

Summary of Recommendations Presented to the Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness

<u>Evacuation</u>		<u>Policy Recommendation</u>
	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Consider placing permanent generators at rest stops or repositioning generators at key rest areas.
1		Consider directing the Division of Emergency Management to establish a system of providing food, water and other necessities on major roadways at rest stops and weigh stations.
2		Consider utilizing closed weigh and agriculture stations as comfort stations or locations for drivers to pull off the road when running low on gas.
3		Evaluate the benefits of improving the shoulders of key roads on southbound lanes to facilitate reentry after an evacuation. Northbound shoulders are evacuation ready whereas southbound shoulders are not reentry ready.
4	Michael D. Wanchick, St. Johns County Administrator	Consider providing for penalties for nursing homes that fail to evacuate.
5	David Casto, Director of Sumter County Emergency Management	Improve early communication with and involvement of local officials in the Department of Transportation's pre-event planning.
6	Kathryn Hyer, Phd, MPP, Director of the USF Center on Aging	Strongly suggest considering nuanced "partial evacuation" of sickest patients in nursing homes most likely to evacuate (dialysis).
7	Sally Bishop, Director, Pinellas County Emergency Management	If citizens' evacuation plans were approached from a whole community angle, with all agencies who provide home and community based services such as transportation, feeding and medical care working to ensure they have helped the client develop a viable plan, and then being prepared themselves to deliver their services during an emergency to assist implementing and supporting those citizens plans to the fullest extent possible, this would greatly assist in ensuring the safety of the clients and assisting government with the critical 'every day' support services and staff needed for the client's care - during an emergency.
8		Finding those opportunities within State mandated or controlled processes such as drivers' licenses, automobile tags, voting or Medicare covered services that would become the starting point for emergency plan development by requiring the citizen to 'register' the basics of their emergency plan.
9	Miami-Dade County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava	The State should consider alternative strategies such as reverse traffic on southbound traffic lanes or the use of shoulders during a mandatory evacuation that impacts Monroe and Miami-Dade County.
<u>Energy: Electric Utilities and Petroleum</u>		<u>Policy Recommendation</u>
10	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Develop policies to limit electrical outages during a storm, including policies to encourage cost-effective infrastructure hardening, auxiliary power at key interstate interchanges, and, where appropriate, underground utilities.

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11		Consider alternative approaches to ensure adequate supplies of gasoline are available to meet demand during a disaster, including the merits of establishing a Florida petroleum reserve.
12		Evaluate existing processes used to prioritize the restoration of electric service, and consider policies to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable are addressed, including individuals in facilities and at home.
13		Determine if avoidable impediments hampered the movement of utility trucks and other emergency response vehicles, and consider providing a right of way and escorts as necessary to reach affected locations.
14		Consider modifying the 811 (call before you dig) system to better address facility location in extraordinary circumstances.
15	Dave Mica, Executive Director of the Florida Petroleum Council	Recommend reexamining price control legislation as it relates to petroleum products.
16	Michael Rubin, Vice President for Governmental Affairs, Florida Ports Council	Recommend local county/city continuity of operations and resumption of business plans include a hardening of critical infrastructure at their seaport – especially ports with fuel distribution terminals. This critical infrastructure should include a review and hardening of power, water and telecommunication functions. Further, if state or federal emergency response funds are necessary, we recommend allocated funding for identified “hardening projects” in continuity of operations and resumption of business plans. We further recommend state and local emergency response plans include protocols for prioritizing the restoration of water, electrical and telecommunication functions at seaports with fuel distribution terminals.
17		Recommend the creation of a state maritime heavy weather protocol plan with staffing by the Florida Ports Council (FPC) at the state emergency operations center during the declaration of an emergency by the Governor involving Florida seaports.
18		Recommend the purchase of additional survey vessels for the U.S. Army Corps and/or NOAA to deploy around the country. We also recommend funds be allocated to seaports with critical fuel and other cargo distribution facilities to purchase a fully equipped survey vessel and provide for training of personnel to conduct the surveys. A fully equipped survey vessel will cost approximately \$260,000.
19		Recommend that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission work with the U.S. Coast Guard to determine if the mooring prohibitions contained in Chapter 327 are adequate to prevent disabled vessels from blocking navigable waterways after a hurricane. We also recommend enforcement capabilities of anchoring and mooring prohibitions contained in Chapter 327 be increased. Local and state law enforcement agencies with waterside authority must have the ability to help remove unlawfully moored vessels once the COTP has set condition Whiskey (72 hours prior to gale force winds) at the seaport.

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20		Recommend a review and development of communication protocols by state and local emergency response centers to provide a method to communicate with drivers distributing fuel and other emergency cargo from our seaports.
21		Gauges vital for emergency situations will cost approximately \$117,000 for equipment installation and \$27,000 in recurring annual maintenance costs. The federal government should determine what coastal areas of Florida are not adequately covered and fund the installation and recurring maintenance of these sensor systems, including the addition of PORTS systems in other large Florida seaports.
22	Ned Bowman, Executive Director of the Florida Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association (FPMA)	Increased law enforcement and perhaps National Guard presence can protect facilities where fuel and other necessary resources are sold.
23		Often during a storm, cell towers and servers are affected. The most efficient means of communication is by text. Enhanced methods for “text blasts” should be evaluated.
24		Identifying and continuously updating lists of facilities with emergency generators requiring fuel should be maintained so that FPMA can direct its members to ensure that these facilities have an adequate fuel supply. It is essential to know the type of fuel needed and the generator burn rate to ensure proper deliveries.
25		Priority should be given to ports and distribution centers in restoring power so that fuel distribution can begin as soon as possible.
26		Develop a strategy for increasing the number of loading racks at terminals.
27		Develop a strategy to construct petroleum distribution centers to avoid “bottle necks.” Suggested locations include Clewiston, Ocala/Gainesville/Turnpike, Lake City and Chiefland.
28	Kathryn Hyer, Phd, MPP, Director of the USF Center on Aging	Emergency Management should prioritize nursing homes and large assisted livings for power restoration. AL must register as licensed facilities.
29	Doreen Barker, Associate State Director of Advocacy, AARP	Supports a tiered electric power restoration strategy that prioritizes nursing homes and assisted living facilities the same as hospitals.
30	Deborah Linton, CEO, The Arc of Florida	Group homes have to be on the priority list along with other services for power restoration. Many group homes serve individuals who are medically fragile and it is necessary to have the power restored for their health and safety. Lack of power is the number 1 issue listed as the major safety issue after the storm. (94% of the respondents stated that their facilities would have been safe to return to or stay in if they had had power.)
31	Kevin J. Byrne, State Legislative Liaison, FL State Association of Letter Carriers	Mandate that a consumer purchasing a generator must also purchase a CO detector.

