

Testing testing testing. Testing testing testing. [Captioner on standby.]

>> I am seeing it in StreamText. It seems good. Okay. That is working.

[Captioner on standby.]

>> Good evening everyone. The tables are open no. Make it to the topic of your choice. (Inaudible). There is a QR code that you will need to access that. We have great facilitators.

>> We are all hydrated.

>> Thank you, and we will begin.

>> I am Amy. What is your name

>> I am Julie.

>> Where are you from

>> I am with-- in the northern portion of the state.

>> Okay.

>> Yeah, so just a context about the state plan for independent living does include, by 2027, to have a disaster preparedness committee. So they are working to build a committee and are seeking input for the disaster preparedness. Do you have thoughts already that you came prepared to share? I have questions, if you don't.

>> Yes, I came to find out what is going on in Indiana and in my community when it comes to disaster preparedness. What I know is that (inaudible) women and gender diverse focus. I know women are seven times more likely to die in (inaudible). I know in Indiana, we get the tornadoes. We get flash floods, you know, I have lived over here near Lake Michigan. We have the undertow's, the dunes. It's like a sci-fi movie.

I can remember as a child crawling out more than once.

>> Really, okay.

>> Yes. So, knowing and getting warned is what I want, more information that I can take back to the chapters and talk to

leadership about what's going on with that intersection with disability.

>> I think that in terms of knowing what that's going on and I don't have those statistics but knowing who is more likely to die or suffer in a disaster or an emergency, disabled people can evacuate, typically, if they have a physical disability. Also, loss of power can be a big problem for people who depend on electricity to charge their wheelchairs, who have events at home, and depend on lifesaving technology to keep them alive in the home. Those are concerns that disabled people have. Just knowing that the intersection of disability, who is more likely to be disabled are black and brown folks, experiencing disability at higher rates. Of course, they also experience poverty at higher rates. They tend to live in disaster zones more. Those kind of resources, we know that also disabled people are less likely to have an emergency preparedness plan.

>> Really?

>> Yes. Just thinking. I don't know, that is something to think about.

>> Am trying to think.

>> What else? In terms of even what's needed with access now--

Indiana, sorry. It's Indiana, you said, right?

>> Indiana

>> Just in terms of access to information. If you think about sirens, you are deaf or Hard of Hearing. Access, we saw that showing up in the flood was Texas and the warning system didn't work. Thinking about disabled people and people with intellectual disabilities being able to access information in a way that is accessible to them. Those are kind of the needs.

>> Then another thing is a natural disaster but it's a manufactured disaster into solution. I know was teachers, classroom teachers. I know that students with disabilities are left behind pre-teachers with disabilities are left behind. It's just horrifying to think that if my child were (inaudible) or had a visual impairment and they were in a hallway. To think my child would be left in that hallway as a buffer. We are going to sacrifice this child so that we get another five minutes. It often feels--

>> I think even emergency responders don't know how to deal with disability in terms of communicating with people, good communication differences, autistic people who are experiencing a meltdown and chaos taking place. Those types of things and people who are meant to help IMO, all these people who don't also have the

training that they need to be-- to help evacuate, and even maybe you're thinking about are we looking for disabled people. When you go to a hotel and they ask you if you need an accessible room, they ask you if you really want to be listed as a somebody with a disability someday know to come get you.

It is just kind of, anything to think about. Do I want someone to know I'm here, right?

>> I was at a conference and we stayed on the 22nd floor. I just, for some reason, I don't know if it was because I knew I was coming here today or if I was thinking more into Intuit as the week progressed. I have mobility issues so we care about is that impact us because it is right in front of our face. It just dawned on me that if something happens and we are on the 22nd floor, I'm not getting down.

>> What hit home for me, this was big--

>> I was in Boston when 9/11 happened. We wouldn't be able to get out.

>> You don't think of those things until it's something like that.

