the presentation will also discuss PA's established recovery coordination structure and how its commonwealth-level RSFs were stood up during the COVID-19 pandemic and how they operated to support recovery from the pandemic, as well as Hurricane Ida. Additionally, the presentation will discuss how PA's RSF structure was incorporated into the development of PA's Hazard Mitigation Plan, currently in the update process.

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It Starts with Education

Jim Reeder, *Director of Campus Safety and Security, Shady Side Academy*

This presentation will show how emergency managers can "Meet the Challenge of Tomorrow" by working with educational institutions and first responders to instill a sense of safety and preparedness in educational institutions' faculty, staff, and students. Building this sense of safety within educational institutions will lead to a safer environment inside and outside of educational institutions. Emergency managers can bridge the gap between educational institutions and first responders to help build solid partnerships. A good working relationship between educational leadership and first responders will assist educational leadership with preparing for emergency situations and allow educational leadership and first responders to grow and learn from each. This presentation will discuss some of the ways that I have incorporated this concept into my current position as Director of Campus Safety and Security at Shady Side Academy as well as discuss the importance of reaching out and building relationships with those in your community, especially first responders, prior to an incident or emergency taking place. The presentation will show how emergency managers can bring together educational leadership and many professional areas (business continuity, disaster planners, homeland security professionals, etc.) to assist educational institutions with promoting safety and preparing for an incident.

Lessons Learned from the Tree of Life Event

Alan Hausman, *Planner/President, City of Pittsburgh/Tree of Life Pgh*

This presentation provides an in-depth analysis of the challenges faced during the event and the strategies employed to overcome them. Attendees will gain insights into managing large-scale projects, including logistical constraints, resource allocation, and unforeseen circumstances. By drawing from real-world experiences, the presentation highlights the significance of adaptability, resilience, and effective problem-solving in the face of adversity. It showcases the role of a proactive mindset, strong teamwork, and strategic planning in successful event management. Additionally, participants will receive actionable takeaways, enabling them to enhance preparedness, strengthen risk management strategies, and improve project execution for future events. Ultimately, this thought-provoking session serves as a source of inspiration and guidance, equipping individuals and organizations with the necessary tools to thrive in challenging circumstances.

Meeting The Challenge of Tomorrow: Recruiting, Retaining, and Mentoring Gen Z

Allison McFarland, *Endowed Chair of Business, Bethel College (KS)*

While recognizing that each employee is an individual, broad traits have been observed about this the youngest individuals to enter the workforce: Generation Z. While Millennials were identified as driven, hyper-connected, and confident, your youngest employees are more likely to be uncertain, risk averse, anxious, and fearful of adulthood. Instead of looking ahead to a world of opportunities, Gen Z often sees an uncertain future. It is encouraging to note that members of Gen Z are open-minded, curious, compassionate, excited to learn, and eager to make a difference in the world. Regrettably, they are also more anxious and depressed, and exhibit a lower ability to cope with adversity than previous generations at the same age.

Changes in this generation have come faster than other generations. How do managers successfully recruit, retain, mentor and engage this generation of workers? Is it possible to align employer and Gen Z expectations regarding work expectations? Effective leadership is inextricably connected to change. Are you prepared to

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adapt to these unique and evolving challenges? This presentation will provide tangible content and immediate application related to these questions.

Mental Health First Aid

Michelle Ufner, *Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC)*

Diane Rodriguez-Cochran, *Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), National Certified Counselor (NCC)*

More than 20 million Americans experience a mental health challenge in any given year. In a world that sometimes makes it feel impossible to ask for help, it's up to all of us in Emergency Management to know when and how to offer it to co-workers, friends, or family. During the course, you will learn how to recognize the signs and symptoms that suggest a potential mental health challenge, how to listen nonjudgmentally and give assurance to a person who may be experiencing a mental health challenge, and how to refer someone to appropriate professional support and services. With an accurate view of mental health challenges and using a strengths-based holistic perspective, you can help others to help themselves. This is an all day workshop.

Mitigating Vulnerabilities and Protecting Our Schools for Tomorrows Challenges

Michael Smith, *Lead Assessor/Subject Matter Expert, Tetra Tech*

School safety is a critical issue that affects millions of students, parents, and educators across the world. Unfortunately, many schools face vulnerabilities that compromise the safety of students, staff, and the community. Understanding these vulnerabilities is critical to creating a safe learning environment and protecting students from harm.

One of the most common vulnerabilities in school safety is the lack of effective access control measures. Schools must have robust access control protocols that limit access to the campus to authorized personnel only. This can include visitor sign-in processes, surveillance systems, and access control technology like ID cards or biometric systems.

Another significant vulnerability is the lack of emergency preparedness planning, specifically threat assessment planning. Schools must develop and implement comprehensive emergency plans that cover a wide range of potential threats, including natural disasters, violence, and medical emergencies, but most importantly the potential threat that goes unnoticed because of a lack of a true Threat Assessment Plan. All these plans should involve collaboration with local law enforcement agencies and include regular drills and exercises to ensure that staff and students are well-prepared in the event of an emergency.

In conclusion, schools must address these vulnerabilities to ensure that students and staff are safe and secure. By implementing effective vulnerability assessments that address possible issues with access control measures and emergency preparedness planning, schools can create a safer and more secure learning environment for all.

Navigating EM Procurement Planning to Your Advantage

Gary Scronce, *Sr. Director - International Homeland Security and Emergency Management, IEM*

Whether you have had experience with it or not, you/your agency is going to need to procure equipment and/or services at some point. Climate change is driving more severe natural disaster events everywhere, changing the

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risk landscape and new threats arise like cybersecurity that you will not have in house expertise to help your community prepare. The goal of this session is to make your emergency management program better by helping you succeed every time you procure equipment or a service. A logical process will be laid out and discussed.

Not Being Heard - Gaps in Communication for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Populations During Emergency Response.

Melissa Hawkins, *Director, Pennsylvania Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing*

During an emergency, communication is vital. It can mean life and death. It is important that people know what is happening, when it will happen, and what steps they are expected to take. Traditional information channels leave dangerous gaps in communication. Interpreters are left off camera shots, non-qualified interpreters are used, captions are not always used and this leaves the deaf and hard of hearing populations at extreme risk. We will address best practices, dos and don'ts as well as effective communication in uncontrolled environments. First responders, agencies and attendees will walk away with better understanding of how they can communicate to ensure deaf and hard of hearing receive information.

Overnight Sheltering for Those with Disabilities and Access and Functional Needs

Joe Geleta, *Director, NJ Dept. of Human Services*

Carole Tonks, *Executive Director, Alliance Center for Independence*

This session will provide information on conducting a shelter simulation exercise that involves the disabilities and access and functional needs community. With the "whole community" approach you will learn about how to conduct this exercise and more importantly how to identify weaknesses in your sheltering plan and improve upon them using additional organizations and/or resources.

Partnerships with Community-Based Organizations in Disaster Response and Recovery

Joe Geleta, *Director, NJ Dept. of Human Services*

In emergency management it is very important to build partnerships in the communities we serve. This session is designed to discuss the importance of partnering with Community Organizations such as the Rotary, Masons, Elks, American Legion and others in order to support your disaster response and recovery operations. Learn how these organizations can build upon the great work they all do while at the same time supporting your emergency management mission.

Private Sector Integration to Emergency Management at the Local Level

Cody Santiago, *Director of Emergency Management, County of York, PA*

The private sector owns and operates most of the critical infrastructure and key resources that are relied upon during large-scale and complex incidents. They also have access to systems and inventories of resources that many public sector entities may not have. The key to overcoming atypical resource needs during an incident is to have well-established relationships and lines of communication with private sector partners. Join this session to learn how to integrate the private sector into your emergency management program.

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Realistic Emergency Preparedness Training: Role-Playing in a Miniature City

Michael Krzeminski, *Instructor, Allegheny County Emergency Services / Fire Academy*

Experience a unique approach to emergency preparedness with a realistic training exercise that goes beyond the typical tabletop exercises. In this exercise, participants assume roles relevant to their real-world titles and engage in simulated emergency scenarios in a miniature city complete with detailed structures, industries, and infrastructure.

With constantly changing and growing experiences and events that can be simulated, this training engages everyone from entry-level firefighters to emergency managers and elected officials. Participants can encounter both simple and complex scenarios that involve discussion, critique, and learning.

This training exercise proves that there are many correct ways to accomplish the basic mission of saving lives and protecting property. Moreover, it emphasizes proactivity, which is a key goal of first responders and emergency management. As Sun Tsu famously said, "Every battle is won before it is fought." Participating in this exercise, you can be fully prepared in the relative comfort of a classroom and the compressed space of a model town. Take your emergency preparedness to the next level.