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32		Require that manufacturers of generators sold in Florida include a CO detector with the generator.
33		Have the state issue a rebate in the form of a voucher upon receipt of proof of purchase of a CO detector along with a generator.
34		Have the manufacturer of a generator issue a rebate in the form of a voucher upon receipt of proof of purchase of a CO detector along with a generator.
35		State agency requirements and deadlines that would likely be impacted by power outages, storm damage, curfews, and travel restrictions should be identified so that they may be addressed by the Governor’s Executive Order.
36	Representative Rommel	Every county should determine how much fuel it needs to operate generators needed for critical infrastructure and first responders for the first 72 hours following the event. Counties should either build and maintain fuel depots, or create agreements with current fuel depots. If current depots need additional land to build larger storage facilities, counties could donate land leases, have depots built (maybe split cost), and allow facilities to use the depots when the county is not in a state of emergency. Counties should require that a minimum amount of fuel be maintained at all fuel depots during high threat times. Once a state of emergency has been declared, the county would take over distribution of the fuel, and then reimburse the depot for fuel used.
37		The state and counties need to evaluate how they spend money on landscaping of center medians, sidewalks, etc. As a State, if we come up with standards that protect the public and the State’s infrastructure, but counties still want to plant trees that are known to cause harm or are not properly maintained because residents like the lushness, those counties risk losing any State reimbursement, post-storm.
38		A plan should be developed that provides for the cellular companies to push information through texting and/or amber type alerts. Frequent radio updates would also be helpful.
39	Miami-Dade County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava	There must be better coordination between federal, state and local officials to get gas down to South Florida prior to a hurricane and after a storm.
40	Duval County Schools	Prioritizing Schools serving as shelters for restoration of electricity, Fuel and water
	<u>Shelters and Vulnerable Populations</u>	<u>Policy Recommendation</u>
41	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Determine the adequacy of current shelters, and consider providing additional funding for schools and universities to provide hurricane shelter facilities.
42		Evaluate the adequacy of special needs shelters, and consider establishing tiers of facilities to handle the most fragile, using nursing homes, rehabilitation center and hospital beds.
43		For those in government-funded health care programs, consider:

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring Medicaid plans to use care managers to determine whether individuals need help and find them a place to shelter. • Requiring coverage for facility admissions when no other qualified shelter is available. • Requiring Medicaid plans to have emergency operation plans, documenting how they will provide these services, and proving contract relationships with facilities. (Meeting #3)
44		Determine the adequacy of communications about and the availability of pet shelters, and consider means to improve communication and the merits of requiring a standard population-based minimum number of pet shelters or ratio of pet and non-pet shelters.
45	State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health, Dr. Celeste Philip	The Department of Health does not employ all nurses necessary to adequately staff special needs shelters. Any entity receiving state funding should participate as partners. Require other state and federally funded health care entities to provide shelter staffing.
46	Sally Bishop, Director, Pinellas County Emergency Management	Require government-funded contract service providers at the local level to assist clients with preparation as well as be prepared to respond with their staff and other support resources in coordination with Emergency Management departments (local and State).
47		Encourage state funded universities and colleges to build with sheltering in mind via the design and permitting process. Whether they have shelter facilities or not, they may have medical programs with the human resources most needed for shelter staffing.
48		Pursue opportunities with Charter Schools that accept public funding to serve as additional shelters. If the funding is provided ahead of new construction, there exists the ability to ensure they are built to public school standards for shelter.
49		The Department of Health should develop contracts, coordinate with other State agencies delivering community based contract services that receive any government funding, and develop community business support. Having the regulatory and financial tools to bring the community based and wrap around services into emergency operations would go a long way to meeting the challenges.
50		The use of government-funded health care programs to help educate and develop preparedness plans with clients, across all agencies providing client services either through contract or direct services, would ensure wrap around service providers and their clients are educated and prepared. The Florida Division of Emergency Management is currently assigned public information & education for emergencies in statute.
51		Providing coverage for healthcare facility admissions, when no other qualified shelter is available, would provide a valuable tool for the Department of Health and local emergency management in the provision of shelter for medically complex evacuees. Asking healthcare facilities to ‘shelter’ evacuees with issues surpassing a special needs shelter capability, rather than be able to admit them, leaves a large grey area where liability issues loom large and serve as a deterrent to facilities willing and able to participate.