>> I guess, thinking about the kind of- being on the 22nd floor when you were thinking about what if something did happen, what would make you feel safer? What would you want in place?

>> That's a really good question. I don't know why it was on my mind so much. It wasn't like we are normally in other situations where I could look at something and be like I really ought to put in a and fill in the blank. Like, what if we had a-- whatever. If something happens, I'm done.

>> The lack of awareness that you because you were kind of coming here? So then, even-- I'm just hearing, it's creating more awareness that disabled people need to be part of the planning. That even in your community, who are you checking on when a community, when a disaster happens.

Even thinking about-- I live in Richmond, spar away but--

>> Virginia, Richmond?

>> No, Richmond, Indiana. As for hours. Last year, Winchester, which is maybe 25 minutes north of Richmond got flattened by a tornado. You think about those things. I mean, the flooding that is happening but even things that happened so quickly and you don't have with a tornado, time is of the essence and they are always telling

you to go to the basement what if you can't? Where do you go and I think of those types of things. Like these places say go to the bathroom, in a doorway, whatever they are telling you but what if it is not accessible to you? What if you can't get out of bed, what is the possibility. Who is checking on you. Are the emergency responders, do they know there's a disabled person and someone else we need to check on.

>> Are there stickers you can put on your doors like there are four dogs?

>> There are, I don't know if it is statewide. There is like- I don't want to call it the registry, that's terrible, but I believe there's a way you can let your, not sure if it is your city or county note that there is a disabled person in this house and check on me.

That was a while ago and I heard about that but I'm not sure if that is still a thing, to be honest.

I think about that, when you get all these weather alerts, that have been happening a lot lately and you think, I do think as a disabled person, your head goes there and if I don't have the capacity to get so I'm probably less likely to act like this one is not that bad. I will stay put. It is a tornado watch, not awarding yet. Now it's a warning, now what? Should have gone somewhere else already.

You make those calculations that can be dangerous because based on your access.

>> I know the last couple of tornadoes we have, I sat and watched my monitor. I was upstairs, I still have stairs in my house. I was upstairs in bed and thought I wonder if it's worth going downstairs because that takes time. There's been times where we have been under a tornado watch and I thought should I go up or am I sleeping on the couch.

>> That spoon calculation is really important. Thinking about that in terms of disasters. What would be helpful for you-- in terms of planning, knowing that spoons are an issue, what information would you need to be able to make a decision besides the watch morning. Even thinking beyond tornadoes, but what, like a power outage, what decisions are you making? What would you need to know?

>> Yeah, I am just really amazed at how unprepared I am. My daughter-- there was a--1 of my neighbors, she noticed that there was one of the other neighbors down the street there where there were a bunch of ambulance and fire trucks that came by and they were parked all of the street. The neighbor called my daughter and said there's firetrucks in front of your mom's house. My daughter was on the phone and she could not get a hold of me. (Inaudible)



If something were to happen, if one of the neighbors knows me, in the neighborhood, everybody knows you at the dog park.

>> Sums community knowledge, community care is important.

>> Yes--

>> When you are on the 22nd floor at the hotel, how many floors where there altogether

>> There were towers. There was 30, I don't know.

>> In Denver, in a tall building, they were doing fire escape training and they told us-- because we were pretty high up-- they said do not go down, go up to the roof because that is where they rescue you. Then latest, take your shoes off. High heels or any kind of dress shoe. Which, even if you're going to go down, at the end when we had to go back down, they said don't go down. I never thought of that. They said if we have bad knees, or go down on your butt, don't mess around trying to look cute, just get out.

>> Grab pillow and fly down the stairs. Whatever it takes.

>> I even think of, one of the other things because I think one of the things we are going to experience more that I feel like

just this spring because we did have so many storms and blackouts. We lost our power for four hours and in the spring, that's okay if you're he does not going to go out. When you start to think about disabled people who, people with spinal cord injuries who cannot regulate their body temperature, that becomes an issue of access for the heat or air conditioning. Just being ready for that. Do you have a backup. Did you have a backup generator.