Right-wing Narratives Associated with Cognitive Predictors of Radicalization: Direct User-Engagement Drives Radicalization

Julius Calvert, *Junior Research Fellow, The American Counterterrorism Targeting & Resilience Institute*

This presentation will cover our study which aimed to investigate the ecological nature of extremism online. Cognitive radicalization is defined as a gradual, nonlinear adherence to an ideology or movement to a degree of great extremity. A sizable number of empirical investigations into the processes of cognitive extremism have revealed social exclusion, cognitive inflexibility, and perceived threats to one's ingroup as significant predictors for one's propensity to experience cognitive radicalization. In this study, the construction of a far-right ecosystem was successful using a sample of posts each with separate narrative domains. Most of the content expressed anti-black racism and pro-white sentiments. Many posts expressed an overt disdain for the recent progress made regarding the United States, and the United Kingdom's expansion of civil liberties to people of color (POC). Implications for PVE/CVE will be discussed.

Strategic Planning for Emergency Services Organizations

Jerry Ozog, *Executive Director, Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute*

This course will provide necessary information for effective decision making at the local level. Townships, Boroughs and emergency service organizations serve diverse communities volunteers and increased costs. This training seminar will use lecture, small group discussions, and facilitated brainstorming to identify solutions to sustain or improve fire service in your community.

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Supporting Emergency Medical & Healthcare Systems Across the Commonwealth

Chris Anderson, *President, Special Medical Response Team*

Chris Chamberlain, *PA-SMAT Deputy Team Lead, Special Medical Response Team*

The Special Medical Response Team (SMRT) is a volunteer non-profit emergency services organization focused in providing good medicine in bad places. As SMRT approaches its 40th anniversary, its focus and capabilities have grown. With its inception to provide advanced life support to the mining industry in its underground environment through a contract with the DEP Bureau of Mine Safety, the Team has grown to now sponsor the Pennsylvania State Medical Assistance Team (PA-SMAT) through an agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA-DOH) Bureau of Emergency Preparedness and Response (BEPR) and assistance from the regional Healthcare Coalitions (HCCs). SMRT additionally is a participating agency for rescue technicians under the Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (PA-HART) sponsored by Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA). The Team supports the capabilities of the Pennsylvania Urban Search and Rescue Strike Team (PA-ST 1) and serves as a participating agency for members to the Pennsylvania Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 1 (PA-TF 1). With the support through all these relationships, SMRT is able to provide specialized assets and personnel to assist the emergency organizations across the Commonwealth to care for its citizens and support the healthcare system.

Swatting Trends, Response, and Mitigations

Ashley Bleacher, *Intelligence Analyst Supervisor, PSP, PaCIC*

Mackenzie Monarko, *Private Sector Coordinator, Federal Bureau of Investigation*

This joint presentation by the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center and Federal Bureau of Investigation will provide emergency management personnel an understanding of swatting, common identifiers, tactics, and trends, offering both a Pennsylvania-specific and national-level perspective. Swatting is not new; however, given the inherent dangers associated with swatting calls and recent upticks in incidents, it is essential that emergency management personnel be informed and prepared for an incident. The presentation will also offer suggestions for emergency management professionals to help respond to and mitigate swatting incidents.

The Emergency Manager and the Jurisdiction: Exploring the Relationship Between Emergency Management Leaders and Elected Officials

George Schwartz, *Program Director, Immaculata University*

Borrowing from Civil-Military Relations (CMR) theory, this presentation will introduce participants to concepts associated with the relationship between emergency management (EM) leaders and elected officials. The latter are responsible for establishing priorities and making key decisions for their municipalities, but the political realities of our democratic system factor into their decision-making. Conversely, their EM leaders have the professional expertise and (often) the institutional knowledge to resolve emergencies in the most effective manner but are obligated to carry out the decisions made by the elected officials. EM leaders also generally have limited authority, but have a tremendous amount of responsibility during a disaster, so much so that EM leaders may be scapegoated afterwards if the public believes that the municipality's response was lacking.

This interactive presentation will familiarize participants with various CMR models to help them frame their own relationships with elected officials and discuss the challenges. Emphasis will be given to the professional ethics

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of EM leaders in challenging situations. Participants will also be invited to participate in research to better understand the unique relationship between EM Professionals and elected officials.

The Importance of Disaster Legal Services in Response & Recovery

Charles Burrows, *Regional Disaster Relief Staff Attorney, Legal Aid of Southeastern PA (LASP)*

Marion Hoffman Fraley, *Communications Director, Legal Aid of Southeastern PA (LASP)*

Lawyers play a critical role in disaster response and recovery. Survivors of natural disasters may face a wide variety of legal issues, including document replacement, utility shutoffs, landlord/tenant disputes, FEMA applications and recoups, and so much more. Lawyers can work collaboratively with VOAD members and emergency managers to offer a holistic approach to disaster recovery. Raising awareness of disaster legal aid services to the public at large as well as with volunteer organizations and public agencies is crucial in ensuring rapid response to natural disasters. Join Legal Aid of Southeastern PA (LASP) to learn about the importance of disaster legal services, promoting disaster legal services through communications, and how volunteer lawyers and nonprofit legal aid organizations can bolster disaster recovery in Pennsylvania.

The Next Generation of Emergency Management and Homeland Security: The AI Revolution

Robert Gerlach, *Training and Exercise Coordinator, Allegheny County Emergency Services*

This presentation focuses on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in emergency management. It begins with an overview of emergency management and emphasizes the importance of using AI in this field. The presentation then delves into the definition of AI, its different types, and the various applications of AI in emergency management. The use of AI in disaster preparedness, emergency response, and post-disaster recovery is explained, with a detailed discussion of predictive analytics for disaster planning, AI-powered risk assessment, automated emergency response planning, real-time situational awareness, AI for resource allocation, and AI for decision-making during emergencies. The presentation also covers the challenges and opportunities in using AI in emergency management, best practices for implementing AI, ethical considerations, and the importance of collaboration and communication. Furthermore, the presentation showcases case studies of successful implementation of AI in emergency management and real-life scenarios showcasing the benefits of AI. The potential advancements in AI for emergency management and future outlook for AI-based emergency management are also discussed. The presentation concludes with a recap of the key takeaways and the significance of using AI in emergency management.

The Night I Almost Jumped: EMS and the Stigma of Mental Health

Matthew Giacopelli, *Paramedic, First Capital EMS*

Mental health - the elephant in every Emergency Services station and dispatch center. Mental health - the taboo subject no one talks about. Well, not anymore. We're going to have a talk about why Matt had a bout of depression that nearly ended his life. We are going to talk about some of our brothers and sisters who are no longer with us because they lost their battle with their demons. What is the extent of the problem? What's being done about it? We're going to talk about the stigma, and how to break it. We're going to learn how to cope, how to be resilient. Above all, we are going to learn it's ok to not be ok, and it's ok to talk about all of this. Because this time, the life we save may be our own.

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The Wild and Wacky World of (Federal) Agricultural Emergency Management

Michael Sharon, *Chief, Emergency Programs Division, USDA Office of Homeland Security*

USDA is much more than just Emergency Support Function 11! Did you know that USDA supports hazard mitigation, community recovery, and critical infrastructure protection? This presentation will illustrate some of USDA's wide-ranging disaster missions and provide attendees with information about USDA programs that are available for all phases of emergency management.

Think Analytically, Politically, and Critically - An Emergency Leaders Mindset

Jerome Ozog, *Executive Director, PFESI*

This session will use concepts from the National Fire Academy's Leadership in Supervision curriculum and apply them to Pennsylvania's diverse emergency services landscape. Using discussion focused instruction, attendees will create a personal plan as a supervisor or leader based on thinking perspectives presented. We will discuss current challenges and present tools to increase personal effectiveness.

Thinking Outside the Silo: An Integrate Approach to Emergency Management Planning, Training, and Exercise

Heather Stem, *Senior Associate, Emergency Manager, The Olson Group, Ltd.*

Anthony Mangeri, *Assistant Vice President - Mitigation & Resilience, The Olson Group, Ltd.*

The COVID-19 pandemic has, in many ways, highlighted the limitations of traditional emergency management and our approaches to preparedness. Current trends have shown the need and value in integrating outside of silos of planning, training, and exercise. The presentation aims to inspire emergency managers to explore the benefits of an integrated approach by providing actionable steps to help implement it successfully. Furthermore, to provide insights and best practices for organizations seeking to implement an integrated approach to emergency management by highlighting success stories, funding opportunities, and the importance of collaboration to build stronger partnerships and improve emergency preparedness efforts.

