

FAST: YES/NO or Other Options?

**FAST – Functional
Assessment
Service Teams**



**Illinois Access and Functional Needs Summit 2024:
Building Relationships to Address Access and Functional Needs in Emergency
Preparedness and Response, June 25 - 26, 2024, Springfield, IL**

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**Adding Value to Service by Increasing Access
Health Care and Disaster Inclusive Practices
Training, Policies, Processes, & Exercises
Actionable Disability Competencies**

Cover

- **What is FAST**

- **Past**
- **Present**
- **Future**

- **My recommendations**

- **Name**
- **Training**
- **Focus & Roles**
- **Measuring Success**
- **Due Diligence - decision-making process**

FAST:

(Functional Assessment Service Teams)

delivers needed support to people with disabilities and others with access and functional needs through deployed team members of government & community partners with disability skill sets. Services provide support that enables people to maintain health, safety, & independence.

FAST: YES/NO or other options

- from your perspective, roles & responsibilities is their value in some form of FAST
- if no, why not?
- if yes:
 - What would be the intent, objectives?
 - What could work?
 - Who are your major partners who have the needed resources for implementation?

History

- **1970s & 1980s**
 - **Discrimination**
 - **Applying the medical model**
 - **Community-based disability services staff who volunteered to help turned away because of “lack of proper credentials.”**

History

- 1970s Identified lack of equal & inclusive services
- 2007 California Department of Social Services began developing FAST:
 - concept,
 - plans, &
 - training course eventually approved by FEMA



**We do
better
when we
do it
together.**

Intent

- Working smarter
- Building partnerships with
 - CBOs (community based organizations)
 - Cities
 - Counties
 - States &
 - American Red Cross

Intent

- Blend competencies & skill sets of governments with community disability services,
- Provide assistance to people with often complex and urgent disability needs,
- Competencies:
 - Nimble, flexible, scalable response
 - Deal with complexities of what it takes maintain health & safety & survive emergencies.

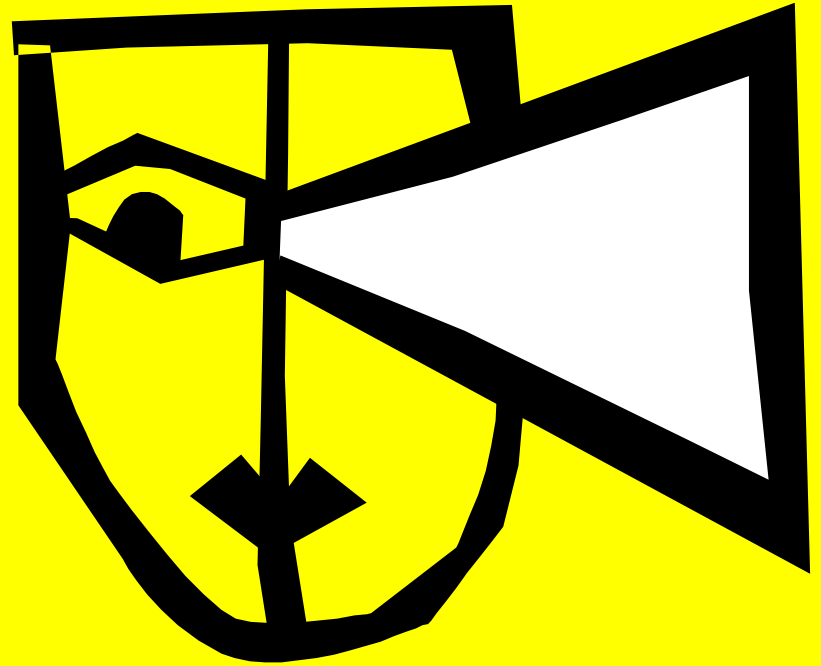
Intent

- **Working knowledge of cross-disability access issues:**
 - hearing, vision, mobility, speech, memory, learning, understanding
- **Applying core IL values:**
 - Honoring dignity of risk, choice & self-determination