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52		Transportation companies that provide ‘sunny day’ transportation to the community for various reasons, especially through government funded programs, are another wrap around service to be considered in regulation or finances to ensure adequate resources are available.
53		Home health organizations and suppliers who receive government funds should be required to offer staffing and equipment to the Department of Health and local governments for use in shelters.
54		Another source of shelter staffing could be nursing schools receiving state financial contributions. Usually after the first semester, nursing students meet the rules to take the certified nursing assistant examination allowing them to provide basic and custodial care.
55		If state funded colleges and universities with nursing programs could be enhanced with appropriate facilities to serve as shelters, it would provide another possible resource for sheltering and caring for special needs citizens. The nursing programs have required lab and clinic hours and this community need could be incorporated into those requirements, with students providing care under the direction of their nursing instructors.
56		If citizens’ evacuation plans were approached from a whole community angle, with all agencies who provide home and community based services such as transportation, feeding and medical care working to ensure they have helped the client develop a viable plan, and then being prepared themselves to deliver their services during an emergency to assist implementing and supporting those citizens plans to the fullest extent possible, this would greatly assist in ensuring the safety of the clients and assisting government with the critical ‘every day’ support services and staff needed for the client’s care - during an emergency.
57		Explore making state mandated or controlled processes such as drivers’ licenses, automobile tags, voting or Medicare covered services the starting point for emergency plan development by requiring the citizen to ‘register’ the basics of their emergency plan.
58		The Special Needs Registration Program is an expensive tool not used by choice by a large number of counties. Registration is the simple first step in a complex program, involving many agencies, and delivered 67 different ways based on a county’s resources and capabilities. The State program is not used by larger counties who have developed their program over the 30+ years the special needs statute requirement has existed. The state program actually causes us extra work to take the initial information from that system and fully register citizens in ours. In the approximately 2 years it has been in existence, our large, densely populated county has received 38 registrations.
59		Recommend creating a public records exemption for shelter data and damage assessment data.
60	Steven Lerner, Senior Planner, Seminole County Office of Emergency Management	Recommend utilizing state agency staff to fill staffing inadequacies in shelters.

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61		Increase state funding for school retrofit program and for generators, including use of CAT mitigation funds.
62	Michael D. Wanchick, St. Johns County Administrator	Recommend the state provide more assistance with training at the local level.
63		Assisted living facilities dropped patients off at shelters without records and without providing assistance. Facility comprehensive emergency management plans are not enforced.
64	Randy Hunt, President & CEO of Senior Resource Alliance	We need to strengthen the relationship and communication between the area agencies on aging (AAAs), local EOCs, FEMA, and United Way, on the needs of the “home-bound elderly” before and after a storm.
65		We need to ensure operable communications technology exists between AAAs and service providers through access to satellite phones or other technology to coordinate post storm response.
66		We need a statewide, standardized telephony system/contact center technology and capability to transfer the Elder Help Line to DOEA or to a hardened, state facility to ensure continuity of help line operations.
67		AAAs need immediate access to an emergency/reserve fund to purchase meals, oxygen, medication, incontinence supplies for seniors impacted by the storm.
68		Current state Disaster Preparation and Response Policy Manuals, including roles and responsibilities for AAAs and providers serving seniors are outdated and should be reviewed and updated. For example, AAA staff are not first responders and are not trained social workers or medical staff – we cannot provide direct care in a special needs shelter or provide door to door assistance following a disaster.
69		Align AAA disaster responsibilities with AAA organizational capabilities. One-half of AAA staffing resources are funded by Medicaid administrative funds – these staff were prohibited (ineligible for reimbursement) from performing any disaster-related recovery activity by Federal CMS despite AHCA’s request to do so. This would have put 114 AAA staff on the front lines of recovery activity.
70		Create a master list of Key Personnel allowed to return to a disaster area post-storm. Include AAA staff on the list, like Information & Referral Hotline counselors, who could work in local EOCs and Recovery Centers immediately. Allow our staff priority return privileges and our expert I&R Specialists can immediately begin taking calls and requests for assistance.
71	Mark Barry, The Arc Nature Coast, Executive Director	Centralized sheltering should be pursued instead of hardening individual group homes.
72	Deborah Linton, CEO, The Arc of Florida	Special needs shelters need to open sooner and we need more of them. It is extremely stressful to have the individuals served in these programs stuck in hours and hours of traffic trying to get to a shelter once everyone else is evacuating.

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73		Florida needs more congregate special needs shelters. While many of the local school districts have stepped in to shelter individuals, our experience has also been that the school districts are under pressure to hurry to re-open schools after a storm. One of our shelters ended up taking some of those displaced by the closing of the county school special needs shelter, as we could keep our shelters open longer. Our Adult Day Training facilities could be hardened or strategically located to become special needs shelters.
74		All state agencies should be reviewed for employees who might be deployed during a storm. Special needs shelters could use more nurses and Certified Behavior Analysts to work alongside us in the local shelters.
75		Group homes have to be on the priority list along with other services for power restoration. Many group homes serve individuals who are medically fragile and it is necessary to have the power restored for their health and safety. Lack of power is the number 1 issue listed as the major safety issue after the storm. (94% of the respondents stated that their facilities would have been safe to return to or stay in if they had had power.)
76		During the preparation period, the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) should go ahead and waive certain standards, such as staffing ratios. If providers have to wait to see what will or won't be paid from state funders, planning and preparation becomes much more difficult.
77		State agencies such as APD and social workers (waiver support coordinators) should streamline their contacts with provider agencies who actually shelter individuals during storms. We are unable to make multiple calls which are meant to “just check” on people. One point of contact, not multiple, is necessary for those on the frontlines.
78		Staff working in APD licensed facilities need clearance by local emergency management to get to their work destinations during curfews and other travel-restricted times. This is necessary to protect the people we serve.
79		While portable generators are required for APD licensed facilities, they do not power air conditioning. Florida will have to come up with a plan to fund generators that can power air conditioners as well as appliances. This will be an expensive endeavor.
80		Support Coordination Association of Florida Recommendation: SCAF believes that the existing tool and format APD Disaster Plan should be amended to be more practical in chaotic extreme events and, further, that it be required that the Disaster Plan be included in the Support Plan of all iBudget Waiver consumers. This is an essential informational tool that will be used for sharing consumer plans and safety supports with support systems during extreme events. SCAF stands ready to assist key players in the development of an upgraded Disaster Plan.