Understanding Legislative Advocacy and Outreach

Jerry Ozog, *Executive Director, Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Service Institute*

John Brenner, *Executive Director, Pennsylvania League of Municipalities*

Communication with your local state elected representatives on public safety matters is important because they have the power to enact laws and policies that directly affect your community. As their constituent, your input and concerns are important to them and can help shape their decisions to ensure that public safety issues are addressed effectively. Advocating to elected state representatives on public safety legislation is also an important way for local and county emergency managers to ensure that their communities have the resources and support they need to stay safe.

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Understanding Radiological Hazards: Ask a Nuclear Engineer

Gary Scronce, Sr. Director, *International Homeland Security and Emergency Management, IEM*

Unless you specifically had a need to study it somewhere during your schooling or career, chances are that radioactive and nuclear hazards are a little bit vague and your understanding of them may be limited. This session is intended to give you a strong starting point for planning for or responding to a radiological incident or accidental release in your community. In addition to providing a baseline of essential information, there will be time set aside for questions and a list of resources for emergency managers will be provided.

What Impact Will This Have? - Utilizing GIS and GIS Data in Hazard Mitigation Planning

Adam Leister, *Senior GIS Consultant, MCM Consulting Group, Inc.*

Daniel Becker, *Consultant, MCM Consulting Group, Inc.*

This presentation will cover GIS and its use in hazard mitigation risk assessment and vulnerability assessment. This presentation will cover open data sources for hazard mitigation planning and the use of datasets in determining how a hazard will impact a community and what the vulnerability is for a community. This presentation will also discuss the new definition for community lifelines in hazard mitigation and how those locations can be determined using research and data sources.

What Kind of Resilience Innovator Are You?

Nia D'Emilio, *Learning & Events Coordinator, Epicenter Innovation*

Both resilience and innovation come in all shapes, sizes and ...types! In this 60-min session, you will learn about first-of-its-kind research that explores the ten "types" of Resilience Innovators active in the field of emergency management. You'll explore how your unique type can help you save lives in your community, be more effective at work, and create more innovative & resilient teams. Attendees will be given free access to the Resilience Innovator Type Assessment (RITA) so they can continue their professional development after the session.

Whole Community Response to Environmental- Technology Caused Disaster

Laurin Fleming, *Emergency Management Specialist, PEMA*

John Blickley, *Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, Schuylkill County Emergency Management Agency*

While many people have had experience with natural disasters, far fewer have experience with Environmental-Technology Caused Disaster. This presentation will help participants expand their awareness of what an Environmental-Technology Caused Disaster is and how a community can respond to it. The experienced leaders will be joined by PAVOAD Communications Coordinator, Karl Jones, who also serves as the co-convenor of the national United Church of Christ Environmental-Technology Disaster Working Group. Environmental-Technology Caused Disasters can be slow to develop, slow to recognize, and their impact can be felt for generations. They also can happen quickly and without warning. In either case, they can devastate a community. This presentation will provide an overview of Environmental-Technology Caused Disasters and suggest appropriate response strategies, based on real-life situations.

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Conference Faculty

Cesar Allen

Physician Assistant, *3rd WMD CST*

Cesar Allen has served in the PA Army National Guard for over 20 years. He started his military career in the Marines with the Chemical Biological Incident Response Force. After his initial tour was completed, Cesar transferred to the PAARNG where he became a Survey Team Member of the 3rd CST in the early 2000's. He then decided to go to school to become a Physician Assistant. After completing PA school and spending a few years honing his skills, Cesar found his way back to the 3rd CST as the unit Physician Assistant. The vast amount of knowledge Cesar brings to the unit is a force multiplier in itself. His understanding of CBRN topics paired with the medical management and identification of agents based on signs and symptoms of patients is unmatched. Cesar has completed countless hours of specialized training and clinical work which is an immense value to the unit. He recently continued to expand his knowledge by completing his PhD in his medical field. Cesar has been an asset to the 3rd CST by fostering outreach opportunities, relating with local hospitals and encouraging joint training exercises to focus on WMD reactions and medical management.

Thomas Alsted

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, *Emergency Health Services Federation*

Tom is the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Emergency Health Services Federation. In this role, he serves as the EMS Coordinator / Representative for the Keystone and Central Region HCC Region and works closely with the SCTF & SCMRTF on various projects.

During Tom's 35+ year career in Emergency Services, he's worked as a Paramedic and TEMS Element Leader for the Pennsylvania State Police SERT and York County QRT, a Municipal Police Officer and Emergency Management Coordinator for a regional EM Program within the EPZ of the Three Mile Island power generation station.

Tom is a member of the South Central Task Force AHIMT and participates in several HCC committees. Tom lives in South Central PA with his wife and two amazing kids. He enjoys fly fishing, hiking and being outdoors.

Chris Anderson

President, *Special Medical Response Team*

Christopher S. Anderson, BA, EMT-P is the President of the Special Medical Response Team (SMRT), a volunteer non-profit medical organization assisting emergency services and healthcare organizations across the Commonwealth. Chris additionally serves as the Team Lead for the Pennsylvania State Medical Assistance Team (PA-SMAT) that is managed by SMRT. He services as an administrator for the organizations as well as other operations and administrative roles. His full-time employment is as an Organ Donor Referral Coordinator with the Center for Organ Recovery and Education (CORE) - the organ procurement organization based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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Mr Anderson began his 20+ year career in emergency services at Ambulance Service Management Corporation with Citizens' Ambulance Service as an EMT and continues to service as a faculty member and paramedic. Since then he has expanded his emergency services career to work at Indiana County EMA as a 9-1-1 dispatcher and then Logistics Coordinator with service on the ICEMA's Team 900 as a rescue and hazmat technician. Since then Chris has furthered his background in emergency services as a member of the PA Strike Team 1 - currently as a Logistics Specialist.

John Banghoff

Meteorologist, *National Weather Service State College*

John Banghoff is a meteorologist with a passion for the interaction between communication, emergency preparedness, disaster response, and weather education. Over the course of his career, John has accumulated extensive experience in on-site weather support activities including Columbus Crew Soccer Club events, the Little League World Series, Flight 93 National Memorial 9/11 Ceremonies, and Creation Festival Northeast. He has also led numerous coordination efforts between NWS State College and core partners, including a Snow Squall Safety campaign in collaboration with PennDOT, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, PA State Police, and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, and an effort to better understand and forecast dewpoint bombs, which occur on days with a well-mixed boundary layer where dewpoints drop well-below guidance.

Daniel Becker

Consultant, *MCM Consulting Group, Inc.*

Daniel Becker is a consultant with MCM Consulting Group, Inc. Daniel has been with MCM Consulting Group, Inc. since 2021 and is part of the emergency management team.

Ashley Bleacher

Intelligence Analyst Supervisor, *PSP, PaCIC*

Intelligence Analyst Supervisor (IAS) Ashley Bleacher has served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in various roles since 2009. Prior to joining the Pennsylvania State Police in 2018, IAS Bleacher served in the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry's Office of Integrity, and prior to that was employed as an analyst with the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, focused primarily on insurance fraud and Pennsylvania Board of Pardons matters. IAS Bleacher has been assigned to the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center's (PaCIC) Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR) Unit since 2018. The CIKR unit is engaged in information sharing among criminal justice agencies and owners and operators of critical infrastructure and key resources throughout Pennsylvania with the fundamental responsibility of safeguarding our communities.

IAS Bleacher holds a bachelor's and master's degree in criminal justice from Kutztown University and Penn State University, respectively. She is a member of the International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts and has received basic and advanced intelligence analysis training, along with a myriad of training in critical infrastructure, homeland security, and domestic security.

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John Blickley

Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, *Schuylkill County Emergency Management Agency*

John Blickley is the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator at Schuylkill County Emergency Management. He also serves as the co-chair of the Schuylkill County Community Organizations Active in Disaster (SCCOAD). John is a 2001 graduate of the University of New Haven with a BS in Fire School Administration and AS in Fire & Occupational Safety. John started with the Schuylkill County Emergency Management Agency in 2002 and has served in various roles, including the response to the deadly accident on I-81 during a snow squall in 2022.

John Brenner

Executive Director, *Pennsylvania League of Municipalities*

John Brenner is the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Municipal League. Prior to John's employment with the PML, John served as 23rd Mayor for the City of York, Pennsylvania from 2001 through 2008. John has a bachelor's degree in political science from Lebanon Valley College and a master's degree in government administration from the University of Pennsylvania. John has been a longtime advocate in public safety and has served many years in the fire service.

