

AGENDA NOTE – HRPDC ANNUAL COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM #14: MEDICAL SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

SUBJECT:

The localities of Hampton Roads, through the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, have established the Hampton Roads Special Needs website and Medical Needs Registry.

BACKGROUND:

The localities of Hampton Roads have established the Special Needs website and Medical Needs Registry to plan and coordinate for disasters and populations with special needs. Participation in the Medical Needs Registry is voluntary. Personal information collected will be used to help localities develop systems to try and notify preregistered individuals in the event that evacuation from a personal residence is necessary. Personal information collected through the Medical Needs Registry will be used for planning emergency shelter services for residents with conditions that cannot be managed on their own in a general shelter environment. Personal information collected through the Medical Needs Registry also will be used by the Emergency Management offices in each of the Hampton Roads jurisdictions to plan coordination of transportation services to medical friendly shelters for those residents who cannot provide their own transportation during an emergency evacuation if those resources are available.

Executive Order 13347, Individuals with Disabilities in Emergency Preparedness, requires localities to include individuals with disabilities in emergency preparedness planning. Because every resident has unique needs, the localities of Hampton Roads have established the Medical Needs Registry to assist in planning and education.

The Hampton Roads Medical Needs Registry was first identified in 2007 by the local emergency managers as a desired emergency preparedness tool to support emergency planning needs. The emergency management community submitted a grant application through the Urban Areas Security Initiative for the development of this registry with supporting outreach activities. The registry will be an additional tool that may be used by local emergency managers to communicate with people who have medical needs prior to, during and/or after a disaster. The medical needs registry was designed to identify individuals in the community with medical functional needs or conditions who cannot manage independently in a general shelter or evacuation center in an emergency.

Mr. Richard Flannery, HRPDC Emergency Management Administrator, will brief the Commission on the Medical Special Needs Registry and project.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Accept the briefing and allow this regional initiative to continue moving forward to support emergency planning.

STAFF COMMENTARY:

The Medical Special Needs Registry will not be replacing locality programs. Instead, the registry will be supplementing those programs already in existence.