



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MAY PREVENT DIMINISHED HEALTH

A briefing was held at the American Public Health Association on “Protecting the Public’s Health from Disease and Disasters”. Presenters were the U. S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness Response, U.S. Health and Human Service Director for Strategic Science and Management, and a Senior Advisor for Medicine and Public health at the Food and Drug Administration.

There are several forms of risk related to protecting the public’s health from disease and disaster. Some of these risks are technical in product development such as vaccines, regulatory risks, lack of resources at FDA, business risk related to start up capital and government risk as a result of inadequate coordination across multiple agencies. In addition, there are needs for regulatory innovation and core development of surge capacity in manufacturing services. There are also gaps in what is needed for effective public health services in cases of an emergency. Some on going gaps are 1) a workforce shortage of trained public health workers (i.e. 15% reduction of the local public health workforce), 2) a surge capacity gap in health systems stretched beyond capacity in an emergency, 3) surveillance gaps that lack an integrated national approach to catastrophe in case of disease outbreaks or food supply contamination and 4) a community resilience gap with inability with personnel and services to work with communities. There are also budget shortages at state and federal levels for public health. Thirty-three states cut funding for public health from 2008 to 2009 and 18 States two years in a row. Fifty three local health departments reported that their core funding had been cut from the previous year and 43% expect cuts the following year

Disability Prevention Issues

The public health system is out of date to face modern health threats which place people in American to unnecessary diminished health that can lead to disability. Some examples of threats from emergencies that threaten individual and community health are gaps in vaccines as a result a major emergency, outbreaks of animal and plant diseases. chemical incidents, nuclear accidents and others.

Activity

There will be collaborative efforts with coalitions, who address public health issues of disability prevention through effective emergency preparedness,

Principle

There should be effective emergency management that protects the public’s health and prevents unnecessary diminished health and disability.