

Olivia Mills, Cohort 2, 2024 BA Public Health, 2025



Project Summary: To examine Health District Emergency Preparedness Plans related to persons with access and functional needs (AFNs), identify gaps, and recommend potential improvements. Plans will be tested during Fauquier County's Full Scale Exercise (FSE), designed to practice reunification after a school shooting by focusing on the process for parents and students with AFNs.

## Background

An access or functional need (AFN) refers to more than the traditional definition of disability. Understanding these needs is an important part of emergency planning and aims to ensure an equitable response to a variety of emergency situations. Recognizing that emergencies are inherently **disabling** is also a key part of planning and preparedness. **Limited** opportunities to practice/execute plans can lead to gaps in care during an actual emergency response. AFNs include language barriers, lack of reliable transportation, single parenting, etc., as well as physical, emotional, or intellectual disabilities. It is estimated that over half of the population experiences an AFN.

### Outcomes 8

- Improved AFN language in emergency plans
- Better **understanding** of the ways **AFN's impact emergency** response
- Increased knowledge of the **Disabled community** and their needs in emergency situations



Rapid Revive! training at Culpeper Juneteenth

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SO Ŭ Site

## MS Health Promotion Management, 2026 American University, om7378a@american.edu Mentor: Kathy Hatter, Local Health Emergency Coordinator

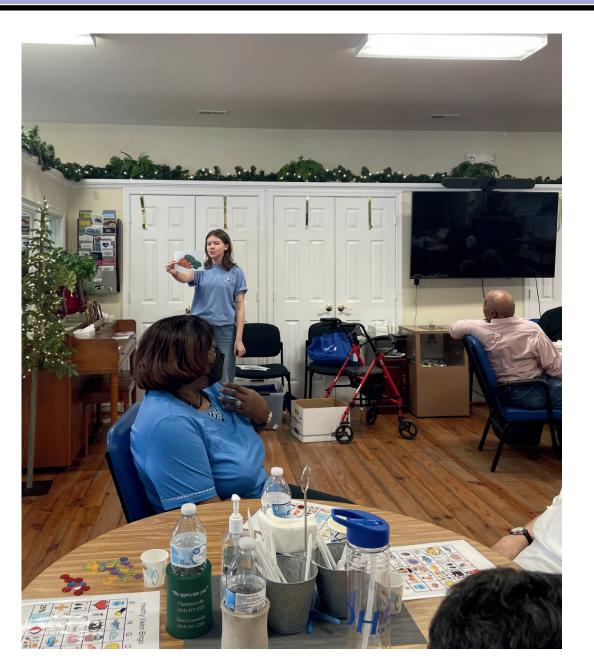
# **Emergency Preparedness for Individuals with Access and Functional Needs (AFNs)**

### Key Takeaways

Knowing who to talk to is a big part of the job Maintaining connections benefits both you and the communities you serve Access needs are **always** changing Be dedicated to **problem** 

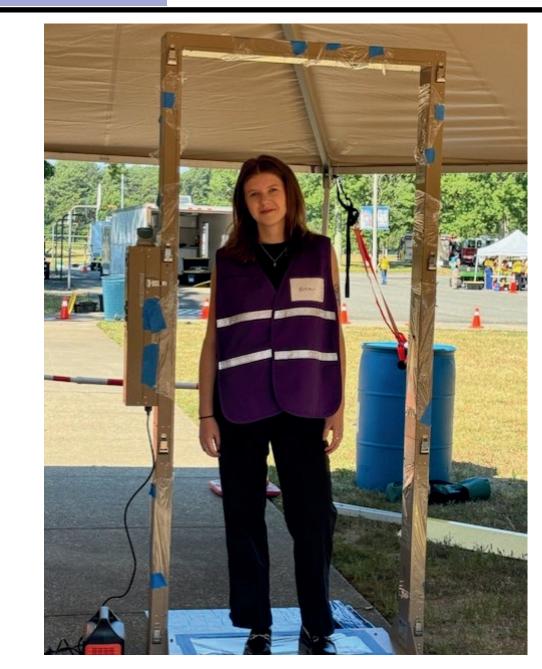
### **Additional Activities**

- EH Site Inspections
- District Epi Shadowing
- VOPEX @ Orange EOC
- Community Events
- NVERS Ebola TTX
- Stop the Bleed Training
- Revive! Trainings

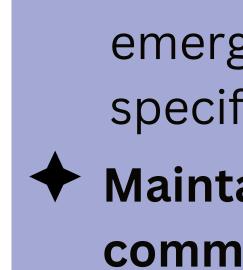


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Madison Senior Center Healthy Vision Bingo



Hanover County's EAC Dress Rehearsal

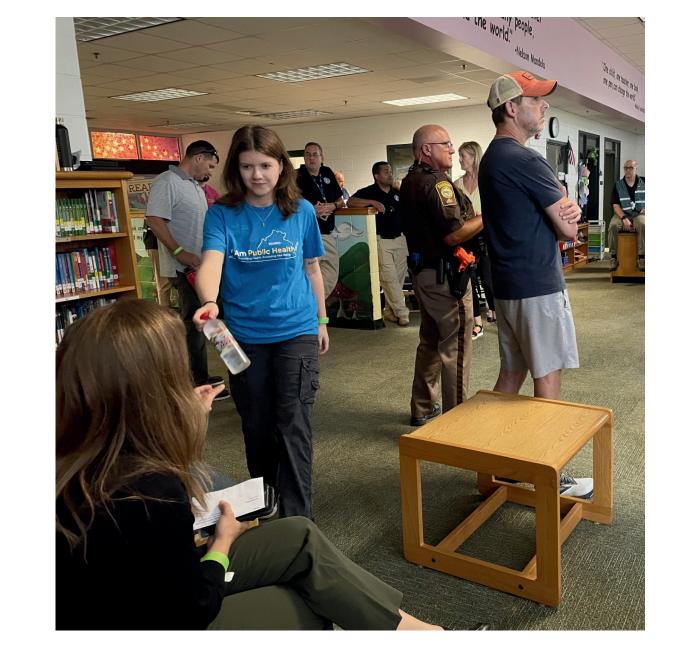


VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### **Goals & Activities**

identify the strengths '	Ensure accommodation of	Limite exerci
	any access or	🔶 Unrea
specified population f	functional need	exerci
	Provide information	simula
	and resources to	Less
with organizations	oarents	🔶 Under
for information and 🔶 S	Support DSS in plan	speak
resource sharing e	execution	🔶 Practi
		forus

- Meetings with Community Partners
- Lake Anna STEC Meetings
- Observation of Hanover EAC
- Revive! Train the Trainer
- Senior Center Visits (Created Healthy Vision Bingo)
- Respiratory Fit Test Train the Trainer
- Clinic Observations (WIC, Immunizations, & STI)



Fauquier County's Full Scale Exercise



**Respiratory Fit Test** Train the Trainer



### Challenges

ted number of Disabled cise actors

alistic aspects of the cise & **real-world vs**. lated needs

### sons Learned

erstanding your role and king up is vital ticing is the best way for us to prepare



Connect with me on Linkedin!