



## Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response

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### CCBOH Launches Emergency Preparedness Coalitions

Introductory Meetings on Nov. 2, 2011

#### Monday, October 24, 2011

**JONESBORO, GA** - In an effort to partner with the community and make Clayton County more resilient to potential disasters, the Clayton County Board of Health (CCBOH) has established **Emergency Preparedness Coalitions**. Starting on **Wednesday, Nov. 2**, these coalitions will meet regularly in order to address local emergency preparedness, develop effective private-public collaborations, and improve resiliency among the county's most vulnerable population segments.

In order to address the unique challenges to emergency preparedness in the community, the CCBOH's efforts will be divided into four coalitions: **The Healthcare Coalition; Vulnerable Populations & Shelters; Business-Public Coalition; and Disaster Mental Health Coalition**. In the coming weeks, the Board of Health will call upon local businesses, churches, volunteer and relief agencies, health care and mental health providers, senior centers and retirement facilities, and groups working within specific cultural segments to build a trusted, nonpartisan network focused on the safety of the community.

"When large-scale disasters strike, it is important that healthcare and mental healthcare providers, shelters, businesses, and public entities can work with each other in order to maintain services and restore calm," said Doug Dugger, CCBOH Director of Emergency Preparedness and Response. "Our goal with these coalitions is to improve community resiliency to disasters and help us recover faster from them."

"If a major hurricane, tornado, or manmade disaster were to hit, there are many people who might not get the services they need due to lack of resources such as transportation, medical conditions, language barriers, and other challenges," said Dr. Alpha Fowler Bryan, Clayton County District Health Director. "With these coalitions, we can minimize these challenges as much as possible. We can also ensure that our business community is prepared so that they are in the best position to provide aid and expertise."

The first meeting of Clayton County's Emergency Preparedness Coalitions will address the goals and objectives of the coalitions. The first meetings will take place on **Nov. 2** at the Clayton County Board of Health Comprehensive Health Facility, located at 1117 Battle Creek Road in Jonesboro, at the following times: **Mental Health Coalition – 9-10:30 a.m.; Vulnerable Populations & Shelters Coalition – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Healthcare Coalition – 1:30-3 p.m.; Business-Public Coalition – 3:30-5 p.m.** Those attending the Vulnerable Populations & Shelters meeting will receive a complimentary lunch.

To register, contact Doug Dugger at (678) 610-7467 or [duggerf@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:duggerf@dhr.state.ga.us). For more information about the coalitions, contact Joel Hall, Public Information Officer, at (678) 610-7424 or [joelhall@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:joelhall@dhr.state.ga.us).

[www.claytoncountypublichealth.org](http://www.claytoncountypublichealth.org)

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