



## Why This Topic?

On September 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina terrorized America's Gulf Coast. While every effort was made to safely evacuate the area, many individuals, including older adults, faced extreme danger. One nursing home in Baton Rouge lost 35 patients to drowning.

Because of the tragedies that unfolded during the 2005 Hurricane season, "best practices" for all types of disaster planning and mass evacuation have been researched and revised. These revisions are especially important for frail older adults, residents of group living facilities, people with disabilities, children and many people who live in extreme poverty.

Council on Aging, concerned for the safety of Charlotte Mecklenburg's vulnerable older adults, sponsored research to assess the adequacy of emergency preparedness in our own community. The research was conducted through the University of North Carolina at Charlotte under the direction of Dena Shenk, PhD and Joanne Carman, PhD. The Council on Aging's 2007 Annual Conference will present the results and recommendations of this research.

Other speakers at the Conference include national, state, regional and local experts. Of special interest will be input from the Mecklenburg emergency response community.

## What's to Be Gained?

- Raise Charlotte-Mecklenburg's awareness about Emergency Planning and its vital importance to all seniors
- Provide information and tools to facilitate Emergency Planning
- Encourage long-term care communities to be proactive in planning for potential emergencies and reduce reliance on first responders
- Encourage participation and cooperation among local government agencies, long-term care communities and first responders
- Enhance capacity among seniors and other providers of senior services to plan for emergencies

## Who Will Present?



**Constantinos I. Miskis (Costas), JD** is the Regional Administrator for Region IV of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration on Aging (AOA). He joined HHS in 2002 when he was appointed by the President of the United States to serve as the Secretary's Regional Director. In 2005 he became Regional Administrator for the Administration on Aging as direct representative of Assistant Secretary for Aging Josephina Carbonell.



**Thomas Blackwell, MD**, is the Medical Director of the Department of Emergency Medicine and the Center for Prehospital Medicine at the Carolinas Medical Center, as well as the Mecklenburg Emergency Medical Services Agency. Dr. Blackwell also serves as the Medical Director and Program Manager of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Advanced Local Emergency Response Team.

**Vicky Church** is the Disaster Readiness Coordinator for the Disability & Elderly Emergency Management (DEEM) Initiative, works for the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services (DAAS).

**Beth Croom, MA** is the Director of Programs, Education and Public Policy for the Alzheimer's Association, Western Carolina Chapter.

**Christopher R. Gonyar, MPA and Kellie M. Visker, MA**, will be presenting their graduate research study on adequacy of emergency preparedness in long term care facilities.

**Teresa Hoover** is a Program Associate with the Western Carolina Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

**Jane S. Jones, BSW, RN** is currently the Director of the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) with Cape Fear Council of Governments, Wilmington, NC which serves Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, and Pender counties.

**Sabrena Lea** is a Specialist in Gerontology, currently employed by Piedmont Triad Council of Governments as the Long Term Care Program Manager and Senior Regional Ombudsman serving older adults within a seven county region as well as residents in the over 275 long term care facilities.

**Sandra Miller, US Navy, Ret.**, is the Community Disaster Education Coordinator for the American Red Cross Disaster Services thru the Americorps NPRC Program.

## What to Expect?

- I. Registration (8:00-9:00 AM)
- II. Welcome (9:00-9:15 AM)
- III. Deployment of the Carolinas MED-1 Mobile Hospital in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina – Thomas Blackwell, MD (9:15-10:00 AM)
- IV. Coffee Break (10:00-10:30 AM)
- V. UNC-Charlotte Graduate Research Presentation (10:30-11:30 AM)
- VI. Luncheon (11:30-12:00 PM)
- VII. Keynote Speaker: Constantinos Miskis, JD (12:00 – 1:00 PM)
- VIII. **Breakout Sessions** (1:10-2:30 PM)
  - A. Retirement Community/Long-Term Care Facility Emergency Planning and Dialogue with Emergency Response Personnel
  - B. Caring for Special Medical Needs Populations
  - C. Caring for People with Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia During a Disaster
  - D. Emergency Planning for Independent Seniors
- IX. General Session – Breakout Reports (2:30-3:15 PM)
- X. Closing Comments and Path Forward (3:15-3:30 PM)
- XI. Adjournment (3:30 PM)

## Continuing Education Credit

Application has been made to the North Carolina State Board of Examiners for Nursing Home Administrators for 5.3 hours of **Nursing Home Administrator's credit**.

Charlotte AHEC is an approved provider of **Continuing Nursing Education (CNE)** by the North Carolina Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Charlotte AHEC is recognized by the **National Board for Certified Counselors** to offer continuing education for National Certified Counselors. We adhere to NBCC Continuing Education Guidelines, Provider # 5096.

Charlotte AHEC has approved this program for 0.53 CEU's representing 5.3 contact hours of continuing education and for 5.3 CNE credits and 5.3 NBCC credits.

**No partial credit will be given. Certificates for contact hours will be awarded at the completion of this conference.**

## ADA Statement

If you need any auxiliary aids or services identified in the American with Disabilities Act in order to attend this conference, please call Doris Robinson at 704.512.6540 or by email at [doris.robinson@carolinas.org](mailto:doris.robinson@carolinas.org).

*This 2007 Annual Conference will be especially helpful to Owners and Administrators: Nursing and Adult Care Homes, Retirement Communities, Assisted Living and Group Homes for Adults, and Home Health Agencies • Emergency Services Personnel: first responders, Police, EMS, Firefighters • Senior Service Providers: RN's, LPN's, CNA's, Social Workers, Case Managers • Seniors and Caregivers.*