I feel like the people in our cul-de-sac, there's an older couple and their daughter and son-in-law lived next door. They have a backup generator, that is how I know the whole block is off because I can hear their generator kick on like everybody has lost power, but I think it is probably because I think the grandpa has-- needs access to electricity.

I think those are things that people, but that that is the cost of stuff to start everyone has access to a backup generator.

>> Those things are thousands. And maintaining those.

>> How do you turn them-- is a--

>> The one they have, I can tell it is automatic because you hear it kick on. Our lights go out and I can hear it turn on. That does take resources and I think that is the other piece of it, disabled

people are under resourced by and large to be able to have access to the bigger emergency things that they need.

>> With the 22nd floor, is that a fifth five and you're in the middle of the tower? So there are 50 floors if I'm on the 25th floor, I go up. On the 24th, I go down.

>> Are making calculations.

>> Or do, should you be asking? Should I want to be on the top or on the bottom five?

>> Some of the things I have noticed our in case of emergency, use these exits and you'll get on the elevator and it will say go up to the roof.

>> That's interesting.

>> Have never paid attention.

>> That's one thing, to have those signs.

>> I think that is one thing that I noticed as a disabled person when I am in a place like this, there are the little signs and in an emergency, there is sort of a sign that says disabled people

gather here and doesn't say that but that's kind of like a meeting point. There is that part of me that thinks okay, there is a gathering point, but at what point are they going to come look for me. Are they going to save everyone else first or are they going-- and just stop here. I remember when I was then, I don't know, maybe sixth or seventh grade. I was on a field trip at the natural history Museum in Denver and I had my wheelchair, it was a manual wheelchair, there was a big fire alarm. I don't think it was planned. The museum is starting to evacuate and my teacher left with all the other kids and I am sitting there. With, you know, they got to Museum security guards. Eventually, they carried me in my wheelchair down the stairs which was very frightening but I don't think they were trying to do that.

They have evacuation chairs, they did not have-- but, you know. I remember when I was teaching at the University of Indianapolis, there was another faculty member in a wheelchair and they did have to evacuate the building and I don't remember why and he was on the fifth floor and they had to use an evacuation chair but not that many people are trained on how to use it. I think those are the things. There are resources but you have to train people and disabled people have to know what exists. I feel like that is the big thing, awareness on everybody's part.

>> Then you're in a position where I have a genetic disorder. (Inaudible). Getting to a whole another stage of existence.

>> Aging with a disability is a different ballgame. People don't talk about it because they think we think of aging as a process that gives you some disabilities, but then if you are born with their disability, aging with that is a different experience. I think that comes up for a lot of people.

>> Yeah.

>> I think disabled people are living longer than they used to.

>> Yes.

>> What do we do? What is the state of emergency preparedness? Do we know? Is that city based? Is it Anissa pulled? If it's municipal, we are all dead.

>> That, I don't-- I know-- this kind of roundtable thing is more of a you telling us what you need. I don't have all the statistics, but I was visiting the website that Indiana government website. It talks a lot about I may disabled person like what do you need to do to be ready. Do you have an extra battery for your wheelchair, they are \$400. Just that kind of, putting a lot of pressure on the individual to be ready.

I think that is what the point of this committee, that they are trying to set up is, to figure out what is the statewide response. What are the gaps in response. How do we coordinate fact-finding and also, figuring out what needs to be done. Just thinking about what does happen when FEMA is called in. Who is coordinating the state or local part of things.

Even thinking of COVID. That was, I don't know we call that a disaster, I mean, it was. But that the disability response was lacking. I don't have an answer for you, unfortunately.

>> So now I am thinking, if we are supposed to be thinking. I think, probably a first place to start would be contacting my local first responders and make sure that my name, my apartment, and that the social workers that go out. So if we have an emergency (inaudible). Whatever your disability is, it's going to up your anxiety anyway. Then you are subject to a meltdown (inaudible).