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81		The Arc of Florida would be supportive of an effort to establish a short-term special needs task force to review the implementation of varying emergency management issues amongst the differing populations.
82	Joe DiDomenico, CEO of the Disability Achievement Center	Recommend creation of a task force to examine elements of the State Comprehensive Emergency Plan related to special needs populations and to recommend improvements to the plan moving forward.
83	Dr. Brenda Pierce, Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living	Recommend creation of a task force to examine elements of the State Comprehensive Emergency Plan related to special needs populations and to recommend improvements to the plan moving forward.
84	Representative Rommel	Information regarding shelters needs to be made available several days before the storm so proper arrangements can be made by those who will be seeking shelter. In addition, information regarding which shelters will accept pets needs to be made public sooner. Many people who need/should seek the safety of a shelter will not do so if they must leave their pets(s) behind.
85	Florida Agency for Persons with Disabilities	Due to the significant needs of individuals with developmental disabilities, specific shelters should be established that are designed to serve the unique needs of APD consumers and others with similar developmental disabilities.
86		Education should be provided to operators of general population and special needs shelters on accommodations needed for individuals with disabilities. Conversely, APD and the other state agencies who serve vulnerable populations should receive guidance and information from ESF 8 (Health and Medical: Department of Health) and ESF 6 (Mass Care: Department of Business and Professional Regulations) organizations about shelters. This information could then be shared with the consumers of each agency.
87	Alzheimer's Community Care	Those with special needs should be grouped together in every shelter and sectioned off.
88		Air conditioning must be provided in every special needs shelter.
89		Training for EMTs, as well as all shelter personnel, on behavioral management techniques on the needs of caregivers and patients coping with the high anxiety that is relevant in situations such as a hurricane.
90	Florida Association of District School Superintendents	Require the state comprehensive emergency management plan to include specific planning for people with mental illness and homeless individuals. The plan must provide for the safe transfer of persons with special needs, people with mental illness and homeless individuals after a disaster.
91		Statewide public awareness programs must include information on shelters and indicate the types of shelters available such as special need shelters and shelters that will accept pets. The requirements for sheltering individuals with service animals should be expanded to include comfort pets.
92		Require the Division of Emergency Management, in coordination with each local emergency management agency, to maintain a registry with each homeless shelter and homeless service provider

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		to determine the approximate number of homeless individuals that could need assistance during evacuations and sheltering and any additional needs that may be necessary.
93		Authorize persons with a comfort animal to also be allowed to bring his or her animal to a shelter serving persons with special needs. A “comfort animal” could be defined as an animal, other than a pet or a service animal, which provides emotional support to help improve the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive conditions of an individual.
94		Require the Division of Emergency Management to develop information and inform the public regarding the sheltering of pets, service animals and comfort animals at shelters. Provides that materials may be distributed at veterinary offices, animal shelters, humane organizations and other appropriate locations.
95	Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Associate Superintendent, Miami-Dade County Public Schools	Ensure that at least one person staffing the shelter has emergency medical training. At our shelters, one woman went into labor, many individuals were need of medical treatment, and a gentleman had cardiac arrest.
96		Provide emergency radios or other communication emergency communication devices, including the potential use of satellite phones for voice/data and emergency voice over I.P. systems for schools during the storm recovery period.
97		Provide generators for schools that serve as shelters.
98		Expand the number of available shelters by identifying additional sites that include charter schools, community colleges, and universities.
99	Duval County Schools	Better communication during Statewide or Regional Natural disasters
100		Prioritizing Schools serving as shelters for restoration of electricity, Fuel and water
101		Additional funding for generators to support schools and their routine maintenance
102		Allocate funding for cots, crates and blankets
103		-Red Cross supplies were limited due to Hurricane Harvey
104		Other sheltering options once school reopen but citizens cannot return home.
105	Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs Department, Rebecca DeLaRosa, Legislative Affairs Director	Support state medical staffing, including nurses, CNAs, mental health professionals and medical administration at shelters
106		Support funding for cots/mats for all shelters. Cots cost between \$60-\$200/unit; sleeping mats cost between \$50-\$100/unit.
107		Local government reimbursement for the purchase and rental of generators for high priority infrastructure, including school shelters.
108	Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence	Because survivors of domestic violence and their children are exposed to (sometimes fatal) retribution from their abusers if evacuated to public designated hurricane shelters, Florida’s

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		confidentially-located certified domestic violence centers have been hardened to provide shelter-in-place. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence is requesting nonrecurring funds in the amount of \$1,457,309 to draw a 75-percent match in federal funds through a Victims of Crime Act grant through the Office of the Attorney General to install generators at Florida’s 42 centers statewide.
	<u>Health Care Facilities and Medical Care</u>	<u>Policy Recommendation</u>
109	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Develop strategies to assist and support essential personnel including health professionals and other caregivers to continue working during evacuations and other declared emergencies.
110		Evaluate the adequacy of emergency management planning by nursing homes, hospices, assisted living facilities, and group homes, and consider policies to improve such planning.
111		Assess and strengthen current regulations for health care and residential facilities to have generators and maintain service capabilities.
112		Evaluate whether curfew orders allow critical medical personnel to travel to and from work, and consider other strategies for maintaining essential staffing while allowing some regulatory flexibility during evacuations.
113		Evaluate the adequacy of emergency management planning by nursing homes, hospices, assisted living facilities, and group homes, and consider policies to improve such planning.
114		Assess and strengthen current regulations for health care and residential facilities to have generators and maintain service capabilities.
115		Evaluate whether curfew orders allow critical medical personnel to travel to and from work, and consider other strategies for maintaining essential staffing while allowing some regulatory flexibility during evacuations.
116		Consider expanding access to telehealth (within and outside of Florida) as a means of ensuring adequate access to health services.
117		Evaluate the adequacy of public information addressing refills and temporary supplies of prescription drugs, and consider requiring pharmacies to use their patient communication systems to provide information.
118		Consider financial supports for essential health care providers, including mental health providers, to ease hurricane-related cash flow problems and support continuous access to care.
119	Michael D. Wanchick, St. Johns County Administrator	Repetitive loss of property due to storms and rebuilding in the same location is a problem. Location of nursing homes in vulnerable locations creates problems.
120	Sally Bishop, Director, Pinellas County Emergency Management	It would be helpful to review the various agency/department statutory assignments, the rules and processes developed for implementation, and the required coordination with other agencies/entities,

