

## PLENARY SPEAKERS



**GAIL J. MCGOVERN**

**PRESIDENT AND CEO  
AMERICAN RED CROSS**

Gail McGovern joined the American Red Cross as President and CEO on April 8, 2008 and has taken a strong leadership role at the nation's leading emergency response and blood services organization.

Along with overseeing responses to several high-profile disasters, Ms. McGovern has initiated steps to invigorate the \$3.3 billion organization, including dramatically reducing its deficit and streamlining its operations.

Prior to joining the Red Cross, Ms. McGovern was a faculty member at the Harvard Business School and served as President of Fidelity Personal Investments, a unit of Fidelity Investments. She was also Executive Vice President for the Consumer Markets Division at AT&T, responsible for AT&T's \$26 billion residential long-distance service and largest business unit.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Johns Hopkins University and an MBA from Columbia University, and has since been recognized as alumna of the year from both universities.

Ms. McGovern is currently a member of the board of trustees of Johns Hopkins University and the board of directors of both the Hartford Financial Services Group and DTE Energy.

Ms. McGovern was recognized by Fortune magazine in 2000 and 2001 as one of the top 50 most powerful women in corporate America.



**WILLIAM MODZELESKI**

***ASSOCIATE ASSISTANT DEPUTY SECRETARY  
OFFICE OF SAFE AND DRUG FREE SCHOOLS  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION***

Bill Modzeleski is currently serving as Associate Assistant Deputy Secretary of the Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug Free Schools. Mr. Modzeleski has over 30 years of experience working on a wide range of school safety, juvenile justice and emergency preparedness issues. He served at both the local level and national levels. At the local level he served as a probation officer and as a liaison to family court. At the national level he served in several capacities while at the Department of Justice, including serving on national commissions examining child abuse, child exploitation, domestic violence, and drug use. He moved to the Department of Education in 1990 where he has led their efforts to address school violence, drug use and emergency preparedness. More recently, he coordinated ED's efforts to address the H1N1 influenza pandemic, ED's response to the earthquake in Haiti, and ED's response to the BP Oil Spill. Mr. Modzeleski also represents ED on several inter-agency initiatives, including those related to Trafficking of Persons and another related to the Radicalization of Young Persons.

He has written several articles on violence and threat assessment and is a co-author of the Safe School Initiative Study, the By-Stander Study, the Threat Assessment Guide and Survey on School Associated Violent Deaths. Mr. Modzeleski also helped design and implement several programs related to school safety and preparedness including: Readiness Emergency Management for Schools [REMS]; Emergency Management for Higher Education; Project SERV [School Emergency Response to Violence]; and the Safe Schools Healthy Students Initiative.

Mr. Modzeleski is a U.S. Army vet, who earned a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service for his service in Vietnam. He is also a recipient of the Meritorious Executive Rank Award and the U.S. Secret Service Director's Recognition Award.

## National Summit on Youth Preparedness



**TIMOTHY W. MANNING**

**DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR  
PROTECTION AND NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS  
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

Timothy W. Manning was confirmed as Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in May 2009. In this capacity, he is responsible for preparing the nation to protect against, prevent, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and natural disasters.

Through the coordination of the National Preparedness Directorate, Grant Programs Directorate, Office of National Capital Region Coordination and National Continuity Programs Directorate, Mr. Manning oversees the Agency's preparedness initiatives including national training, education, exercises, assessment, and community preparedness programs.

As a former firefighter, emergency medical technician (EMT), rescue mountaineer, hazardous materials specialist and hydrologist, he brings almost two decades of diverse, frontline emergency management experience to the Agency.

Prior to joining FEMA, Mr. Manning served as the Secretary of the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and Homeland Security Advisor to Governor Richardson.

Mr. Manning entered the New Mexico state government in 2001 as the hazardous materials response program coordinator for the Department of Public Safety. He rose through the ranks, serving as the Chief of Emergency Operations Bureau and then as the Department's Director. In 2007, Mr. Manning was named the state's first Secretary of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Deputy Administrator Manning earned a Bachelors of Science in Geology from Eastern Illinois University, and is a graduate of the Executive Leaders Program (ELP) at the Center for Homeland Defense and Security at the Naval Postgraduate School.

## National Summit on Youth Preparedness



**BRIAN KAMOIE, JD, MPH**

**SENIOR DIRECTOR FOR PREPAREDNESS POLICY  
NATIONAL SECURITY STAFF  
THE WHITE HOUSE**

Brian Kamoie is Senior Director for Preparedness Policy on the White House National Security Staff. In this role he leads the development of national policy related to all-hazards preparedness, individual and community resilience, domestic critical infrastructure protection and resilience, preparedness grants and national security professional development.

Before joining the White House National Security Staff, Kamoie served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response and Director of the Office of Policy, Strategic Planning & Communications at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this role, he led efforts in policy development, strategic planning and communications related to preparedness for and response to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies.

