

For Immediate Release:

February 24, 2006
Contact: Natalie Burke
or Vincent Lafronza, 202.327.5494

Washington, DC (February 24, 2006)

On March 7, 2006, CommonHealth *ACTION* and the New Orleans-based Center for Empowered Decision Making (CEDM) will host a dialogue meeting about health and housing issues faced by Katrina evacuees displaced from New Orleans. The meeting will be held from 1:00p-4:00p at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington, DC.

This meeting will provide a real-time update on the recovery status and situational context for many evacuees, identify current health and housing needs, and share specific recommendations for policy makers, program administrators, government agencies, and the media involved in recovery efforts. Speakers from New Orleans include the Honorable Cheryl Artise Gray of the Louisiana House of Representatives, Dr. Shelia Webb, Executive Director of the Center for Empowered Decision Making and former (1995-2002) Director of the City of New Orleans Health Department, and Michael A. Andry, CEO of EXCELth, Inc., a non-profit community-based health care organization (Federally Qualified Health Care Center). Additional speakers from the public health community will contribute perspectives to this dialogue as well. "We want the DC health and housing policy community to have access to real-time perspectives of what's happening in our lives so they can be well informed of progress made on critical health and housing issues and what federal support is needed in the months and years ahead," said Dr. Shelia Webb, CEDM Director.

What's Different about this Meeting

Most program and policy decisions are made with good intentions. Many of these decisions have positive outcomes, some have detrimental effects or a mixture of positive and adverse impacts, while other decisions have little or no impact. We all have access to lengthy, written reports containing recommendations for recovery efforts. "This meeting provides a unique venue to learn firsthand from evacuees about their situational context with respect to health and housing issues. Most importantly, this meeting is about sharing specific recommendations to inform decision making, not about blaming and finger pointing", said Dr. Vincent Lafronza, Principal of CommonHealth *ACTION* .





CommonHealth ACTION

Who Should Attend

Members of Congress and Congressional Staff
Federal Policy Makers and Program Administrators in Health and Housing
Philanthropy
Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Professionals
Academia
National Organizations in Health and Housing
The Media
And all interested in New Orleans recovery efforts

To Register

RSVP to info@commonhealthaction.org. Limited seating; reservations required.

Meeting Location

Kaiser Family Foundation (www.kff.org)
1330 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
(Red Line, Metro Center Station Stop)

#

About the Sponsors

CommonHealth ACTION is a national, non-profit organization located in Washington, DC (www.commonhealthaction.org).

The Center for Empowered Decision Making is a community-based, nonprofit organization located serving the New Orleans and Baton Rouge communities (www.healthyneworleans.org). This collaboration is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to support post-Katrina recovery efforts in Louisiana.

1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036
p 202.327.5494
f 202.327.5499
www.commonhealthaction.org

Catalyst for health.