

The Whole Community Approach: Hazard Mitigation & Disaster Recovery

Held: March 18, 2019

Panelists

- **Allison Boyd (Guest Speaker)** - Levee Project Manager, Multnomah County; Urban Planner, Community Sustainability and Disaster Resiliency
- **Corey Hawking** - Assistant Director, University Sustainability Practices, ASU
- **Hans Silberschlag** - Former Assistant Fire Chief and Fire Marshall, Tempe Fire Medical Rescue; Chair, Fire Science & EMT Department, Mesa Community College
- **Robert Rowley** - Director for the Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management
- **Melanie Gall (Moderator)** - Co-Director, Center for Emergency Management & Homeland Security, ASU

Executive Summary

In our second panel discussion centering around the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) *'Whole Community Approach'*, panelists outlined the challenges and benefits of addressing hazard mitigation and long-term disaster recovery across the spectrum of community stakeholders. Allison Boyd, an urban planner and co-author of the American Planning Association report [Planning for Post-Disaster Recovery: Next Generation](#) (PAS Report 576), introduced strategies for incorporating *resiliency* and *sustainability* concepts into day-to-day municipal planning efforts and post-disaster recovery plans. As Allison explains, the cyclical relationship of hazard mitigation and disaster recovery strategies, requires planners, emergency management professionals, and city practitioners to address the interrelated policy areas; many of which fall outside the traditional focus of emergency managers and, if unaddressed, lead to increased vulnerabilities and disaster risk.

Whole Community Approach FEMA (2011)

Cited Benefits:

1. Shared understanding of community needs & capabilities
2. Empowerment & integration of community resources
3. Stronger social infrastructure
4. Establishing relationships that facilitate prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery
5. Increased preparedness
6. Greater resiliency

Challenges In Engaging 'The Whole Community':

- 'Slow-boil' of long-term (non-acute) hazards (e.g. extreme heat, drought, sea-level rise, flooding); perceived lack of urgency dominates
- Difficulty securing enduring commitment and interest for long-term mitigation and recovery planning, especially in the absence of local disasters
- Limited reliable sources for hazard mitigation funding: too much reliance on federal government creates blind spots for complementarily non-disaster-related funds (e.g., create a multi-use path and nature conservation area while building a levee)

Best Practices in Planning for Hazard Mitigation & Disaster Recovery...

Presented by Allison Boyd



- Disasters present “windows of opportunity” – a period of time when it is more feasible to achieve large scale changes to advance sustainability and resiliency
- To take advantage of the window of opportunity, communities should develop a long-term disaster recovery and hazard mitigation plan *prior* to a disaster
- This plan addresses a variety of policy areas that reinforce one another; the plan charts out how to leap forward in meeting the community’s sustainability vision and becoming more resilient in the future

...Increasing Community Resilience

- Resilience and sustainability should be integrated throughout community planning effort
- Building the capacity of local governments and community organizations to assist residents and businesses in mitigation is essential to this policy being successful
- Public education and funding assistance can encourage communities to voluntarily rebuild more resilient or sustainable

Up Next:

In our final panel discussion, we explore how the goals of emergency management align with efforts to achieve more sustainable and resilient cities. Faced with interdependent and complex problems, our panelists will discuss how *‘The Whole Community Approach’* might be leveraged to reduce disaster risk, by addressing underlying social, economic, and environmental vulnerabilities within communities.

The Whole Community Approach: Linking Emergency Management, Sustainability, & Resilience

Next Panel...

Tuesday, April 30th, 2019

Panel: 12:00 – 1:15PM

Workshop: 1:30-3:00PM

Arizona State University

Wrigley Hall, Room 418