Intent

- Identifying, remedying & retooling interventions that reflect old, stigmatizing biases, stereotypes & beliefs:
 - Indiscriminate & widespread applying of medical model

Trained eyes and ears



FAST Composition

Members Expertise	Members								
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Aging									
Chronic Health Conditions									
Developmental Disabilities									
Understanding/ Remembering									
Hearing loss									
Mental Health									
Physical Disabilities									
Behavioral Health									
Vision loss									

OLD Belief

- **Expectation is that all community partners will volunteer their time**

Agreements, Contracts,

MOUs - NEW

- **Taking on emergency-related tasks means covering staff salaries, overtime, travel, etc., sometimes impossible without funding**
- **Agreements must include the who, what, where, when, why, how & reimbursement details agreed on in advance**

Recognition of need for inclusive, planning, services, processes, & training is growing:

- models are shifting,
- resistance is weakening,
- outdated dogma is being challenged,
- acceptance & adoption is increasing,
- dents are getting deeper,
- ripples are getting wider.

June Isaacson Kailes,
Disability Policy Consultant

06.16.16

Recommendations

- **Rename**
- **Revamp training**
- **Broaden focus & roles**
- **Augment training**
- **Measure success**
- **Due Diligence - investigate carefully**

Dogma – can rot on the shelf quickly. It should come with an expiration date!

**June Isaacson Kailes,
Policy Consultant
06.16.16**



**If you always do
what you always did,
you always get
what you always got.
Is that enough?**

Community Partners

- Aging
- Airports
- Animals
- Building & safety
- Businesses
- Children
- Disability
- Faith-based
- Procurement & contracting
- Public Health
- Fire
- Health
- Housing
- Information technology
- Mental health
- Parks & recreation
- Police
- Transportation
- Utilities

Roles of Community Partners – Messaging

- Force multiply & amplify messages
- Customized distribution methods
 - Multiple languages
 - Culturally appropriate
 - Continually test & improve

Roles of Community Partners

– Life-safety Checks

- **Reach via**
 - **Calls, texts, or emails**
 - **Check-in systems**
 - **First contacts to pre-identified higher risk people**

Roles of Community Partners -

Individual preparedness plans

- **Time & skill it takes is underestimated & undervalued**
- **Details re shelter in place or evacuate**
- **Power outages**
- **Labeling equipment**
- **Developing a helper list - check on each other**
- **Developing communications plan –**
 - **Collecting critical documents (paper & digital copies for a “grab & go” bag & keep it with you (KIWY)**
- **Signing up for local alerts & notifications**

Roles of Community Partners -

- Technical Expert Support Teams – virtual deployments**
- Evacuation assistance from structures**
- Transportation out of and back to affected areas**
- Personal assistant services**
- Divert & and transition people from institutions**

Roles of Community Partners -

- Sign language interpreting**
- Debris removal from accessible paths**
- Mucking & gutting**
- Telehealth services**
- Trainers**
- Mass care site access surveyors
(shelters, points of distribution (PODS,
)disaster recovery, assistance centers**

Roles of Community Partners -

- Technical Expert Support Teams – virtual deployments**
- Evacuation assistance from structures**
- Transportation out of and back to affected areas**
- Personal assistant services**
- Divert & and transition people from institutions**

Roles of Community Partners -

- Provide access navigators & assistance at disaster recovery assistance centers & Points of Commodity Distribution Sites (PODS)
Case management services, including assisting in navigating the state & federal benefits maze.**

Quick Fixes









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ID #: 140

Exp: 8/31/13

Functional Assessment
Service Team



Cal E·M·A

CALIFORNIA EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY



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State

Resources

- California FAST information
- Health Plan Member-Focused
Emergency Practices Roadmap
- The National Shelter System and
Physical Accessibility - Time to
Look Under the Hood
- Training: Maximizing Your ROI!