To have at least, fire, EMT, so many places in Indiana have volunteer firefighters and are they trained

>> Are they trained, yeah.

>> Trained to handle things. We have social workers, we have

so many healthcare workers. (Inaudible). So, where are you taking people? How? Are the people getting there? If I have a disability to begin with, now (inaudible)

>> That is a good point, even that brings up me people who are living in group homes or congregate settings, which ultimately, independent living is trying to put people in the community rather than current settings and we know the reality that people who live in group homes. However he responding to people who don't have access to transportation because they live in a group home. Are they being made aware, because so many people are making decisions for them that they don't have a choice.

Like, nursing homes, how are we responding? How are they fitting in the plans if they don't have-- and that does intersect- that there is a transportation table. If you don't have transportation and they give you an evacuation order, how do you leave

>> I was thinking about flooding. Our cities and thought baked but we have a tent city of on house people. They didn't care about that. They are just the first ago

>> Especially in a tent.

>> (Inaudible). I don't know.

>> Apparently come I've had a lot of weird disasters. Last spring, also, Richmond is the big plastic squire. There was a half-mile evacuation zone, which, of course, because of where the plastics recycling path center, whatever it was, was in the factory side of town where people living in more economic under resourced areas just, the most underserved people are living in that area and they are given an evacuation order. Where do you go?

I think, when-- and how you get there? I mean, we live in a town of a bus system that stops at 5 PM or something. It is a very, and you think about, there's an assisted living facility that was half of the assisted living facility was in that evacuation zone and the other half. You think, where those people go in and also, that area already had a high conflict, if you look at the EPA map of that town, that circle was already super concentrated in terms of pollutants, and kids with asthma who, because of where they live in a city, then you throw a disaster onto it and the health points. Thinking about that piece.

>> How did they find out about that evacuation? How do they get access to the information? (Inaudible).

>> That is a good point. The communication is a really good point, especially in these places that don't have their own TV



stations. Richmond is a town of 35,000 people and we have a local public access station. How many people are watching that were watching Facebook streaming. The mayor was doing reports, but it was just chaotic, to be honest. Because nobody was, the information was very spotty, actually. We were just outside of the evacuation zone but our house was black on the inside. We left.

When you think about stuff, the communication is huge. How do you get information out there quickly and excessively.

>> Just recently, a change cell phone providers because my old provider with the phone service I was getting was affordable. It was limited data. I was shutting off my data all the time in I only turned it on when I needed it. I had unlimited data because I was using more and more and cannot afford to unplug.

>> That's a good point. Access to come it's not just access to a phone, it's access to data, Internet. Talk about Internet as a utility.

>> How many years-- years ago, ten or more that the federal government said they were going to put Internet access in rural areas. There are still kids that go to McDonald's to do their homework because they don't have Internet.

>> During COVID, so many people.

>> They had those mobile kind of things that--

>> These cities and towns that didn't have Internet and they were taking their kids to McDonald's. Every kid didn't have their own phone.

>> If you have four kids, you don't have four sources or four pieces of infrastructure that you can utilize.

>> The wheels are just spinning.

>> Just keeps spinning.

>> There going to spin off. I'm thinking, if we had mayors councils on disability, this is one of the reasons why the community needs to have a committee on disability. As a standalone come in my city, they have the mayor's advisory and everybody at the pleasure of the mayor nobody is going to tell the mayor anything because they'll kick him off the board. They folded it into the human rights committee.

>> Which we don't have in our town, which is against the charter.

>> All of that stuff.

>> It's even more reason, the disability rights committee and Council, make an independent counsel, standalone counsel that's not answering to anybody except the communities. Because of stuff like this. What is our city doing for emergency response for people.

>> (Inaudible).

>> There is a committee coming up.

>> I work full-time and empty president of the local chapter. I was going to retire and they suckered me back in.

