

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Workshop Session 2

Time of Session: 11:00-12:00PM

Session Title: Building Campus Resilience: Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness

Speaker: **Kay C. Goss**, CEM, World Disaster Management

Room: 257

Head Count: 28

Note Taker: Nandini Seth

Kay C. Goss is internationally recognized for emergency management, risk communication and general resiliency. She is responsible for leading the development and enhancing the quality of emergency management services to government, non-profit and private sector clients.

The presentation began with a general description of resiliency as readiness, response and recovery (The three R's). She believes, resilience is about building the essential strength, stability and capacity needed throughout the course of a major disaster and to recuperate quickly and efficiently during the post-disaster recovery phase. She further goes on to explain how resiliency is different from hazard mitigation, emergency management and business continuity.

With a personal life experience of her grandson (Witness to the Virginia Tech Massacre), she explains how a first line of defense could have reduced the vulnerability. In order to reduce vulnerability of the school campuses she had few suggested actions that should be taken:

- i) Maintaining up to-date data on likely hazards and current vulnerability. It would be very helpful to prepare risk assessments and later employ this information for urban development plans and decisions.

Ways it can be done: Interviewing old timers in the community to see what situations they faced in the past.

- ii) It should be ensured that such research and expertise should be spread to wider audience so that it is readily available to public and they are fully discussed at public forums.
- iii) Trigger alert: such as alarm system, social media alert and campus news alert.
- iv) Exercising is important: fire drill.
- v) To have a continuity plan for the campus system. This will develop a budget to build disaster risk reduction capabilities.
- vi) To have interdisciplinary information about natural, physical, technical, economic and social sciences. This will make the different curriculums collaborate ideas and improve national resilience to hazards and disasters all across the country.

Question & Answer session:

- i) What are the ways we can tell parents and the community that the campuses are safe?**

It is important to assess the current safety system of the schools and health facilities of the community. By upgrading the system as and when necessary, it will be possible for the parents to understand that the campuses are safe and it is being constantly monitored. Also by maintaining the component of critical infrastructure when need arises can building the confidence of the community on school campuses. She also mentions the “Whole Community Approach”

- ii) How important is cultural preparedness? And how can that play a role in building campus resilience?**

According to the speaker resilience is achieved through daily commitment. The commitment starts at the grassroots level and goes up to community, city, county, and region and at the top, national level of resilience.

- iii) Where can we get funding for Business Impact Analysis?**

Federal and local institutions.