Matthew Brown

Chief, *Allegheny County Emergency Services*

Matthew (Matt) Brown, CEM, CFPS – Chief, Allegheny County Department of Emergency Services (9-1-1 Communications, Fire Marshal, Fire Academy, EMA (EMS, Hazardous Materials, Homeland Security/Law Enforcement, Fire/Logistics). Chief Brown has over 36 years of experience in emergency services, emergency management, industrial safety and hazardous materials, security, investigations and close protection. Chief Brown is also a Life member of Munhall Volunteer Fire Company #1 where he has held many ranks up to the level of Deputy Chief – Munhall Bureau of Fire and is currently a member of Glassport Citizen's Hose Company. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Phoenix and is a graduate of Steel Valley High School.

Michael Brown

President, *O.W.O.W., Inc.*

Dr. Michael Brown is the president of the non-profit policy institute One World One Way, Inc. This policy institute provides consultation on emergency operations plans, business continuity plans for private-public industry, conducts lectures and presentations on disaster and emergency management, homeland security, counter-terrorism, critical infrastructure protection, and social equity. The organization promotes the building of resilient, sustainable communities using hazard mitigation, environmental justice and social equity. He provides guidance on unmanned aircraft systems and protection of critical infrastructure to strengthen communities. Dr. Brown served in the United States Air Force as a combat crew member nuclear weapons officer, intelligence operations specialist, and executive support officer. He has a Master Certification in Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) and is a certified associate emergency manager (AEM). He's taught at Park University and served as Core Faculty Emergency Management Professor at Capella University's School of Public Service Schools of Leadership. There he was Chair Faculty Review Panel, Chair Designee Dissertation Topic approver for all

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emergency management dissertations and capstones. He is the co-author of the books “Transforming Disaster Response: Federalism and Leadership, and Environmental Justice and Resilience in an Age of Uncertainty.”

Drew Bumbak

Disaster Operations Coordinator, *FEMA Region 3*

Drew Bumbak has been the Disaster Operations Coordinator for FEMA Region 3’s Mitigation Division for the past three years. In this role, he has deployed to lead Mitigation field operations as the Mitigation Branch Director for multiple disasters in Region 3. In these deployments, Drew has worked closely with PA personnel, state representatives, and applicants to include Section 406 Mitigation on a significantly larger number of projects than ever before in Region 3.

Drew’s previous experience is varied and includes advising on emergency management for local, state, and federal agencies, private sector organizations, and foreign governments over the past 20 years. He was involved in the planning for and response to multiple events of national significance, including the USDA APHIS responses to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and other animal disease outbreaks since 2015.

Charles Burrows

Regional Disaster Relief Staff Attorney, *Legal Aid of Southeastern PA (LASP)*

Charles L. Burrows, Esq. is the Regional Disaster Relief Staff Attorney for Legal Aid of Southeastern PA (LASP) in the Community Engagement Unit. Charles is based out of LASP’s Norristown office. Along with providing direct legal services in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery counties, his role in the Community Engagement Unit includes conducting outreach, clinics, community education, and workshops on disaster legal services in Southeastern PA.

A native of Hazleton, PA, Charles has spent his career working in the public sector to connect people in need with resources and funding. Prior to joining LASP, he served as Senior Constituent Services Advisor for Pennsylvania House Speaker Joanna McClinton, where he served the 191st Legislative District of PA by bringing together community partners, including legal aid organizations, to address constituent needs.

Charlie holds a J.D. from Villanova University Charles Widger School of Law. He also holds a B.S. in Management and B.A. in Political Science from Penn State University’s Schreyer Honors College. He serves as a member of the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Young Lawyers Division Executive Committee and the Montgomery Bar Association.

Julius Calvert

Junior Research Fellow, *The American Counterterrorism Targeting & Resilience Institute*

Julius is a current student in the Department of Political Science at Texas State University and an incoming MSc student in Cognition & Cognitive Neuroscience at Keele University. His main area of research interests focuses on the cognitive processes involved in affective radicalization, prejudice, and the neural components of facial processing. Mr. Calvert’s journey as an undergraduate researcher within the College of Liberal Arts has allowed him to cultivate his long-held interest in the etiology of violent crime, political attitudes, and irregular warfare. Julius holds a passion for integrating empiricism into responsible government management. Throughout his

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career, he aims to build upon the emerging field of political neuroscience, and further aid developments of applied computational modeling of prejudiced and extreme decision-making.

Chris Chamberlain

PA-SMAT Deputy Team Lead, *Special Medical Response Team*

Chris Chamberlain currently serves as the Deputy Team Leader for the Pennsylvania State Medical Assistance Team (PA-SMAT). He is employed as the Vice President of Emergency Management for the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania, where he works to support hospitals, post-acute facilities, and public health emergency preparedness.

He has over twenty-five years of clinical and emergency management experience with several Pennsylvania healthcare systems as an emergency preparedness coordinator, flight nurse, emergency department manager, and nursing educator. Additionally, Chris has served in various roles including firefighter, paramedic, fire command officer, and instructor and continues to maintain certification in these areas.

Chris received his Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Lycoming College and his Master's Degree in Disaster Medicine and Management from Philadelphia University, now Thomas Jefferson University. He is an alumnus of the United States Department of Homeland Security's Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama. He is recognized by the International Board for Certification Services and Management as a Certified Healthcare Emergency Professional (CHEP) and by the Pennsylvania Department of Health as a certified Pre-Hospital Registered Nurse. He is a certified Fire Officer and holds an Extra Class FCC Amateur Radio License.

Christopher Confalone

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, *Eastern PA EMS Council*

Christopher Confalone serves as one of the three Pennsylvania EMS Emergency Preparedness Coordinators (EPCs). EPCs are responsible for the maintenance and deployment of statewide Department of Health assets including a fleet of 60 trailer-based resources with Casualty Collection Points, Medical Surge Equipment Cache, generators and mobile HVAC solutions. The EPCs coordinate the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania EMS Strike Team. They also provide exercise development and conduct for EMS agencies and our FEMA Whole Community partners.

Christopher has served in EMS for over 30 years and progressed through the certifications of First Responder, EMT-Mast, National Registered Paramedic and Flight Paramedic (FP-C). He has held positions in EMS Education, Quality Improvement, and Operations Management. Christopher continually seeks solutions to close the gap between EMS, Emergency Management, and Preparedness Planning.

Nia D'Emilio

Learning & Events Coordinator, *Epicenter Innovation*

Nia D'Emilio is a professional who is motivated by the growing need to educate the public about the importance of emergency management. She is currently the Learning & Events Coordinator for Epicenter Innovation, an emergency management consulting group that specializes in training, staffing, and professional development.

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In this role, she oversees the company's Resilience Innovator Learning Lab, which includes designing workshops, writing courses, and moderating virtual learning events. Additionally, she serves on the board for the Emergency Management Growth Initiative (EMGI), a nonprofit focused on growing and advancing the emergency management profession. Before her time in the emergency management field, she worked in the entertainment industry in a variety of roles in film and theater, and she has several production credits in both mediums. She has a B.A. in Religion from Denison University and an M.S. in Leadership for Creative Enterprises from Northwestern University.

Michelle Dietrich

Director, *Union County Emergency Management Agency*

Michelle Dietrich has 36 years of experience in Emergency Management. She started in EMA in 1988 as the Clerk/Typist and became Director in 2008. She serves as the North Central Taskforce Chair and has held that position since 2010. Michelle has some noteworthy awards such as the Presidential Lifetime Volunteer Award in 2007 by President George W. Bush, KEMA-Harry Robidoux Award for Excellence in Emergency Management in 2019, and was inducted into the Marquis Who's Who in Emergency Management in 2020 and in 2022 received a community service award from the Pennsylvania State Young Farmers Association, in which she now serves as President. She is very active in the community serving on various boards and organizations. She is an Emergency Medical Technician volunteering with two services within her county. She is married and has 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

Kevin Dippolito

Emergency Management Director, *Bristol Township Emergency Management*

Since 2005 Kevin has been employed full time as the Emergency Management Director, Fire Chief, & Fire Marshal in Bristol Township (Bucks County). Kevin is responsible for the Township's paid Fire Rescue Dept., the Office of the Fire Marshal, and the Office of Emergency Management. Kevin is also responsible for the coordination of (5) volunteer fire companies and (2) combination medical squads.

In addition, Kevin has been a member of the Fairless Hills Vol. Fire Co since 1986 where he served 25 consecutive years as a Chief Officer including 18 years as Deputy Chief 6 years as Chief and continues to serve as a training officer.

