#### Send questions to 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. 9, 2017, 5:00 pm EDT**

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

**641-715-3580****; PIN: 996329#**.

**Please note that the time for this call will change to 2:00 PM EDT starting on Wednesday, September 13, 2017.**

**Carolyn Phillips, Moderating**

**RSVP event in Houston**

Maria and Dianne reported that people arrived at 7 am to get items. It was supposed to start at 9 am. They had many tents set up by categories of products. They loaned much equipment and have more for affected areas such as Port Arthur and Beaumont. The Mayor came and there was TV coverage that will be shown tomorrow morning on CBS Sunday Morning with Charles Osgood.

The preliminary tally is 99 people served  and they are still trickling in. They had over 100 volunteers and it was well-organized. They need to determine where the remaining equipment and supplies need to go. PIOC volunteered to assist with calculating the return on investment for the event.

They kept lists of needs they were unable to meet. They have many wheelchairs, crutches, and walkers, plus supplies to provide to people in need. An event is badly needed for Beaumont.

Poncho is doing an event on Wednesday.

**The Portal.** Efforts are underway to enhance the new organization-to-organization portal. We are working to display the responding, donor, organization.

**Transportation Workgroup.** This new workgroup consisting of Angela Lorio, Jill Jacobs, Jessica Michot, Chris Brand, and Jami Pioli will assist with transportation issues. They will provide information and assistance in arranging transportation. The real goal is to create some long-term solutions.

**Wiki.**  The wiki is being updated for Harvey and Irma resources.

**Training.** A webinar is being designed for volunteer training for matching, and training has been requested on preparing equipment.

**CMS Waiver Guidance for iPads for Communication**

Maria received a question today about the CMS waiver guidance. Would this cover the replacement of iPads for communication? Carolyn placed a call for further clarification. Roger Levy indicated that Texas Medicaid has limited coverage for iPads, with a preference for traditional communication devices. Sarah from USAAAC reported that most requests are from iPads for children with autism.

Carolyn working with groups collecting donated iPads and some folks have reached out to Apple. They are starting to trickle in. We need more information about the specific needs. Sarah is contacting people who place requests for iPads for additional information. They will work with the group to get them to users. Carolyn has people who will load the apps, but the specific apps need to be stipulated. So far, Sarah needs 18 iPads. They are attempting to collect the name of the Speech Language pathologist working with the child, and the name of the school.

Texas school regions are still working on assessment of the situation. They want to work with this group.

Roger reported that the schools in the Beaumont area are NOT flooded, so they may be in a better position to provide the needed device. He suggests asking if the school can do so. The AT Act Program can provide device loans as an interim solution. They also have resources to assist with the acquisition of communication aids.

**CRT Requests**

Sandi reports three requests for complex rehab equipment. They are being referred to the nearest organization that can assist them on the ground. They have therapists working in the field. She is attempting to get clarification of the CMS guidance. This is going through the AOTA Policy channel.

**For tomorrow:**

1. Tomorrow we will have more information about needs from Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

2. Please encourage people to document needs in the portal to create reporting.