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Tying it all Together

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AN HOLISTIC APPROACH TO COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE

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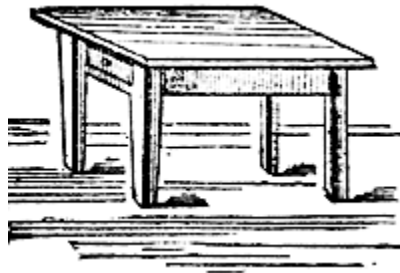
GET A
GAMEPLAN

WHAT MAKES YOUR COMMUNITY RESILIENT?

- **What makes up your community?**
- **What types of disasters make you vulnerable?**
- **What things are most needed for your community to return to normal post-disaster?**

Framework

- A systems approach to disaster resilience is dependent upon four “legs”:



- Resilient Social systems (Comfort)
- Resilient Technical systems (Comfort)
- Resilient Political systems (Leavitt & Kiefer)
- Resilient Business systems (Kiefer & Miestchovich)

Key Examples of Social Vulnerability

- **Social systems are vulnerable:**
 - Increase in social services needs (Lee & Blanchard, 2010) after BP oil spill:
 - Self-rated stress among respondents has more than doubled since the oil spill compared to a year ago.
 - Nearly 60% of the sample reported feeling worried **ALMOST CONSTANTLY DURING THE WEEK PRIOR TO THE INTERVIEW** because of the oil spill.
 - More than 8 in 10 respondents are worried about how their family, friends, and fellow community members will make a living over the next couple of years because of the oil spill. Seven in 10 are worried about having to move because of it. This in a context where 60% of the respondents have lived in their community all of their life, and another 20% have lived there at least 20 years.

Key Examples of Technical Vulnerability

- **Technical systems are vulnerable:**
 - Levees, pumping stations
 - Failure to gauge the magnitude of the incident
 - Lack of response planning
 - High reliance on private-sector technical expertise post-disaster

Key Examples of Policy Weaknesses

- **Political systems are often dysfunctional**
 - No Presidential Disaster Declaration (Sylves)
 - This decision hamstrings recovery efforts.
 - Challenge for local governments.....
 - How to run a community while still dealing with the disaster
 - Sheltering policy
 - Quarantine authority
 - Additional administrative burdens of cost-capturing

Key Examples of Business Vulnerability

- **Business systems may be hit hard:**
 - Failure to ensure that recovery efforts involve those most adversely impacted in local communities
 - Severely curtailed business revenue impacts –
 - Cripples ability of local governments to continue to provide services, particularly community services
 - Causes layoffs of public officials, teachers
 - This, in-turn, has negative affect on social support services.

Conclusions

- **A holistic approach to creating resilience is necessary**
- **Requires well-developed collaborative networking skills**
 - Intergovernmental, Intragovernmental, cross-sector
 - e.g. business community, schools, advocacy groups
 - Jenkins, Kiefer & Laska
 - Identification of resource shortfalls, and develop partnerships with agencies that can provide them
- **Requires involvement, education, participation and commitment of political leadership**

Conclusions

- **Lack of clear and decisive leadership at the beginning of the response and recovery phase hampers impact assessment, response coordination and recovery effectiveness.**



Questions?