Kevin is an instructor for the Bucks County Community College teaching courses related to; NIMS, ICS, building construction, fire/arson investigations, engine & ladder co. ops., fire inspections/code enforcement, fire officer development, vehicle rescue and EMT programs. Kevin has also lectured nationally including FDIC in Indianapolis.

Kevin has served as the subject matter expert in the development of collegiate emergency services programs and to legal counsel. Kevin has obtained national and international certifications in firefighting & rescue operations and has received several unit citations and awards for various firefighting, rescue, and emergency management operations.

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Angela Emerick

Administrative Assistant, *Somerset County EMA*

Angela became the Administrative Assistant for Somerset County EMA in May of 2021. She began working on the development of the Somerset County Community Organizations Active in Disasters group in October 2021. Somerset County COAD held its kickoff meeting on April 20, 2022. December 2022 Angela completed a National Registry EMT training course and passed her skills exam in January 2023; the cognitive exam is scheduled for summer of 2023, after which she will begin to run with EMS in Somerset County. In 2023 Angela became a member of the KEMA Conference Planning Committee. Angela will continue to help head the Somerset County COAD, working to build partnerships with community organizations and community members as well as partner agencies at the local, state and federal levels.

Laurin Fleming

Emergency Management Specialist, *PEMA*

Laurin Fleming is currently working as an Emergency Management Specialist with Pennsylvania Emergency Management. At PEMA he is a radiological planner, trainer, and specialist working primarily with the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station and with radiological training across the state. In addition, he has 30 years past experience in Fire, Rescue, and EMS. He is currently a local EMC with over 40 years of experience, a Community Emergency Response Team Leader / Trainer and a Critical Incident Stress Management Team Leader. His deployments include response to Eric Frein and Flight 93.

Tyler Fotiou

Communications Section Chief, *3rd WMD CST*

Tyler Fotiou has been a member of the PA Army National Guard for 20 years and has served on the 3rd CST since 2008. He held a few positions on the team from Survey Team Member, Admin NCO, and is now the Communications Section Chief for the past five years. In addition to specialized training and certifications gained becoming a Survey Team member, Tyler is has spent over 1100 hours training and gaining certifications to become the unit's subject matter expert on communications equipment and procedures. As most issues arise from a failure to communicate, Tyler is relied on heavily to keep the unit connected to each other and our local response partners. Without his expertise and critical thinking during missions and emergency responses, the unit would not be able to function at such a high capacity. The unique and vast amount of communications assets equipped by the 3rd CST requires a true subject matter expert to effectively utilize all pieces harmoniously. This expertise is critical in helping to unify the CST with local emergency managers to ensure quick and correct resolution to hazardous responses.

Joe Geleta

Director, *NJ Dept. of Human Services*

Joe Geleta currently serves as the Director of Emergency Management for the NJ Department of Human Services. He is directly responsible for emergency management activities associated with the Department's 7 facilities and 10,000 employees. He serves as the State of New Jersey's Mass Care (Sheltering/Feeding/ Reunification/ Distribution of Emergency Supplies) lead during disaster response operations. He retired from

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the NJ State Police after 30 years of service and was leading New Jersey's Hurricane Sandy recovery effort along with our FEMA Colleagues. Upon his retirement he served as the Executive Director of the NJ211 Partnership. NJ211 is the statewide help and referral call center for those needing health or human service needs. Simply call 2-1-1 or visit www.nj211.org to get connected.

Robert Gerlach

Training and Exercise Coordinator, *Allegheny County Emergency Services*

Robert Gerlach is a highly experienced Emergency Management Specialist with over 25 years of expertise as an emergency services manager, provider, and instructor. Currently serving as the Training and Exercise Coordinator in the Division of Emergency Management for Allegheny County's Department of Emergency Services, he oversees emergency operations plans for the county's schools, municipalities, and childcare facilities. Additionally, Gerlach is a direct liaison with Allegheny County's emergency management coordinators, a representative for the area Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADS) and the Region 13 Training Subcommittee. Gerlach is a certified instructor for the PA Department of Health, PA State Fire Academy, and Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, and has completed multiple certifications, including the Professional Level PEMA County and FEMA Advanced Professional Series. Gerlach earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Administration of Justice from the University of Pittsburgh and a Master's degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Homeland Security from Capella University. Gerlach's extensive experience and educational background make him an invaluable asset to the emergency management community.

Matthew Giacobelli

Paramedic, *First Capital EMS*

Matt has been involved in EMS since 1991, starting as a volunteer at SUNY Maritime College, where he earned a degree in Meteorology and Oceanography. He earned EMT certification in 1992 and paramedic in 2000. Matt has worked in urban, suburban, and rural settings doing 911 and critical care transports, gaining experience in ground and air transport. And while he's been around a few different blocks, from New York City, to Long Island, to York, PA, a few times, he'll never say he's seen everything. Currently, he is a Paramedic with First Capital EMS in Yoe, PA.

Jonathan Guseman

Warning Coordination Meteorologist, *National Weather Service State College*

Jonathan Guseman has been a meteorologist with the National Weather Service for 13 years, including serving as the Warning Coordination Meteorologist for central PA since September 2020. He began his NWS career in Morristown, Tennessee as part of the Student Career Experience Program while earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from Valparaiso University, then transferred to the Melbourne, Florida forecast office in 2010 as a full-time Meteorologist. Jonathan headed west to the Great Plains in September 2012 as a General Forecaster with NWS Lubbock, Texas, before moving back east toward his hometown of Cincinnati in January 2016 as a Senior Forecaster with NWS Jackson. He was then promoted to the Warning Coordination Meteorologist position in eastern KY, before coming to the Keystone State. In this role, Jonathan is in charge of forecast and warning services for central PA and is the primary liaison between the NWS and all partners and customers served by the State College office. Outside of promoting weather education and safety, Jonathan

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enjoys traveling and spending time with his wife and two young daughters, while remaining an avid Cincinnati sports fan.

Amanda Hancher

Public Affairs Specialist, *FEMA*

Alan Hausman

Planner/President, *City of Pittsburgh/Tree of Life Pgh*

I have been involved in Public Safety for more than 30 years. I have also been involved in the Jewish community since I was a teenager. I have been an Board member and Officer of the Tree of Life Congregation for more than 10 years. I was elected President in July of 2022.

Melissa Hawkins

Director, *Pennsylvania Office for Deaf and Hard of Hearing*

Melissa Hawkins has served as the Director of the PA Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing since April 23, 2018.

Previously, she was the Executive Director of the Disability Empowerment Center (DEC) since 2013. DEC is a private, nonprofit, nonresidential organization and Center for Independent Living providing services and support to individuals in Lancaster and Lebanon counties. In 2014, Lancaster County Community Foundation selected Melissa as one of their Baldwin Fellows.

Melissa graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a bachelor's degree in Applied Behavioral Sciences. Her graduate studies include course work at Gallaudet University, as well as George Washington University. She graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University with a dual Master's of Science in Human Resources and Adult Learning and has earned a Certificate in Competence and Confidence Partners in Policymaking from Temple University.

Hawkins was recently awarded the Governors Award of Excellence for her work insuring the COVID Pandemic coverage was accessible for the Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deafblind population. She lives in New Cumberland PA with her husband and children.

Christine Heyser

Mass Care Coordinator, *PA Dept of Human Services*

Christine Heyser is the Commonwealth's Mass Care Coordinator with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services' (PADHS). She coordinates commonwealth-wide disaster Feeding and Sheltering Task Forces. Each engages hundreds of stakeholders including governmental partners at all levels, private sector partners, and voluntary organizations. The Feeding Task Force coordinated 5.1 million meals in response to COVID-19 related food insecurity and culturally appropriate meals for Afghan evacuees during Operation Allies Welcome.

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Prior to serving as Mass Care Coordinator, Christine was the Disaster Disability Integration Specialist for PADHS. Christine established the Disability Integration Task Force to engage disability and access and functional needs stakeholders in the emergency management lifecycle, improving inclusivity. Christine also established the Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST) program, a deployable asset that directly assists disaster survivors with access and functional needs.

Christine started her career with PADHS at the Adams County Assistance Office. Her background in building community partnerships began as an AmeriCorps member coordinating the Campus Kitchen at Gettysburg College and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in York County, PA. She has been a volunteer firefighter/EMT since 2002. Christine holds a B.S. in Health Sciences and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Gettysburg College. She resides in Gettysburg.

