

# NEERIC Highlights

## Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

February 2006

### Council affiliate receives funding to address Sudden Infant Death in Florida

Hold Out The Lifeline under the auspices of the AME Ministerial Alliance, Inc. has received a state grant of \$50,000 from the March of Dimes, Birth Defects Foundation, Florida Chapter to expand Project Moses across the State of Florida to decrease the high rates of SIDS.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) is the sudden and unexplained death of a baby under one year of age. It is the leading cause of death in babies after one month of age, and is often known as crib death because the babies are found in the cribs. However, cribs do not cause these deaths.

Project Moses is the newest initiative of Hold Out The Lifeline to reduce the number of SIDS deaths in at-risk communities in Duval County. The program provides a safe sleep area for babies in various communities who otherwise wouldn't have their own bed to sleep in.



Above is pictured a "safe sleep area" as produced by Project Moses, which addresses the crisis of infant deaths.

Church and community-based volunteers construct bassinets that are distributed to parents through efforts of Shands Jacksonville,

social service agencies, churches and the Hold Out The Lifeline staff.

For more information on the project, or wanting to know how you can help, please contact Karen Y. Smithson, Project Director (904) at 359-6124.

### Emergency Management staff participates in development of Enhancement Plan

The Council's Emergency Management staff in conjunction with other staff facilitated a 28-session Florida Homeland Security Program Review and Assessment Session in Orlando over four days for 357 emergency responders from all over the state on January 31 through February 3 which formed the basis of Enhancement Plan described below.

The Enhancement Plan is a comprehensive, statewide management plan for enhancing Florida's homeland security programs and capabilities. The Plan is a broadly-focused, long-term, multi-year, multi-funding source plan that frames the resource needs required to build and sustain the capabilities analyzed in the Program and Capability Review. The Plan complements Florida's recently updated State Homeland Security Strategies by outlining actionable plans to help realize the goals and objectives as identified in these Strategies. The information and data used in the creation of the Plan was gathered from Florida's domestic preparedness stakeholder at the Florida Homeland Security Planning Session.

The Enhancement Plan contains 42 Initiatives which serve as the foundation upon which the State of Florida will request FY 2006 State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSGP) funds from the Federal government. Each Initiative is a statewide, cross-jurisdictional aggregation of related projects geared towards achieving a common homeland security objective for Florida. The Initiatives represent solutions to the needs, gaps and deficiencies that were identified earlier in the Program and Capability Review process at the Florida Homeland Security Planning Session.

The Council submitted the draft version of the Enhancement Plan to the State on February 15, where it was then reviewed and finalized. The Enhancement Plan will be submitted to the federal Department of Homeland Security in March.

This project was conducted under the supervision of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Florida Division of Emergency Management. The Council received assistance for this project from the Apalachee RPC in Tallahassee and the North Central Florida RPC in Gainesville. For more information, please contact Ed Preston at (904) 279-0550 x 155.

### Local Mitigation Strategies

During the month of February, staff participated in the Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) Committee meetings held for Putnam County. Top priorities addressed included the current status of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) projects, the re-prioritization of current mitigation initiatives list, and repetitive flood losses. Any additional questions or concerns regarding these issues can be directed to Amanda K. Loach at (904) 279-0885 X 149.

## Thomas Yatabe Awards Presented

The Northeast Florida District IV Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) nominated Mr. Morrison Braren, Senior Planner for Duval County Emergency Operations Center, for the 2005 Thomas Yatabe Award of Outstanding Achievement. Earlier this year, in Sarasota, Florida, the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), Department of Community Affairs, Division of Emergency Management unanimously approved the nomination and Mr. Ray Ashton, District IV's LEPC Chairman, presented the award to Mr. Braren for the region.

Mr. Braren was nominated for the award in recognition of his service to the District IV LEPC, Duval County and the regional community in his efforts and enhancement of hazardous materials awareness and participation in Florida's hazardous materials planning program. This award recognizes his leadership and participation within the LEPC and his community.

Mr. Braren has been a member of the LEPC for the past eight years. He has participated as a dedicated volunteer to the District IV LEPC supporting conferences and training in hazardous materials. In performance of his duties he actively finds ways of increasing public awareness of the program and its requirements, providing a comprehensive regional effort in compliance and education. Mr. Braren has filled a vital role in execution of the District IV LEPC Biennial Exercise and annual Hazards Analysis. Mr. Braren's hard work has ensured that many agencies of Duval County received and continue to receive effective and efficient participation and information sharing as relating to chemical spills and releases, response and recovery and up to date hazardous materials training.

2005 Thomas Yatabe Certificates of Appreciation will be awarded to two members of the District IV LEPC this year for outstanding participation. Vicki Currie, Staff Scientist III for Environmental Resources Management, and Lieutenant Todd Smith, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. For more information, please contact Heather Golightly at (904) 279-0885 X 113.



LEPC-nominated Morrison Braren (left) receives the 2005 Thomas Yatabe Award of Outstanding Achievement presented by Chairman Ray Ashton.

## Mark Your Calendars: Economic Development Quarterly Lunch

Steven Seibert, Executive Director of the Century Commission for a Sustainable Florida (CC), will be the featured speaker at the Clay County Chamber of Commerce's Economic Development Quarterly Lunch to be held on March 7, 2006. He will be addressing the role of the Century Commission and discussing emerging trends and regulatory provisions that may impact Florida's future.



Steven Seibert

The economic development luncheon will be held at the Cypress Club & Ballroom in Orange Park and is open to the public for a cost of \$30 and for chamber members and economic development investors for the cost of \$25.

Please call (904) 394-0646 to make your reservation.

A screenshot of the Northeast Florida Regional Council website. The page features a "Welcome" banner at the top, followed by navigation links for "Home", "About Us", "Our Mission", "Our Members", "Our Services", and "Contact Us". Below the navigation is a section titled "Your Mission" with a list of bullet points and a small image of a person. To the right of the screenshot is a quote: "A new look... a new feel... but the same Mission." Below the quote is another quote: "Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda." At the bottom of the screenshot is the text: "The Northeast Florida Regional Council announces the launch of our new Web site: Please visit: www.nefrc.org".

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announces the launch of our new Web site:  
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