#### Send questions to [passitoncenter@gatfl.gatech.edu](mailto:passitoncenter@gatfl.gatech.edu)

#### [www.passitoncenter.org](http://www.passitoncenter.org/)

#### Resources: <http://pioc.gatech.edu/wiki/Hurricane_Harvey_2017>

**AT/DME Disaster Response Call with PiDS, Portlight and**

**Pass It On Center**

**Sept. 6, 2017, 5:00 pm EDT**

**Calls will continue at this number daily at 4 PM CT/ 5 PM EDT:**

[**641-715-3580**](tel:641-715-3580)**; PIN: 996329#**.

**Carolyn Phillips, Moderating**

**Marcie Roth, PiDS**

Today a large group met from Florida for a response call. People were also on from PR, VI, GA and SC. The situation looks dire. It is expected to turn sufficiently to avoid the Gulf and travel up the East Coast to hit South Carolina. The Baltimore Sun reported that Maryland is expected to receive a ‘prodigious’ amount of rain.

**Chris Brand, FODAC**

We need to determine needs before shipping equipment because the warehouse location is limited at the moment. FODAC is ready and willing to help. They have assisted with locating batteries, and they are sending a Hubscrub. We need to support local connectivity to avoid the waste of materials. We want to avoid the arrival of equipment that is not needed and becomes another problem.

**The Importance of Networks and the Ability to Match Devices to Users**

Florida, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and other partners have built effective networks. We need to be positioned to use volunteers to assist with devise reuse, especially.

**John Wilbanks, Portlight DME Portal**

The beta version has been built. They need 24 hours to review before rolling it out. The goal is to log identified needs, so that people can match needs to available resources. One question was whether anyone in the country with resources will be able to see the portal. PIOC has not seen the portal demo yet, but it is intended to be an organization-to-organization tool.

**Sarah and Amy, HarveyAACrecovers.org**

We have a major need for iPads and we are attempting to locate those. Amy reported that the site is effective in communicating needs, and people are responding. They are ready to create IrmaAACrecovers.org.

**Organization-to-Individual Database of Needs**

Carolyn reported that we are working to build an organization-to-individual database for needs.

**Network Building in Houston**

A network is being developed to coordinating distribution of needed equipment and supplies. There are many resources, but they were not networked in the past. Chris Brand from FODAC will send a Hubscrub (for sanitizing devices) and some staff to Houston to create a refurbishing hub. There is a link to a form for equipment donation linked to today’s meeting agenda. The Hubscrub will be installed in the new location.

Janet (Project Cure) reported that they will have their large warehouse only until Sept. 20 but they will only move across the way. This weekend they will receive and distribute the wheelchairs from Joni and Friends. They need volunteers to work shifts for this work. Only partners are expected to pick up equipment. The devices will be tagged for return when no longer needed. The Hubscrub will be set up to operate there. There will be a delivery time set for the Joni delivery by this time tomorrow.

Chris pointed out that awareness can work for you or against you. It needs to be managed carefully.

Karl from Hubscrub is working to determine if the company can donate equipment for Houston.

A volunteer network is being developed, along with a tool to manage those volunteers and those in need of volunteers. We are hearing from people who want to volunteer. Those people need to be trained to match the equipment properly.

**PIOC Resources**

Liz Persaud reported on the resources now available on the homepage [www.passitoncenter.org](http://www.passitoncenter.org) and in the wiki attached to the Hurricane Harvey “event”. These will continue to grow.

She has created labels for the devices in two sizes, 2x4 and 1x2 5/8 with language about loan and about returning devices to local reuse programs. These will be posted for use by local groups. The PIOC logo can be replaced with the logos of local programs if desired, or the language can be edited. This is just to expedite the label creation.

**Transportation**

Chris Brand spoke to some of the transportation challenges. Local people are encouraged to contact the local VOAD in their state to use the UPS shipping agreement. Before doing so, all equipment to be shipped should be identified, in good condition, and preferably sanitized and palletized.

**Ponco** reported a major need for resources for dialysis. A call to the 211 should help you locate who the city has appointed to deal with this. There is a continuing need for interpreters.

Chris Brand can assist with CPAP supplies and oxygen concentrators. The American Sleep Apnea Association website says that they can provide assistance.

Rogr Levey reported that an earlier statement sent out indicated that ESRD Networks should be contacted regarding dialysis services. The link is [http://www.esrdnetworks.org/](https://na01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.esrdnetworks.org%2F&data=02%7C01%7CRon.Lucey%40gov.texas.gov%7C4e6cf3592f204f1f28cc08d4efe2baf6%7C54cb5da6c7344242bbc25c947e85fb2c%7C0%7C0%7C636397204481604933&sdata=tlvsFKKPxOQSZqWR6jnjVzPx2axWR2N2p7jr1pcaE7w%3D&reserved=0).

**Angela from Trach Mamas** reported volunteers offering to donate power chairs. Carolyn cautioned that power chairs are expensive, difficult to transport, and highly customized. We should identify a need before shipping those.

**Hannah** reported that DME providers have volunteered to acquired needed items.

Tomorrow:

* Vocational education
* Kids going back to school;
* Volunteer spreadsheet to come
* We may want to adjust the time.