>> So you were coming started this whole conversation about the intersection of gender and disability. Watch, knowing that women are more likely to have a disability on top of that, what, thinking of the work that you do, what with you, how would you combine those two? Gender and disability. Then the disaster and emergency preparedness. What would you--

>> In a male dominated government, I think it is important, I think it would be important to hear from women's perspective. It's also interesting to get, when you look at systemic sexism, they have

(inaudible). It's all well and good (inaudible). Talk to them about it to make sure women and taking it seriously, we are also the caregivers of our aging parents, of our children, we are more likely to have babies (inaudible). Those are things I think ours important to make sure we talk a lot about. The communication network now to amplify that. This is where you are at.

>> You are a networker.

>> To be able to amplify that message on hey women, this is our reality, whatever we going to do to make our voices heard. If that means we have to find a man to go stand and talk to the Council, then that's what you got to do. I don't care if that's wrong.

>> Building-- finding allies and co-conspirators to amplify your voice.

>> Which we shouldn't have to, but we do.

>> (Inaudible)

>> (Inaudible)

>> Wouldn't it be interesting though-- in a perfect world.

>> What are some other questions you have got?

>> Let me see. One question is, if you had the power to change one thing to make our community safer for everyone during a disaster, what would you change?

>> Realistically, what would I change?

>> (Inaudible)

>> These are good thought-provoking questions.

>> I think transportation is so important, not just any disaster.

>> We have five minutes left for the roundtables. Finish up your thoughts and we will wrap it up in five minutes. There are QR codes at your Table 1 is to sign up for the newsletter. If you have not done that, please do so. We would love to hear your feedback about today's event. You can follow us on Facebook. Thank you

>>

>> We got grant money last year. What would you do? What would be yours?

>> The thing that I would change? I think a big one is communication. I access to cell phones, Internet, making sure that we are alerting people in multiple ways. I think the kind of secondary to that is the community building. When you talk about your neighborhood being a neighborhood that people know, building that sense of community that I think we lost a lot during COVID, I'm really checking in on each other like we lost power, so-and-so uses a wheelchair, maybe I'm going to go over there and see if they need their wheelchair charge on my generator. That sort of stuff because I even, just that awareness of who might not be able to leave. Even something that comes up for me, if I did have to leave versus a tornado, where you are going down, if we have lost power, I can't get out of our garage. I can't reach the manual thing. I am stuck. Just those things. What if one of my neighbors thought about that. If one of my neighbors knew my evacuation plan, Amy is alone, in an emergency, let's check and make sure she has these things. That community portion, I think building community.

>> That's good answer. What about you?

>> Occasion bothers me a lot, that we don't have (inaudible).

>> If the Internet goes out, people wouldn't know.

>> I signed up for the emergency text from Eric County and the county over because usually if a tornado is coming, it's coming from that way. I got both Union and Main County.

If we don't have power, we have one bar of signal in our house. Again, it's that access to Wi-Fi to communicate.

>> (Inaudible). There is this compressor they can charge your battery under cell phone. We keep it in the trunk of our car, and it's at least the charger, to charge the wheelchair battery. The like that. I don't know, maybe some kind of a groupware we find out if there are wheelchair users that need one of these that charge your cell phone.

We got a new cell phone, which I needed pretty bad. My battery and the other one, which I think I needed. For those who can't afford a cell phone, I have another one in my drawer at the as taking out and resetting it to factory settings, pulling out the Sim card and put it on, there is a website. It is such a lifesaver.

>> That's an interesting idea because he mentions talking to fire departments and police, EMT. The fire department would be a great place to have a phone drop off because they are already resources. They have the safe haven boxes. If we have community phones, a library, or anywhere, there is a heating station or a cooling station.

Our library is often a cooling station. Wouldn't that be great?

Also, would it be great to look at the gender piece and if someone is experiencing domestic violence and go to the library to get a different phone. I'm just throwing that out there. The I am taking this.

[Session ended.]