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		to identify gaps that may be responsible for emergency response issues. As a primary example – the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) is the licensing body for healthcare facilities but the Department of Health (DOH) is responsible for managing them during an emergency. AHCA has the knowledge and understanding of the facilities and DOH does not, and has little to no contact with them on a regular basis except possibly hospitals.
121		The new emergency rule regarding generators and its requirements for air-conditioned space needs to be ‘mitigated’ by providing additional time for implementation, and thoroughly thought out for unintended consequences. Currently it is keeping facilities from being able to shelter other evacuating facilities, and is likely to discourage them from accepting special needs evacuees from the community. We are already hearing of agreements between evacuating and sheltering facilities being cancelled, which will leave evacuating healthcare facilities with no like-facility to evacuate to. All emergency managers in want the healthcare facilities to be able to generate power and cooling, but we also need them to be able to shelter other like facilities.
122		AHCA and DOH need adequate staff to manage facilities during emergencies, and a system for self-reporting that is not reliant on power and internet failure. DOH should be required to work with AHCA on developing a greater understanding of the facilities and their needs and develop a process for working together to meet those needs during an emergency. Currently the county government I left to manage what those State agencies are unprepared to handle and we have less staff than the State agencies.
123		Currently it appears the regulating agencies for healthcare do not enforce the regulations adequately. I have no awareness of any consequences to a facility whose plan fails, and they either turn to the local government for solutions, or show up in a public shelter, or worse – stay in a vulnerable location. My recommendation would be to ensure AHCA, during their licensing survey process, puts special emphasis on emergency plans and the CMS required training and exercises. In addition, there should be a process for strong and definite consequences to licensed facilities who fail to execute their plan, or who deviate from that plan without coordinating with the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Health & Medical desk. Without strong enforcement, there will be no motivation for facilities to develop viable plans, and all the legislation and plan review work will be for naught.
124		Another issue of concern with the healthcare facilities is the reporting system established as a tool for facilities to report their status. The newest system, FL Health Stat, was newly implemented prior to Irma and did not work, causing the need for Pinellas to call nearly 300 facilities on a daily basis. I would recommend that in fixing the issues with the online tool, DOH look at how the system can be tied to systems used by the State and Counties, such as WebEOC, for better integration and situational awareness by more agencies. I would also strongly recommend development of a back-up

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		system or process for facility reporting that does not require power and the internet, but that can be done through a verbal tool such as radio communication or satellite phone. The physical task of calling all the healthcare facilities in our county was something DOH was not prepared for and county staff had to resolve in order to ensure we knew what their status was and could respond accordingly.
125		With various State agencies involved in the rule development, licensing, and plan reviews my recommendation would be that the State Division of Emergency Management (DEM) serve as a facilitator and technical resource to the other agencies where rules and criteria are being developed that directly impact local emergency management. While the practical experience of managing special needs and the healthcare facilities falls at the county level, State DEM has access to county expertise through working groups, our professional association, and a willing group of Emergency Managers who have a very vested interest in getting it right where the rules and the plans are involved, and avoiding unintended consequences.
126		Ensure funding for mental health includes service delivery during emergencies, realistically through contracting rather than full time staff, to support the community at large and sheltering operations.
127	Kathryn Hyer, Phd, MPP, Director of the USF Center on Aging	Generators and fuel should be required for NHs & ALs to allow safe sheltering in place Emergency Management systems must be better integrated with AHCA at local level
128		Given costs of evacuation, long-term solution to not build NHs in Flood Zone A or near flood water and “harden” those already there.
129		Emergency Management systems must be better integrated with AHCA at local level.
130		Quality of care requires sufficient staff and ongoing training of staff. Disaster preparedness funding for training dried up by 2010.
131		Emergency plans should be public documents, thoughtfully reviewed, AND practices reported.
132		Consider requiring routine disaster drills similar to fire drills.
133		Emergency Management should prioritize NHs and large assisted livings for power restoration. AL must register as licensed facilities.
134		Litigation protection is warranted for facilities appropriately sheltering in place
135		Plans should address staffing requirements as emergency conditions continue for long periods.
136		Als require far more scrutiny and EOC/AHCA oversight. Little is known about AL Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMP) and there may be inadequate sanctions; the cost of review and adherence is not trivial.
137	Doreen Barker, Associate State Director of Advocacy, AARP	Support the Governor’s emergency power rules for nursing homes and assisted living facilities and recommend the legislature codify these rules into statute.
138		Supports a tiered electric power restoration strategy that prioritizes nursing homes and assisted living facilities the same as hospitals.