While at HHS, he led in the development and implementation of key national policies, including the National Response Plan and National Incident Management System, the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act and a number of Homeland Security Presidential Directives, including *Biodefense for the 21st Century* (#10), *Medical Countermeasures against Weapons of Mass Destruction* (#18), and *Public Health and Medical Preparedness* (#21). Kamoie also played key leadership roles in the Department's response to major incidents (e.g., hurricanes, floods and the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic) and national exercises (Top Officials (TOPOFF) 3 and 4).

Prior to his work at HHS, Kamoie was Associate Professor of Health Policy and Health Services Management and Leadership at The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services, where he taught classes in public health law, health services law, and homeland security and public health policy. He has published many scholarly articles on these topics. He is a 2009 senior fellow of The George Washington University's Homeland Security Policy Institute, and continues to serve on the adjunct faculty as Professorial Lecturer in the School of Public Health and Health Services.

Kamoie received his bachelor's degree in policy studies and political science from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa. and his law degree and master's degree in public health from The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., where he served as managing editor of *The George Washington Law Review*.

## National Summit on Youth Preparedness



### **KEVIN RONAN PHD**

**TEMPLE UNIVERSITY  
FOUNDATION PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY  
CENTRAL QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY, AUSTRALIA**

Kevin Ronan is a clinical psychologist who specializes in hazards and disasters, problems of youth and families (e.g., conduct disorder; anxiety disorders; child maltreatment; trauma), schizophrenia, homework in therapy, and treatment outcome evaluation.

Dr. Ronan is also a member of the Editorial Board of the Australasian Journal of Disaster and Trauma Studies, is Chair of the Disaster Prevention and Response Reference Group of the Australian Psychological Society and is an author of many disaster related journal and other publications, including a book called "Promoting Community Resilience to Disasters: The Role for Schools, Youth, and Families" (2005, Springer, New York).



### **FRANCIE ALEXANDER**

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT & CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER  
SCHOLASTIC INC.**

Francie Alexander is the Senior Vice President of Scholastic Education and Chief Academic Officer of Scholastic Inc. She works across both the education and consumer divisions of Scholastic, advising on the creation of educational products and services for children both in and out of school. A distinguished thought leader in education research and policy, Ms. Alexander oversees the Scholastic Education research and evaluation team, ensuring the qualitative validation of all of the company's educational products and programs.

Ms. Alexander also serves as a spokesperson on educational best practices, literacy, and parenting. She has been a frequent guest on NBC's TODAY Show, has written columns for The New York Post, and was "The Book Nanny" for Los Angeles Family Magazine. Additionally, Ms. Alexander has authored more than 40 Scholastic titles including Dots! Dots! Dots! At the Museum, Clifford's Phonics Fun, and How Does Your Salad Grow?

Ms. Alexander has a long legacy of service to education. She currently serves on two PBS Advisory Boards and the Steering Committee for the School Management Program at UCLA and recently advised Institute for Museum and Library Science (IMLS) on the Youth Action Initiative. Ms. Alexander is a former member of the National Assessment Governing Board, which oversees the National Assessment of Educational Progress, widely known as "The Nation's Report Card."

Prior to her time at Scholastic, Ms. Alexander held key positions in both state and federal education agencies, including serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Education, where she led Department-sponsored standards efforts and campaigns in support of libraries and the arts. Ms. Alexander has taught students from kindergarten to college.

**September 15-16, 2010 ~ American Red Cross Hall of Service ~ 1730 E Street, NW ~ Washington, DC**

## National Summit on Youth Preparedness



### **JACOB (KOBI) WIMISBERG**

***DIRECTOR OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND  
COOPERATION DEPARTMENT  
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE  
ISRAEL***

Since 2008 and until the present day, Mr. Wimisberg works as the Director of Strategy & Cooperation Department in the National Emergency Management Authority of Israel in the Ministry of Defense. In this position he is in charge of building up cooperation between Israel and other countries in the field of emergency management, to create the national civil threat reference assessment.

In the years 1984-1994; 2005-2007 Mr. Wimisberg served in the Israeli Defense Forces in many positions. Chief among these positions are Operations Chief, and Vice Commander in the Special IAF Airborne Rescue & Evacuation Unit. He was discharged from his service as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Mr. Wimisberg graduated from The Academic College of Tel Aviv in 1997 with a BA in Behavioral Sciences (Magna Cum Laude). From year 2000 until 2004 Mr. Wimisberg studied at Carnegie Mellon University and got his M.Sc. in Social and Decision Sciences.

In 2000 Mr. Wimisberg received the Fulbright Fellowship award. Mr. Wimisberg also received the Smith Scholarship for excellence award in Tel Aviv University (2000) and the Scholarship for excellence award in the Academic College of Tel Aviv – Yaffo (1996, 1997).