Marion Hoffman Fraley

Communications Director, *Legal Aid of Southeastern PA (LASP)*

Marion Hoffman Fraley is Communications Director at Legal Aid of Southeastern PA. She joined LASP in September 2017 as Communications Manager and was named director in January 2021. She coordinates media relations, manages the website, maintains LASP social media, writes and edits monthly e-news; and develops the Annual Report and other publications; among other responsibilities.

Previous roles included Director of Communications at The Haverford School; Publications Assistant at Westridge School for Girls in Pasadena, California; and state desk reporter and farm editor for the Marshfield News-Herald in central Wisconsin. In addition to covering four rural counties, she provided beat coverage of Marshfield schools and the Marshfield Board of Education and the 38-member Marathon County Board of Supervisors. For two summers, she interned at her hometown weekly newspaper in West Salem, Wisconsin (formerly the La Crosse County Countryman, now the Courier). Currently, she volunteers as president of the North Penn Educational Foundation Board of Trustees.

Marion holds a B.A. in journalism and political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a member of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), Philadelphia Public Relations Association (PPRA), Society for Professional Journalists (SPJ), and the Delaware County Press Club.

William Howard

Traffic Emergency Management Specialist, *Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission*

With more than a decade of emergency management experience, Bill Howard is the Traffic Emergency Management Specialist for the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. Bill oversees the Unmanned Aerial Systems program, the weather management program, and the hazardous materials response program. He is the lead planning chief for the Turnpike Command Center activations as well as the Lead Agency Representative for the PTC. He graduated from FEMA's National Emergency Management Advanced Academy in August 2022. He is also a professionally certified emergency manager from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. Bill is also an emergency management coordinator for three townships in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He enjoys spending time with his family, photography, and traveling.

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Steve Imbarlina

Assistant Chief of Fire and EMS, *Allegheny County Emergency Services*

Steve Imbarlina is the Assistant Chief of Fire and EMS for Allegheny County Emergency Services and is the Deputy EMC for Allegheny County. He has 32 years of emergency services, in fire, EMS and law enforcement. He holds a bachelor's degree in Emergency and Disaster Management, PEMA Professional Certification at the County level, and FEMA Advanced Professional series. He has over 20 years experience as a fire and emergency services instructor. As Deputy EMC he has worked several declared and undeclared disasters.

Keith Jack

Director of Facilities Operations, *Pennsylvania Turnpike Association*

Keith Jack is the Director of Facilities Operations at the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and is also the Chairperson for the Commission's Sustainability Committee. His duties include the day-to-day operations of the facilities department he has been with the commission for 20 plus years prior to that he was a Seabee with the US Navy. In 2014 he has named the Engineer of the Year by Pennsylvania Facilities Managers Association. He also served as the Adjutant of American Legion post 329.

Ceena Jenkins

Disaster Disability Integration Specialist, *PA Department of Human Services*

Ceena Jenkins' career in social work began in 2005 for a non-profit community action agency as a family educator, conducting home visits and developmental assessments on children under age five. The agency provided case management services including resource referrals to empower families to move toward independence and self-sufficiency. In 2007, she accepted a position as a case worker with the PA Department of Human Services in the County Assistance Office. Throughout the years, she has filled various positions within the department serving as a program advocate, and a human services program specialist. While fulfilling her responsibilities as a human services employee, she graduated with a Bachelor of Science from Albright College in 2008. In 2020, she became the Disaster Disability Integration Coordinator, and quickly learned the importance of disaster preparedness and response, Access and Functional Needs, Disability Integration, and whole community engagement. Ceena realizes the importance of fulfilling the obligations of her role within the Mass Care operations framework and strives to apply inclusive best and promising practices in her personal life as well. Her focus is on identifying ADA related accessibility issues and to promote and support equitable access to disaster services.

Karl Jones

Disaster Coordinator/Communications Coordinator, *United Church of Christ/PAVOAD*

The Rev. Karl Jones is retired from parish ministry in the United Church of Christ. He currently serves the United Church of Christ as the Conference Disaster Coordinator for southeastern Pennsylvania. He also serves as the Communications Coordinator and Eastern PA Board member for the PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. Nationally he serves as a co-chair of the Environmental- Technology Caused Disaster Working Group for National United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries and as a member of the Communication Committee of

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the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. He has been active in some form of disaster ministry since the mid-1970's. His chief interests today are Environmental- Technology Caused Disaster and long-term recovery. He served as the Operations Lead for the PA VALOR Pilot Project. He has been awarded the Shirley Norman award by PA VOAD and as the Volunteer of the Year by National VOAD. He lives in Douglassville, PA with his wife of more than 50 years, Cathy. He has 2 adult children and 5 grandchildren.

Michael Krzeminski

Instructor, *Allegheny County Emergency Services / Fire Academy*

Michael V. Krzeminski started his emergency service career as a volunteer firefighter at Hilltop Hose Co. #3 in Natrona Heights in 1997. He has climbed the ranks and is now proud to serve as the Chief of his company since 2014. He became a non-suppression instructor in 2005 and a suppression instructor in 2011. In 2012, he joined the Adjunct Instructors at the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy where most of his experience has been in the alternative energy emergency response programs. A student of the fire service, Krzeminski was an intern with the Allegheny County Fire Marshals, learning many lessons in a four-year period. In 2007, fire departments in four municipalities formed the Highlands Emergency Services Alliance and supported Entry Level Fire Training elective class at Highlands High School. Krzeminski was the instructor of this program from 2007 to 2016. In April 2017, he became a staff instructor at the Allegheny County Fire Academy with the responsibilities of certification, instructor mentoring, and online learning programs. His little free time is spent polishing his personally owned 1957 B-Model Mack Fire Engine, which happens to be the same pumper his dad drove to emergencies with Hilltop Hose Co. #3.

Wynne Kwan

Community Assistance (CA) Coordinator, *FEMA*

Wynne Kwan, AICP, LEED AP (BD+C) is the Community Assistance (CA) Coordinator at FEMA Region 3 in Philadelphia. During blue skies, Wynne works with various federal and non-federal partners to help state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments prepare for disaster recovery planning and management through the communication and coordination of guidance materials, tools, trainings/workshops, and other resources that enhance SLTT capacity and resilience. Post-disaster, Wynne coordinates and facilitates support among CA partners for the planning, capacity, and resilience building capabilities needed by local or tribal governments. Prior to joining FEMA, Wynne worked as a Community Planner within the Infrastructure Development and Recovery (IDR) Program at the DHS Office of Infrastructure Protection (now the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)), developing the Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework (IRPF), as well as other tools and guidance to help SLTT governments better integrate infrastructure resilience planning into existing planning initiatives/efforts.

Before joining the federal government, Wynne worked as a consultant providing industrial/economic development strategy, military base planning, environmental planning, and hazard mitigation planning support to international, federal, state, and local government clients.

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Adam Leister

Senior GIS Consultant, *MCM Consulting Group, Inc.*

Adam Leister is a senior GIS consultant with MCM Consulting Group, Inc. Adam has been with the company since 2020 and is part of the emergency management team and engineering team.

Anthony Mangeri

Assistant Vice President - Mitigation & Resilience, *The Olson Group, Ltd.*

Anthony S. Mangeri, MPA, CPM, CEM, has been an active practitioner in emergency management for over 35 years. Currently, he serves as assistant vice president for mitigation and resilience at The Olson Group Ltd. and president of Region 2 of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). Prior to his current position, he served as a town manager where he facilitated the community response to the COVID-19 pandemic, was responsible for local emergency preparedness and disaster recovery operations and oversaw the establishment of a municipal police department. For more than 10 years, he served as New Jersey's State Hazard Mitigation Officer, building systems to identify hazards, prioritize risk, and mitigate threats. During the 9/11 attacks, he served as operations chief at the New Jersey Emergency Operations Center coordinating the state's response to the World Trade Center attacks. He has been a volunteer firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician for more than 30 years. He earned a Master of Public Administration from Rutgers's University. He also completed a fellowship in Public Health Leadership in Emergency Response, is a Certified Professional Coach, and served on professional committees, including the ASIS Fire and Life Safety Council and executive committee of the IAEM-USA Board.

Allison McFarland

Endowed Chair of Business, *Bethel College (KS)*

Dr. Allison J. McFarland currently serves as the Walter C. and Helen E. Claassen Endowed Chair of Business at Bethel College (North Newton, KS). McFarland also serves as a professional consultant on generations in the workplace and Gen Z with Human Performance Advisors (Tulsa, OK). Dr. McFarland is a certified Federal Sector EEO Investigator, having investigated claims of discrimination within the Bureau of Prisons, United States Coast Guard, Veteran's Administration, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Education, United States Census Bureau, United States Agency for International Development, and the Department of Commerce.