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139	Bob Asztalos, Chief Lobbyist, Florida Health Care Association	<p>Florida Health Care Association (FHCA) supports the Emergency Power Plan Rules (Requiring Generators) with the following modifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require that nursing centers and ALFs have generators to ensure cooling in sufficient areas of their centers to maintain patient safety. Compliance can be met through any combination of existing generators or acquisition or rental of new or supplemental power supplies, including transportable units. • Change the ambient temperature from 80 degrees to 81 degrees to be consistent with federal regulations. • Maintain the 96 hours of fuel either onsite or through delivery arrangements. Currently, 72-hours of fuel and the associated storage area is the general standard for building codes and zoning laws, as well as professional practice. Zoning requirements in many areas, particularly residential, become stringent beyond this limit. Centers must demonstrate a delivery contract for any period beyond 72 hours. • Add language to the rules that ensures facilities implement resident-focused procedures. Ensure that: a) residents do not experience complications from heat exposure, and b) the center has a plan to transport residents to a safe facility if the facility can no longer meet the requirements of the rule (i.e. the generator breaks). • Within two business days of plan approval, nursing centers and ALFs must begin the regulatory approval process to install the necessary generator. The Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) / Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) shall monitor the process to ensure there are no unnecessary delays. • Require that approval of the center’s plan, not the actual plan, be posted on the local emergency management website. • The State Fire Marshal shall only conduct an inspection of the center if the center installs a new generator.
140		<p>Consider funding these improvements. Two-thirds of nursing center residents rely on Medicaid to pay for their long-term care and services. The average cost of installing a generator in a 120-bed nursing center is \$350,000, including the electrical, fuel storage, permitting and compliance costs. That equates to \$230 million for the 658 Medicaid nursing centers.</p>
141	Susan Anderson, Vice President of Public Policy, Florida Argentum	<p>Support the installation of generator(s) to support cooling an area in the building or on the community campus for resident safety and comfort during a power outage. Cooling devises may include partial-building HVAC, portable cooling units, spot coolers, and similar devices. Temperatures in the area of safe refuge should be maintained consistent with the current requirements in the Florida Building Code, which states inside temperatures must be maintained</p>

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		between 81 and 85 degrees based on whether it is night or day and whether the outside temperature is above or below 90 degrees.
142		Support for safety reasons, allowing communities to store 72 hours or less of non-gasoline fuel onsite, allowing communities to use piped-in natural gas with no onsite storage requirement, and developing separate requirements concerning the use of gasoline generators for communities with 16 beds or less.
143		Support allowing facilities to contract with a company that is able to timely supply an emergency power source or supply of fuel when requested by the facility.
144		Support adding assisted living facilities with a licensed capacity of at least 50 residents to the priority list for power restoration after a natural disaster or other emergency. While almost 2/3 of communities are 16 beds or less, those communities represent less than 15% of the bed capacity.
145		Support a community’s decision to evacuate residents during an emergency as necessary to maintain the health, safety and welfare of residents.
146		Support allowing communities to host evacuees from other assisted living communities without fear of not meeting a certain square footage per person requirement.
147		Support allowing the state to preempt local regulations for providing and maintaining emergency power sources, to eliminate confusion and inconsistency at local levels.
148	Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs Department, Rebecca DeLaRosa, Legislative Affairs Director	Support state requirement for nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and group homes to have generator(s) – and the fuel to run them – that run entire center including air conditioning.
149		Support state funded positions to monitor adherence to emergency evacuation for nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and group homes, and penalties in statute for non-compliance.
150	Mayo Clinic	Amend statutes to allow the Governor’s executive order declaring a state of emergency to give greater flexibility to the Department of Health to allow providers from other states to assist in storm response and recovery, either in person or through telehealth. This would reduce the need for the Governor to issue a supplemental executive order during the storm or recovery efforts.
151		Amend s. 465.0275, F.S., to clarify that residents of other states who may be in Florida for their medical care during a storm also are covered under the prescription refill authorization.
	<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>Policy Recommendation</u>
152	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Consider allowing agricultural lands that sit fallow or otherwise become non-income producing following a disaster, to continue to be classified as agricultural and maintain a minimal property tax assessment for a specific time period.
153	Florida Ag Coalition	There are several taxes, that if reduced would provide considerable relief:

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sales tax exemption for materials used to repair or replace damaged fences or structures. • Tax exemption for fuel used in agricultural production or transportation during an emergency declaration as well as a recovery period. • Reduction in Tangible Personal Property Tax for equipment affected by the disaster.
154		<p>Loan programs can be very beneficial as farms struggle with cash flow after a disaster:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Scott has announced a short-term loan program for the citrus growers. A program like this would also be helpful to other sectors as well. • Section 570.82, F.S. - Agricultural Economic Development Program Disaster Loans--this program currently exists in statute. It provides for loans to farms less than 300 acres and currently has no funding. This program or one like it could be beneficial if funded and eligibility expanded.
155		<p>Overweight Permits were granted for hauling agricultural products leading up to and after the storm. While this was very helpful, we feel like a longer-term permit would be much more beneficial than the two week permits that were granted. Many farms are still recovering and transporting products months after the storm. We would recommend a longer-term emergency permit and removal of the requirement for a physical permit.</p>
156		<p>Debris removal creates challenges in all areas. Agriculture faces specific issues in areas where local authorities have jurisdiction over burning and will not allow agriculture waste to go to landfills. We recommend a general preemption of local burning jurisdiction during an emergency. This would allow farms to have consistency in their ability to burn through the authority of the Division of Forestry.</p>
157		<p>The State Agricultural Response Team (SART) is a multi-agency coordination group consisting of governmental and private entities dedicated to strengthening all-hazard disaster capabilities through partnerships. This group provided considerable support, but could be formalized, improved and adequately funded.</p>
158	Florida Citrus Mutual	<p>Assist with efforts to secure post disaster supplemental funding from the U.S. Congress for Florida agriculture.</p>
159		<p>Appropriate CRDF research dollars with funding for expanded field trials.</p>
160		<p>Continue to fund the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' BMP program.</p>
161		<p>Fully fund the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Citrus Inspection Trust Fund.</p>
162		<p>Support the Florida Department of Citrus' marketing programs.</p>
	<u>Future Hurricane Expenditures and Tax Relief</u>	<u>Policy Recommendation</u>