### **CHANDRIKA KUMARAN**

***PUBLIC EDUCATION MANAGER  
MINISTRY OF CIVIL DEFENCE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
NEW ZEALAND***

Ms. Kumaran has a B.A (Hons) in Communications and has over 30 years experience managing communication and social marketing programs in both the private and public sectors. She manages New Zealand's preparedness programme which comprises the national "Get Ready Get Thru" mass media campaign and a schools' programme called *What's The Plan Stan?*

*What's The Plan Stan?*, which was launched in 2006, targets primary and intermediate schools, and is both a resource for kids to learn about hazards as well as a teaching resource for teachers. The programme enjoys a high level of buy-in and support from local and regional civil defence agencies as well as teachers around the country.

## National Summit on Youth Preparedness



**DANIELA PEÑALOZA**

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH  
CHILE**

Daniela Peñaloza is Deputy Director of Chile's National Institute for Youth. Ms. Peñaloza has been active in youth activism since she was a member of the Student Council at University and focused on promoting the participation of the student body in University affairs. From September 2006 until May 2009 she worked at the Jaime Guzman Foundation, assuming the leadership of the Jóvenes al Servicio de Chile program. This Program's goal is to promote public service vocations in young people and to facilitate work programs in rural municipalities. Ms. Peñaloza began her current role in March 2010 with the administration of President Sebastián Piñera. Ms. Peñaloza is also an Organizational Psychologist of the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.

**KYRA SOMMERFELD**

**CHIPPEWA FALLS, WISCONSIN**

Kyra Sommerfeld has been a lifelong advocate for emergency preparedness. It was this early pursuit of emergency preparedness that allowed Ms. Sommerfeld to be an effective responder when the lead bus in a school caravan crashed while returning from a band competition in 2005. The crash resulted in the death of five people and serious injury to many others. During her high school career, Ms. Sommerfeld was also a member and leader of the Chippewa Falls Area Unified School District SERT (School Emergency Response Team). She was one of 32 students who completed the first READY (Responding to Emergencies And Disasters with Youth) Camp and returned to the Camp in a leadership role in following years.

She has also been instrumental in developing initiatives to assist professional community responders to improve their preparedness to face emergency and disaster situations within the Chippewa Falls community. As an instructor at the elementary school "Safety Ranger Camp," Ms. Sommerfeld demonstrated her ability to design a training program, deliver the curriculum, and encourage elementary students to take responsibility for their safety.

Ms. Sommerfeld has developed a program that focuses on children and adults with communication barriers or other functional needs. In 2009, she was awarded the Prudential Spirit of Community Award for her program. Ms. Sommerfeld has also received the Presidential Volunteer Service Award. Ms. Sommerfeld matriculated at Concordia College in fall 2009 and is actively pursuing initiatives to make her College better prepared.

## National Summit on Youth Preparedness

### **VICTORIA ELIAS**

**BROOKLYN, NEW YORK**

Victoria Elias has been an active volunteer and leader in youth focused outreach throughout her high school experience. Her areas of service have ranged from advocating for health care reform, to ministering to refugee families, to hosting a weekly youth empowerment online radio show, to mentoring 5<sup>th</sup> graders. In February 2010, Ms. Elias was selected to spearhead a citywide youth preparedness campaign in New York City as part of the NYC Citizen Corps Council Youth Leadership Program. In this role, Ms. Elias has met with leaders in the New York City Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to discuss the OEM's role in City government and ways to increase youth preparedness. Her responsibilities also include hands on trainings, field trips, and community events to learn about NYC emergency management service and ultimately to design a youth oriented preparedness event.

For her dedication to service, Ms. Elias has received the Outstanding Community Service Award from NYC Councilman Jumaane Williams. Ms. Elias will graduate from the Bishop Ford Central Catholic High School in Brooklyn, New York in June 2012.

### **KONSTANTINE BUHLER**

**LAKE FOREST, ILLINOIS**

Konstantine Buhler is the Founder and President of Always Ready Kids (ARK), the world's premier youth-run disaster preparedness organization that helps youth and their families prepare for disasters. Beginning in 2004, ARK has conducted dozens of projects in several countries and four continents. ARK's projects include presenting on disaster preparedness, distributing disaster preparedness information, and making individual safety supply kits that include basic preparedness items. Over 15,000 people have participated in projects conducted by ARK. In addition to disaster preparedness awareness, ARK eagerly assists with disaster relief efforts. ARK has raised over \$20,000 for disaster relief efforts and has collected and sent over 3,500 books to shelters. ARK continuously empowers youth to prepare for disasters and has the goal "to catalyze a shift in our culture's approach to disasters from reactive to proactive."

Mr. Buhler has addressed national and international audiences on social issues affecting youth with a particular focus on risk and disaster management. He received the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award at the World Conference on Disaster Management and the 2010 AXA Achievement Award. He has served as a motivational speaker for various national youth conferences. He has also won numerous debate and leadership awards. Mr. Buhler matriculated at Stanford University in fall 2010.