

Homeland Security Workshop



Working with Special Populations in Disaster: Issues and Challenges



Hear researchers and practitioners discuss findings and lessons learned from working with special population communities before, during, and after disasters. Speakers will address issues related to effective planning for the elderly, children, people with functional and access needs, and ethnically diverse populations.

**When: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
May 24, 2017**

**Where: St. Edward's University
Ragsdale Center,
Mabee Ballroom A
3001 S. Congress Avenue
Austin, TX 78704**



**Seating Capacity:
70**

**[Register Now at
goo.gl/GqeaJ0](http://goo.gl/GqeaJ0)**

For more info, homelandsecuritystaff@capcog.org.

Marisol Acosta, MEd. LPC-S, is the Texas Children Recovering from Trauma Initiative project director for the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and the Health and Human Services Commission of Texas in the Behavioral Health Services Department. As a trauma subject matter expert, she directs trauma informed care organizational transformation pilots for all community behavioral health services. Acosta holds a masters in counseling from the University of Houston and a graduate certificate from Harvard University and the Italy Ministry of Health on Global Mental Health: Trauma and Recovery, and is a licensed professional counselor in Texas. Her work has focused especially on children and adolescents, survivors of mass conflicts, refugees, unaccompanied minors, human trafficking, and survivors of torture, sexual abuse and domestic violence.



George D. Haddow served as White House Liaison and Deputy Chief of Staff to FEMA Director James L. Witt from 1993 to 2001. In this role, he was a principal architect of FEMA's national disaster mitigation initiative, Project Impact: Building Disaster Resistant Communities. Haddow has worked in community and emergency management planning and operations for about 30 years and worked on projects for FEMA, the Corporation for National and Community Service, The World Bank, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation, and the Global Partnership for Preparedness. He has directed the development of seven disaster recovery planning training courses for FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework and directed the development of university-level education courses on crisis and risk communications and hazard risk management for FEMA's Higher Education Program.



Dennis Andrusis, Ph.D., has more than 30 years of experience in health care research and policy focusing on vulnerable populations, their providers and their communities. As a University of Texas School of Public Health associate professor and with an affiliation with the Texas Health Institute, his work has led to advance health equity for racially and ethnically diverse and other vulnerable populations in three major areas: implementation of the Affordable Care Act and its equity implications related to the health care workforce, marketplaces, safety net, public health and prevention, and quality health care; prompting policies and building community resilience to the consequences of climate change; and working with community based organizations to build accountable care communities.



Kay Chiodo has more than 30 years of experience in providing and developing communication solutions for people with sensory disabilities. She serves as chief executive officer of Services by Vital Signs, Inc. and Deaf Link, both which she founded. Vital Signs is one of the oldest and largest American Sign Language interpreting agencies in Texas. Deaf Link developed and provides services to assist local, state and federal agencies in complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act as it relates to people with sensory disabilities. In 2005, Deaf Link launched the first and only accessible emergency-alerting system designed to meet the communication needs of those with sensory disabilities.



Michelle A. Meyer, Ph.D., a Louisiana State University assistant professor, is a Next Generation of Hazard and Disasters Researchers Fellow and an Early-Career Research Fellow with the Gulf Research Program 2016. Her research interests include environmental sociology and community sustainability, disaster resilience and mitigation, climate change displacement, environmental justice, and the interplay between environmental conditions and social vulnerability. Meyer has worked on multiple projects including analyzing governmental and nonprofit networks in long-term recovery; assessing variation in use of social media by population groups during disasters; and assessing earthquake protective action messaging in Haiti.