Building Community Disaster Resilience Through Private-Public Collaboration

A presentation on behalf of the Committee on Private-Public Sector Collaboration to Enhance Community Disaster Resilience

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Statement of Task

Assess the current state-of-art in private-public collaboration to strengthen community resilience, identify gaps in knowledge and practice, and recommend research areas for investment.

- Identify components of a framework for private-public collaboration dedicated to strengthening community resilience.

- Develop guidelines for private sector engagement in the development of a framework for enhancing community resilience.

- Examine models of existing collaborations ranging from centralized to decentralized approaches, and make recommendations for a structure to further private and public sector collaboration to enhance community resilience.
Committee

William H. Hooke, *Chair*, American Meteorological Society
Arrietta Chakos, Urban Resilience Policy
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What is Resilience?

The continued ability of individuals, groups, or systems to function during or after stress such as disaster.

Based on Norris and others (2008)

Disaster Resilience  Community Resilience
Major Elements of Collaboration

- Participants
- Operations and Processes
- Synergy and other Intermediate Outcomes
- Community Change Outcomes: Increased resilience
- Implementation Principles and Strategies

Community Factors
Community Factors

External factors that must be taken into account including jurisdictional challenges, political climate, public policies, levels of trust, liability concerns
Participants

Full fabric of the community
(government, industry sectors, NGOs, community organizations, all segments of the population including the disenfranchised)
Implementation Principles and Strategies

- Identify goals and incentives
- Strategically direct interventions at multiple levels
- Target capacity building, changes in community policy, practice, environment
- Assume disaster resilience is a part of community resilience
- Institutionalize collaboration for sustainability
Operations and Processes

- Collaborative management structure
- Horizontal networking with vertical links to fill gaps
- Neutral facilitating body oversees processes
- Focused on community
- Based on existing networks when possible

Community Factors

Participants

Implementation Principles and Strategies
Synergy and other Intermediate Outcomes

- Trusted relationships and greater communication
- Identification of community needs and resources
- Increased ability to leverage resources
- Improved emergency management planning (all-hazards approach; consideration of the full disaster cycle)
Community Change Outcomes

Changes in the community that result in increased resilience

- Changes in community policies, practice, and environment
- Organizations that more effectively prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters

Implementation Principles and Strategies
Constantly Reevaluate

Communities constantly change.

Regularly evaluate collaborative structures, goals, and strategies to remain relevant and sustainable.
Resilience as a theory must be testable and have predictive power.

Success must be definable, achievable, and repeatable.

Metrics and data needed to determine/predict how, when, and why collaboration succeeds.
Changing Organization Culture

Identify and remove barriers to change in organizational culture

- Trust among collaborators
- Reward boundary spanning individuals and organizations
- Move toward cultures of collaboration
Longitudinal Data

Repeated observations over time needed to correlate change over time with collaborative activities.

- Documents community change
- Validates methodologies
- Provides comparable data sets on risk and resilience
- Provides evidence for long-term investment in collaboration

There is little longitudinal data.
Needed Research

- How to motivate business (all sizes) to collaborate with public sector to build resilience in all types of communities (e.g., rural, urban)
- Motivating and integrating community/faith-based/NGOs into resilience-focused collaboration
- Moving EM and homeland security sectors toward a “culture of collaboration” engaging the full fabric of the community
- Ways to build capacity for collaboration
Needed Research (continued)

• Research/demonstration projects to quantify risk and outcome metrics, enhance community-level resilience, and document best practices

• Research and activities to produce comparable nationwide data on vulnerability and resilience

• National repository and clearinghouse—administered by neutral entity—to archive and disseminate
  • collaboration models and operational frameworks
  • case studies
  • evidenced-based best practices
  • related data and research
Creating a Climate for Community-based Collaboration

- Strategic national framework
- Social/political environments
- Horizontal and vertical networks
- Catalysts for mobilizing communities
Critical Elements of Implementation

- Local leadership
- Recognizing value and diversity of existing networks
- Neutral coordinator/facilitator

Community collaboration begins with leadership around a specific purpose or goal

- Focus on identified community need
- Create a leadership team
- Identify key stakeholders
Steps toward Implementation...

Institutionalize collaboration with an organizational and operational framework

- Build from existing community networks and organizations
- Functions

Identify community resources and capabilities

- Demonstrates immediate value of collaboration
- Community awareness of capabilities and gaps
- Builds trust among constituencies
Steps toward Implementation...

Identify the collective resources and capabilities resident in the community

- Demonstrates immediate value of collaboration
- Strengthens community awareness of existing capabilities and gaps
- Builds trust among diverse constituencies
Develop feasible, measurable objectives for the collaborative partnership

Focus on capacity-building through public education

Engage educational/academic institutions in the community for both capacity building and research
Steps toward Implementation...

Plan for sustainable financial support

- Funding models for collaborative partnerships
- Imperative of flexible resources
- Provide for regular evaluation of community needs and modification to program objectives