Over the past decade, Dr. McFarland has presented over 65 seminars on the topic of multi-generational leadership to manufacturing CEOs, human resource professionals, employment service agencies, hospital administrators, mental health providers, non-profit organizations, small business leaders, emergency service providers, U.S. and Canadian Fire Chiefs, the Kansas Highway Patrol, and U.S. Military Chaplains. Her research has been accepted for presentation at national and international business and leadership peer-review academic conferences.

McFarland has a Ph.D. and master's degree from the University of Kansas, an MBA from Western Michigan University, and a bachelor's degree from Geneva College (PA).

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Scott Mickalonis

Director, System Emergency Management and Business Continuity, *Penn State Health*

Scott A. Mickalonis serves as the director of emergency management and business continuity for one of central Pennsylvania's health systems. He is also a senior instructor of public health sciences. He has been a leader, educator and practitioner in emergency management for over 20 years. He spent 15 years in public safety in a highly populated suburban Philadelphia county, serving in emergency management, as the deputy director. He transitioned to healthcare emergency management in 2014 when he joined a 600-bed academic medical center as the manager for emergency preparedness, establishing the emergency management program amidst the Ebola outbreak and assisting the organizational efforts in becoming a recognized treatment center. His experience allowed him to take on a leadership role managing the regional healthcare coalition program in central Pennsylvania. He was successful in building partnerships with healthcare providers from across many disciplines. He went on to join a health system in January 2021, initiating a comprehensive approach to emergency management and business continuity across the growing healthcare landscape. The presenter has a master's degree in emergency management and holds certification in emergency management (CEM), business continuity (CBCP) and is a certified hospital emergency coordinator (CHEC) as well as an EMT- Paramedic.

Alicia Miller

Senior Service Hydrologist, *National Weather Service Pittsburgh*

Alicia Miller is the Senior Service Hydrologist at the National Weather Service in Pittsburgh. She maintains relationships with federal, state, and local agencies with hydrologic interests along the headwaters of the Ohio River. This includes working with local communities to set and adjust flood stages on rivers and streams, and educating and informing various partners on flood risk. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Atmospheric Science from the University at Albany, NY and a Master of Business Administration from Ithaca College, NY. While a native of upstate New York, Alicia has been in the Pittsburgh area for 14 years and enjoys the variety of weather and activities that are available to her in southwest Pennsylvania.

Mackenzie Monarko

Private Sector Coordinator, *Federal Bureau of Investigation*

Michael Oppenheim

Pennsylvania Project Manager, Public Assistance Disaster Operations, *FEMA Region 3*

Michael Oppenheim is an emergency management specialist with FEMA Region 3 in Philadelphia. Mike has a decade of emergency management experience. He spent two years serving in AmeriCorps, first with AmeriCorps NCCC in Vicksburg and then with AmeriCorps State & National with the American Red Cross in Philadelphia. After AmeriCorps, Mike worked as data analyst for a law firm and interned with the Philadelphia Office of Emergency Management. Following his internship, Mike moved to Wilmington, N.C., to work as a disaster program specialist with the American Red Cross – Cape Fear Chapter. While there, Mike was deployed to multiple disaster and specialized in information and planning. He left the American Red Cross to return to his home state to work for FEMA Region 3, starting as a QA/QC specialist in the Disaster Transition office and moving to his current position as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Public assistance program manager.

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Mike holds a master's degree in Emergency Management from Jacksonville State University. He lives in Harrisburg with his wife, Stacy, and their dog, Penny.

Jerry Ozog

Executive Director, *Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Service Institute*

Jerry has been serving in the volunteer and career emergency service sectors for the past 35 years. He is an active Volunteer Firefighter for the Hampden Township Volunteer Fire Company and formally served as a Chief Officer and line officer for 16 years. He is a member of the Command and General Staff for the South-Central Task Force All Hazards Incident Management Team and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Incident Management Team. Jerry currently serves full time as the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Fire & Emergency Services Institute, a statewide advocacy and education organization. He previously served as an Education Specialist for a national provider of emergency services insurance, a Director for a Community College Public Safety Training Center, Executive Director for a Regional EMS Council and Paramedic Coordinator for a Community Hospital. Jerry is also an Adjunct Instructor in the Integrated Emergency Management Program at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute and National Fire Academy.

Jerry is a professional advocate, educator, communicator, and program manager dedicated to administrative and operational excellence in emergency services. He is an innovative leader responsible for coordinating efforts to improve and sustain Pennsylvania's emergency services organizations.

George Palmer

Executive Director, *The Center for Independent Living of South Central PA*

George Palmer joined the Center for Independent Living of South-Central PA in 2012 as an Independent Living Specialist. He assumed the Executive Director position in 2014. Through George's leadership CILSCPA focuses on advocacy and the removal of physical and attitudinal barriers that prevent people with disabilities from exercising their rights, achieving personal independence, and participating fully in the life of the community. Transitioning into the Community of Choice is part of the evolution of equal rights. Residents of Long-Term Care facilities are shown that they can thrive in their community with appropriate support.

CILSCPA staff work personally with the Consumer in a focused personal approach; identifying goals including "where" they want to live. CILSCPA then identifies appropriate Community resources needed to obtain and maintain an independent lifestyle. The Consumer is presented with an array of Community-based, specialized services. The services are then coordinated to provide an individualized support network. George has dedicated his life to advocacy and empowers people with disabilities to achieve a standard of living that allows them to become more independent.

Jim Reeder

Director of Campus Safety and Security, *Shady Side Academy*

Jim is the Director of Safety and Security at Shady Side Academy, a pre-K through 12th grade private school in Fox Chapel, PA. He manages safety and security operations, develops, manages, and coordinates a comprehensive safety program for all four Academy campuses and is responsible for the Academy Emergency

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Operations Plan (EOP). He develops and presents safety trainings to faculty, staff, and students and liaisons with Public Safety agencies. Jim chairs the Academy Safety Committee and serves on the Academy's Enterprise Risk Management team. Jim is a former career Fire Lieutenant / EMT with the City of Butler (PA) Fire Department where he worked for over 15 years and totals over 20 years' experience in the fire service. Jim also has over 16 years' experience as a 9-1-1 dispatcher, currently working part-time for Butler County, PA and began his dispatching career with the City of Pittsburgh 9-1-1. Jim holds a MA in Emergency Management and Homeland Security and a BS in Chemistry with a minor in Psychology. Jim enjoys coaching his twin boys in baseball, basketball, bowling, and golf and traveling with his wife, Jenna. Jim also officiates high school boys' basketball and men's NCAA Division II & III basketball.

Tim Riecker

Partner, *Emergency Preparedness Solutions, LLC*

Mr. Riecker is a Certified Emergency and Disaster Professional with a progressive career in public safety and emergency management spanning over 27 years, including time as a local responder and chief officer, local emergency manager, senior staff for the New York State Office of Emergency Management, and public safety consultant. Tim has a depth of experience in major incident management, including direct involvement in the management of 21 Federally declared disasters. He has served in state and local Emergency Operations Centers and as a Type II Planning Section Chief for responses including 9/11, United flight 587, Colgan Air flight 3407, Hurricane Sandy, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tim has had a range of benchmark opportunities in his career, including presenting to a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and leading some of the largest full-scale exercises ever conducted in the nation. He serves as vice chair of the board of directors for the International Public Safety Association (IPSA), is a member of the NFPA 1600/1660 technical committee, and is the program manager and instructor of an academic emergency management program.

Tim regularly blogs about various emergency management topics under the moniker of The Contrarian Emergency Manager.

Diane Rodriguez-Cochran

Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), National Certified Counselor (NCC)

Diane has her MA in Counseling Psychology and has been practicing in the field for over 15 years - most of the time with the seriously mentally ill. She previously worked as part of Allegheny County's Mental Health Crisis Response Team. She currently is affiliated with a Behavioral Health Managed Care company and also has a private practice, The Wellness Connection. She is recovery- and person-focused. In her spare time, she is a volunteer with Team Rubicon as their Western PA Well-Being Lead.

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Charles Ross

Senior Service Hydrologist, *National Weather Service State College*

Charles Ross has worked as a meteorologist and hydrologist for over 30 years. He graduated from Penn State University in 1993 with a degree in Meteorology. He has worked for the National Weather Service in several offices nationwide, for the Bonneville Power Administration in Portland, Oregon, and as the Service Hydrologist at State College since 2010. He likes to hike, work out, and attend his kids' activities in his spare time.

