

# State of New Jersey

*Special Needs Programs and Partners*



# Presenters:

- Mary Goepfert NJOEM
- Norman Smith, Project Freedom Inc. and NJ State Independent Living Council
- Scott Elliot, Progressive Center for Independent Living
- Gerald McAteer, Delta Development Group Inc.

# Strategic Approach

- *Focusing on:*
- Individual
- Government Agencies
- Service Provider
- *And on collaborations among:*
- Social Services
- Health
- Emergency Management

# Role of the Individual

- Contributors, not “... just passive receivers of assistance ...”
- Norman P. Smith, Project Freedom Inc.



# Bergen County CERT Team December 2007



# Role of the Service Provider

- Scott Elliott, Executive Director, Progressive Center for Independent Living
- Case Study: persons with disabilities as community disaster educators and liaisons to emergency management
- Case Study: Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton



*PCIL - MOVING LIVES  
FORWARD!*

# Role of Government Agencies

- Integration
- Advocacy
- Coordination
- Foresight
- Applying guidance and lessons learned – registries, mass care, marketing the importance of preparedness

# Preparing is Caring ...



*... are you Register Ready ?*



**NJ's Special Needs Registry  
For Disasters**

For people with disabilities who need help  
during an evacuation or emergency.

Call 2-1-1 • [www.registerready.nj.gov](http://www.registerready.nj.gov)

**Register  
READY**  
[www.registerready.nj.gov](http://www.registerready.nj.gov)

Sponsored by the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness and your County Office of Emergency Management



**Gerald M. McAteer CEM**

Delta Development Group  
Inc.

# Ongoing Projects

- Statewide implementation of Register Ready
- Medical Needs Shelter Guidance – expansion into staffing, equipment, training, exercising
- MMES
- County and local SN annexes to EOP's
- State EOP
- Integration of SN considerations in Hurricane Evacuation Plan update

# Ongoing Projects

- SN Awareness Course for CERT Teams
- NJ Resource Management DB
- Disability Assessment Response Teams
- Partnership with NJ Division of Deaf HH
- Increasing Cultural Competence
- NJ Special Needs Advisory Panel
- COOP for Social Service Providers – Cornell University

# Thank You !

*Mary J. Goepfert, MPA, APR, CPM  
Training/ Special Needs/ External Affairs  
NJ Office Emergency Management  
609-584-5000 ext. 5117  
[lppgoepm@gw.njsp.org](mailto:lppgoepm@gw.njsp.org)*