

**LAKWOOD ADA COMPLIANCE AND DISABILITIES BOARD  
MINUTES  
JUNE 14, 2006**

A meeting of the ADA Compliance and Disabilities Board was held on June 14, 2006 at the Lehman School and Technical Education Center on Airport Road in Lakewood, with the following persons in attendance:

Tom Barry, Phil Charrow, Tom Lorenc, Roz Baer, Dr. Steven Scher, Hannah Havens, Linda Halm, Chairperson, and secretary – Phyllis L. Stubbs.

Guests: Mrs. Charrow, Mrs. Lorenc and Greg Greer. Guest Speaker: Michael D’Elia.

Mrs. Halm called the meeting to order and introduced Mike D’Elia, of Lakewood Emergency Management, who agreed to speak to the Board regarding emergency preparedness for the handicapped.

Mr. D’Elia began by saying that since Hurricane Katrina, many people have asked about evacuation plans. He said that unless someone is on life support, most people can expect to shelter in place. The Barrier Islands will be under mandatory evacuation, however most homes other than those on the islands have been deemed to be safe by the Inspection Department and can be expected to withstand the “average” hurricane. The biggest concern in our area will be wind damage. People will need to take appropriate measures to secure themselves and their homes. We have to remember that we can expect to have 48 to 72 hours warning prior to a hurricane. During that time, people will need to stock up on supplies such as water, food, batteries, flashlights, transistor radios, etc. It is imperative that people heed warnings and evacuate when and if they are told to do so, remembering that the roads will probably be very congested. It is expected that many people will want to shelter with relatives. The emergency management personnel are having drills and practicing to respond as quickly as possible. There are plans being put in place for the families of emergency responders so that the responders will be available to the general public.

The Ocean County Sheriff’s Department Office of Emergency Management is distributing forms to be completed by those who are unable to care for themselves. These forms go to the County and then back to the Township. In Lakewood Captain Smith is keeping the completed forms.

Mr. D’Elia suggested that each senior complex have a safety committee responsible for gathering information and providing same to the Sheriff’s Department or the Police Department. Although some adult communities already have such a committee, not all of them are active.

Mr. D’Elia said that he has spoken at every adult community and has urged people to get involved.

It is anticipated that in case of an emergency, homebound people will be contacted prior to the storm to see whether they need to be evacuated or if special provisions need to be made. Those on life support will be evacuated to buildings with generators. It should be noted that there are lists also being compiled by JCP&L regarding those people with special needs, i.e. life support systems.

Mike spoke about an excellent course which is being given by Bernard Rothenberg in Lakewood (732) 730-3720. This course originated in California through the Office of Homeland Security and teaches people the basics, i.e. how to shut off water, electric, gas, etc. in the event of an emergency, and provides life saving information. He urged people to contact Mr. Rothenberg and sign up for the course. In the event of a Category 3 hurricane, it could take as long as 24 to 72 hours before help is available. It is imperative that people are prepared to take care of themselves for this period of time. This course can be a life saver.

A real concern is the apathy that people have. They seem to be blasé' about the prospect of a storm, however the warm temperature of the ocean can set the stage for a substantial storm. He urged that people remain calm and be prepared.

Mike spoke about the benefits of the reverse 911 system which is currently in the works. This system will allow automatic calling to individual sections of town. Also, in case of an emergency, Milleneum Radio will be broadcasting constantly. There may also be audible warning systems.

The Red Cross shelters will not take animals. Provisions are being made for animals and it is suggested that people have cages for their pets labeled with their name, address and contact information.

Mr. D'Elia said that every town is required to have a disaster preparedness plan. Lakewood's plan was renewed last year and is good to the year 2009. It is an in-depth comprehensive document covering many types of disasters, including a response to an outbreak of the flu, terrorism, storms, etc. A person can get access to the plan through Emergency Management.

Mr. D'Elia answered questions from the Board. Mr. Greer asked whether there were handi-capped accessible vehicles available for evacuation purposes. Mr. D'Elia responded that some are available and others will be available from the County on an as needed basis. Mr. Greer also asked about facilities which are planned for shelter purposes being equipped with generators. Mr. D'Elia responded that people will be moved to facilities with generators on a priority basis. Tom Lorenc spoke about many of the senior communities having club houses that have a lot of glass. Would these structures withstand the wind in the event of a hurricane?

The Board thanked Mr. D'Elia for his time and patience. He said that he enjoyed speaking with them and would gladly come back again. Mr. D'Elia left for another meeting and the ADA resumed its regular meeting. Mr. Lorenc spoke about the need to either upgrade the Community Center or move the polling place to another location. Voting in that location is very difficult for physically challenged individuals.

Roz Baer reported that she had occasion to visit a patient at Atlantic Rehabilitation Center and found no handicapped accessible doors. There was discussion on this matter and other issues. It was decided to table any further discussion to our next meeting which is scheduled for September 13, 2006.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Phyllis L. Stubbs,  
Board Secretary