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163	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Consider exempting displaced Florida residents and recovery workers from tourist development taxes and other taxes currently assessed on hotel stays.
164		Consider creating a temporary tax holiday (exemption or credit) for all construction supplies following declared disasters.
165		Consider providing an additional disaster preparedness tax holiday tied to hurricane watch/warning.
166		Consider allowing agricultural lands that sit fallow or otherwise become non-income producing following a disaster, to continue to be classified as agricultural and maintain a minimal property tax assessment for a specific time period.
167	Florida Ag Coalition	There are several taxes, that if reduced would provide considerable relief: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sales tax exemption for materials used to repair or replace damaged fences or structures. • Tax exemption for fuel used in agricultural production or transportation during an emergency declaration as well as a recovery period. • Reduction in Tangible Personal Property Tax for equipment affected by the disaster.
168	Representative Rommel	During a state of emergency, government agencies cannot hold public meetings regarding budgets. Can a mechanism be created that will permit the counties to go back and re-evaluate their budgets, allowing the counties to move dollars into areas of recovery and future storm protection? It would be a protection for resident from counties wanting to raise taxes, as it would just be redirecting dollars to more critical areas.
169	Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs Department, Rebecca DeLaRosa, Legislative Affairs Director	Provide clarity on the criteria used to recommend federal disaster declarations.
170	Trust for Public Lands	Support Division of Emergency Management agency request & Governor’s budget recommendations to provide planning & design funds for small counties that have been identified with critical Emergency Operations Center needs. (\$1.8 million)
171		Support Division of Emergency Management agency request & Governor’s budget recommendations to provide capital outlay funds for the construction of critical Emergency Operations Center needs. (\$3.0 million)
172		Support funding for emergency management and preparedness readiness for colleges and universities impacted greatest by Hurricane Irma or that provide operational uses of facilities during a natural disaster.
	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Policy Recommendation</u>
173	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Consider prioritizing the expenditure of affordable housing funds on replacing and repairing affordable housing lost or damaged during a disaster.

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174		To facilitate reconstruction, develop policy options to expedite permitting processes, and consider extending existing permit deadlines and reducing or waiving permit fees.
175		Consider reforms to construction law that will expedite reconstruction, including changes to construction licensing regulations. Also consider changes to the construction lien law to protect homeowners from double paying for construction if the construction is paid directly by the homeowner.
176	Randy Hunt, President & CEO of Senior Resource Alliance	We are seeing now, particularly in Southwest Florida, the need for Housing for seniors whose homes (many mobile homes) were flooded and destroyed by Irma. The impact of evacuees from Puerto Rico is now beginning to impact our remaining AAA and Service Provider resources. These seniors are arriving with nothing – housing and other service needs, and our waiting list for home care assistance are certain to grow.
177	Kenny Montilla, Mobilization Coordinator for Airbnb	Support establishing a mechanism to temporarily lift prohibitive regulations that prohibit Airbnb hosts from providing needed temporary housing.
178	Trust for Public Lands	Support Florida Housing Finance Corporation recommendations for distribution of state housing dollars through the Hurricane Recovery Program and the Rental Recovery Loan Program, which target areas impacted the greatest by Hurricane Irma. (Note - Similar to what we did in 2005. Governor has included a pot in his recommendations at \$100 million.)
179		Support legislation authorizing local governments increased flexibility to use local funds for land acquisition and construction of affordable and workforce housing.
180		Support funding for homeless and transitional housing targeting areas impacted the greatest from immigration due to Hurricane Irma.
181	Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs Department, Rebecca	A faster response to mobilize programs available to post storm victims such as Food for Florida (D-SNAP) and mobile housing units for displaced residents with home damage is needed.
	<u>Beaches, Sanitary Sewers, Stormwater and Flooding</u>	<u>Policy Recommendation</u>
182	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Evaluate alternative approaches to avoid or reduce flooding, including methods to remove excess water when traditional storm water systems are overwhelmed.
183		Enhanced funding for beach restoration and nourishment to protect property and people.
184	Deborah Flack, President, Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association	State funding priority for Irma-impacted beaches should be given to existing beach management (restoration, nourishment, and inlet sand management) projects that leverage federal cost-sharing.

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185		Encourage all coastal communities to develop storm damage recovery plans and alternative funding scenarios to address coastal emergencies along critically eroded beaches of the State. The Department of Environmental Protection should be available to offer guidance, expertise, and identify other resources. Modest state grants to assist in plan development may be considered, especially for unprepared communities.
186		Provide funding assurances for reimbursement of state cost-sharing to local governments who move forward with emergency response/post-storm beach recovery activities in advance of the next storm season, but prior to a final Federal or State funding determinations. The Legislature may wish to consider a mechanism to assure those local governments that expedite sand placement following an emergency will receive priority consideration for reimbursement from post-hurricane recovery funds appropriated by the Legislature.
187		Direct state agencies to initiate and facilitate feasibility and design studies for critically-eroded segments of beach impacted by recent storm events that are not part of the statewide beach program, and have a willing local government sponsor. Encourage other coastal stakeholders to reach out and assist these local coastal communities. Storm recovery funding should be made available to initiate such studies with the intent of transitioning construction activities to the traditional statewide beach program.
188		Expedite state agency permitting of all projects included in the State’s Storm Damage Recovery Plan, taking into consideration, for prioritizing workload, beach condition, level of damage, and upland vulnerability. Emphasis must be on preparing for the next hurricane season, which is not being achieved as evidenced by the lack of major project construction activities, and post-Matthew funding not being available to beach communities (unless it was local funding) before Irma’s impact.
189		Enhance and improve coordination of post-storm data collection efforts and re-examine how post-storm data is shared between Federal (USACE and FEMA) and State (DEP and DEM) agencies, as well as local coastal governments.
190	Michael Rubin, Vice President for Governmental Affairs, Florida Ports Council	Recommend that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission work with the U.S. Coast Guard to determine if the mooring prohibitions contained in Chapter 327 are adequate to prevent disabled vessels from blocking navigable waterways after a hurricane. We also recommend enforcement capabilities of anchoring and mooring prohibitions contained in Chapter 327 be increased. Local and state law enforcement agencies with waterside authority must have the ability to help remove unlawfully moored vessels once the COTP has set condition Whiskey (72 hours prior to gale force winds) at the seaport.