Cody Santiago

Director of Emergency Management, *County of York, PA*

Cody Santiago currently serves as the Director of Emergency Management for York County, PA. In his 18 years in public safety, Cody has served in a variety of roles including the fire service, emergency management, and school safety.

George Schwartz

Program Director, *Immaculata University*

Dr. George Schwartz has a broad professional background that includes military service and higher education. He has developed and instructed courses in emergency management and leadership, and has written and presented on such subjects as crisis leadership, cybersecurity, and training management. Before retiring from the PA Army National Guard, Dr. Schwartz served in a number of senior leader positions including commanding troops and directing operations in Europe, Kosovo and Afghanistan, as well as managing National Guard emergency response efforts during several natural disasters.

Gary Scronce

Sr. Director - International Homeland Security and Emergency Management, *IEM*

Gary Scronce has provided emergency preparedness support for both natural and man-made hazards in more than 100 state and local jurisdictions. Scronce has more than 31 years of emergency management and homeland security experience, including eight years as a member of the River Bend nuclear power plant's emergency response organization. He began his career as a Nuclear Engineer with Gulf States Utilities/Entergy. During that time, he assisted with procurement of balance of plant equipment as well as nuclear safety equipment such as valves, control rods, and nuclear fuel and associated safety analysis work. As an emergency management consultant for 24 years, Mr. Scronce has added extensive experience reviewing and responding to RFPs from the supplier side.

Tania Serrano Gonzalez

Civil Rights Advisor, *FEMA*

Tania Serrano Gonzalez joined FEMA five and a half years ago and joined FEMA'S Region 3 in June 2022 as its Civil Rights Lead Advisor. She is responsible for ensuring civil rights requirements are implemented and supporting all equity efforts throughout the region's programs and activities.

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Before joining FEMA, Tania had her own private practice as an attorney in Puerto Rico. More than 90 percent of her cases were related to civil rights compliance. Since joining FEMA, she has been part of the Civil Rights Cadre as a lead advisor. She has been deployed to three Type 1 major disasters and is currently supporting Virginia's and West Virginia's declarations.

Michael Sharon

Chief, Emergency Programs Division, *USDA Office of Homeland Security*

KEMA member Mike Sharon is Chief of the Emergency Programs Division at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Office of Homeland Security. Mike's extensive emergency management career includes positions at FEMA, the U.S. Department of State, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Maryland Emergency Management Agency. He has supported numerous Presidentially-declared disasters and national special security events. In addition to his civilian career, Mike completed 28 years combined service as a military police officer in the Regular Army, Maryland National Guard, and Army Reserve.

Michael Smith

Lead Assessor/Subject Matter Expert, *Tetra Tech*

Michael is retired law enforcement from the State of Iowa, with more than 29 years of experience. Michael's tenure in law enforcement included working as an investigator, SWAT/tactical team leader, Firearm's Instructor, Drug Recognition Expert, Technical Accident Investigator, Active Shooter Instructor, Hostage/Advanced Hostage Rescue Instructor, and Physical Skills/Combative Instructor. Michael has instructed across the United States and overseas. Michael worked on three presidential campaigns, providing personal protection. Michael worked on the advance team for two of those campaigns, doing physical site assessments prior to the candidate's arrival. Michael worked as the personal protector on two of those campaigns. Michael has done presentations on safety in public areas, vulnerability assessments (personal and physical site), Run, Hide, Fight, and Alice training. Michael worked for six years as a Personal Risk Mitigation Agent, protecting high value assets for Fortune 100 companies as they traveled domestically and overseas. Threat assessments for destinations were a common duty, prior to arrival of the CEO's/Presidents/Chairmans. Michael worked this past year on the Iowa School Safety Initiative. Michael led 39 assessors who performed vulnerability assessments on 1260 schools and 455 school districts in four months. Michael helped develop a software tool to expedite the onsite physical vulnerability assessment process.

Heather Stem

Senior Associate, Emergency Manager, *The Olson Group, Ltd.*

Heather Stem, a native of Southern York County, has spent her emergency management career in the Commonwealth. Mrs. Stem possesses extensive relevant subject matter expertise in emergency management planning, training, and exercise. A Certified Emergency Manager (CEM), Master Exercise Practitioner, and Senior Associate with the Olson Group, Ms. Stem has experience in disaster response and recovery of federal and non-federal declarations, emergency planning, damage assessment, and training and exercise support. Her duties and responsibilities have included providing all-hazards plan development guidance for both localities and institutions of higher learning; assisting with coordinating disaster planning activities and initiatives between local, state, and federal partners; reviewing local government and institutions of higher learning's Emergency

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Operations Plans (EOPs) and Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMPs) to ensure compliance with all state and federal requirements; and incident response and recovery operations.

Prior to being with the Olson Group, Mrs. Stem spent the last 9 years in Pennsylvania County governments as a Training and Exercise Coordinator where she maintain emergency management coordinator certification, managed emergency management training, and developed and conducted exercises. Mrs. Stem has a background in Meteorology and Emergency Management from Millersville, PA.

Carole Tonks

Executive Director, *Alliance Center for Independence*

Carole Tonks serves as the Executive Director of the Alliance Center for Independence (ACI). ACI provides information and referral services and develops and implements educational programs and innovative activities that promote activism, peer support, health and wellness, employment and independent living skills. ACI supports the philosophy of independent living for all persons with disabilities. She Chairs the Core Advisory Group of Middlesex County and works very closely with the Emergency Management Community on Preparedness initiatives for those with disabilities

Michelle Ufner

Licensed Professional Counselor

Michelle is a Nationally Certified Paramedic and Psychologist. She most recently worked for Allegheny Health Network in their Mobile Integrated Health Program as a Behavioral Health Specialist. She is an active volunteer with Team Rubicon, where she serves as the Western PA Metro Administrator and also teaches a number of classes, including ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training), for the veteran-led non-profit. Regardless of where her energy is focused, her passion is the well-being of our Veterans, First Responders, and Emergency Managers.

Michele Whiting Zona

AFN/Recovery Coordinator, *Westmoreland County DPS*

Michele Whiting Zona is a dedicated social worker with nearly 25 years of experience, serving Westmoreland County. Her notable career includes 11.5 years as a Victim Advocate in the District Attorney's Office. She also excelled as a Care Manager and Administration professional for 7.5 years at the Area Agency on Aging, enhancing the lives of the elderly. Currently, Michele holds the role as the Access and Functional Needs/Recovery Coordinator at the Department of Public Safety. Her exceptional leadership ensures that individuals with diverse needs receive essential resources and support for their well-being and recovery. As co-lead of the Westmoreland County Human Services and Preparedness Coalition (VOAD), Michele fosters collaboration among multiple agencies to address complex community challenges effectively. Michele's passion for youth mental health is evident through her certification as a Youth Mental Health First Aid trainer. She equips others with the skills to identify and respond to mental health challenges, actively promoting the well-being of the county's youth. Additionally, Michele actively participates in various committees, collaborating with other agencies to develop and implement effective strategies for community improvement.

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Bob Winters

Protective Security Advisor, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

Bob Winters has been the DHS Cyber Security and Infrastructure Security Agency Protective Security Advisor assigned to Pittsburgh since the inception of the position in 2005. As the Pittsburgh PSA, he helps facilitate and coordinate the protection and resilience of critical infrastructure with owners, operators and public safety partners in 32 counties of Western Pennsylvania. Originally from Pittsburgh, Bob had a 23-year training and security career in the US Air Force. He has a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Colorado and a master's degree in public administration from Eastern Washington University. He is a 2001 graduate of the FBI National Academy and has been an ASIS Certified Protection Professional since 2010.

Dave Wood

Protective Security Advisor, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

David Wood is the Harrisburg District Protective Security Advisor within the Department of Homeland Security responsible for coordination of critical infrastructure protection in 27 counties in Central and Northeast Pennsylvania. Mr. Wood has over 35 years of private sector, Department of Defense, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania sensitive security operations experience. He served as the 28th Infantry Division Chief of Staff, 28th Combat Aviation Brigade Commander, and the Pennsylvania National Guard (PANG) State Aviation Officer and had combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. He served as the PANG Chief of Staff for the World Meeting of Families and 2016 Democratic National Convention plus key positions during natural and man-made disaster responses. Mr. Wood also worked 15+ years in the private sector culminating as the Executive Vice President of a Fulfillment and Distribution company with over 1000 employees and 7 facilities, which laid the foundation of his views on the importance of cross-sector business involvement and collaboration to effectively provide safeguards and resiliency to our critical infrastructure. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and holds a master's in systems management from the University of Southern California, as well as a graduate of the United States Army War College.