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191	Florida Water Environment Association Utility Council (FWEAUC)	The FWEAUC supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection a statewide voluntary program for advanced collection system assessment, investment, rehabilitation, and electric power outage mitigation planning. • Providing regulatory incentives for utilities to implement the program. • Allowing financially disadvantaged utilities to apply for grant funds to implement the program.
192	Trust for Public Land	Support state funding for Florida Forever and various land acquisition programs that focus on conservation strategies that provide buffering, drainage and flood mitigation to critical residential communities and economic hubs.
193	Richard Pinsky, Port of Palm Beach	Recommend prohibiting the owner or operator of a vessel or floating structure from anchoring or mooring such that the nearest approach of the anchored or moored vessel or floating structure is within 1,500 feet of any federally maintained waterways utilized by a port facility.
194	Representative Rommel	If counties negotiate, in advance and in good faith, how can vendors demand higher payments during a state of emergency? Contracts must be enforced and penalties ensued if vendors cannot or refuse to fulfill their contractual obligations. There should also be time tables established for the removal of debris based on total cubic yards with penalties for services not delivered in a timely fashion.
195	National Waste & Recycling Association (NWRA) Florida Chapter	Prohibit tree trimming prior to storm as they become dangerous projectiles.
196		Determine an appropriate time to stop collection in order to get our employees off the street so they can prepare for the storm and make sure materials in trucks have time to dispose of items (example – stop service 48 hours prior to storm).
197		Roll off containers need to be covered prior to storms.
198		Prioritization of services post storm, i.e. suspend recycling and yard waste to remove municipal solid waste (MSW) as quickly as possible.
199		Employees on streets during curfews – create a way for law enforcement to recognize our workers as “second responders” with special signage; making sure they are in uniform with safety vest.
200		Florida Department of Transportation – the hours of service limits the overall volume debris removal on a daily basis. An additional hour per day (until the debris is removed) would be helpful
201	Palm Beach County Legislative Affairs Department, Rebecca DeLaRosa, Legislative Affairs Director	Amend state emergency procurement rules to ensure equity of services to local governments, particularly for debris removal.

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202	Miami-Dade County Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava	South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) should invest in the infrastructure of the primary canal system so that canals can better accommodate potential heavy rainfall and flooding and prevent, as much as possible, expected storm surge flooding.
203		SFWMD should address the issue of eroded banks of the primary canal system, inadequate conveyance capacity, and overflow protections as well as investing in emergency power for all flood gates.
	Education	Policy Recommendation
204	Initial Policy/Question List Provided to Select Committee	Consider allowing school districts to deduct hurricane days from required days of instruction.
205		Consider providing additional school readiness funding for care when schools are closed.
206		Consider authorizing and funding the school readiness program to temporarily serve additional families in areas where schools are closed for extended periods.
207	Florida Association of District School Superintendents	Current law prohibits a salary from being paid to any employee in advance of the work being done. Consider providing that in the event that schools close due to a natural disaster or other emergency, employees may be paid for such days so long as the time is made up at a later date in the school year.
208		Exempt students who arrived from Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands as a result of a natural disaster from the definition of an “eligible” student for assessment purposes. The scores of these students on any assessment would not be included in the grading system.
209	Iraida R. Mendez-Cartaya, Associate Superintendent, Miami- Dade County Public Schools	Provide emergency radios or other communication emergency communication devices, including the potential use of satellite phones for voice/data and emergency voice over I.P. systems for schools during the storm recovery period.
210		Provide generators for schools that serve as shelters.
211		Facilitate the authorization to provide breakfast and lunch for all students at no cost as authorized and funded by through the National Lunch Program USDA.
212		Extend the testing window period. This is recommended due to the disparate statewide impact on school days/instructional minutes. Staff has initiated discussions with the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) and the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE), regarding the possible need to request modifications to assessment and accountability calendars based on the best interests of students and teachers.
213		Recommend some accommodations related to the accountability system due to the loss of instructional days/minutes and the acceptance of students from Puerto Rico and Texas. In previous years, accommodations such as holding schools harmless, or stipulating that no school will drop more than one letter grade, and suspending any sanctions.
214	Duval County Schools	Better communication during Statewide or Regional Natural disasters

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	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
215	<u>Initial Policy/Questions List Provided to Select Committee</u>	Evaluate the performance of Florida’s building code and determine if any changes to the code or code adoption processes are warranted.
216		Evaluate access to emergency management information, and identify ways to improve statewide information regarding all roads in Florida, shelter availability and location, government closures, food distribution, gasoline availability, etc.
217		Review the use of emergency ordinances and curfews and the roles of state, local and federal authorities, and consider policy changes to ensure consistency and cooperation.
218		Enhance penalties for looting and other crimes committed during evacuations and declared emergencies.
219		Evaluate the need for support for private employers and their employees during evacuation and declared emergencies.
220		Consider providing for one-time increase in benefits to enable restocking by those who lose all food at home during a disaster.