

# NEFRC Highlights

Monthly Report of the Northeast Florida Regional Council

May 2007

## 2007 Governor's Hurricane Conference

### ***"Building on Past Successes....Preparing for Future Challenges"***

The 2007 Governor's Hurricane Conference was held on May 14-18, 2007 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, at the Broward County Convention Center. The Council's Emergency Preparedness staff attended the conference in order to take advantage of the opportunity to connect with over 3,000 individuals from the public and private sector with emergency management responsibilities as they met to develop strategies for hurricane planning, response, recovery and mitigation, and gathered information on the products and services that best support their efforts. As it has in previous years, the Governor's Hurricane Conference provided an excellent venue for both the new and experienced responders to learn about new programs and to continue to foster the important relationships that are crucial in times of disaster.

The theme of the 2007 Governor's Hurricane Conference, "Building on Past Successes...Preparing for Future Challenges", reflected the wealth of experience that Florida has gained during the past three hurricane seasons and the advancements that must be made in facing the challenges of an ever growing, older and more complacent population at risk to hurricanes. The importance of building relationships with non-government entities to leverage their expertise and resources to better serve Floridians in times of emergency has become paramount. The training sessions and workshops of the Conference built upon these experiences and offered attendees the opportunity to strengthen their ability to meet the needs of citizens, now and in the future.

Council staff played an important role at the Conference by presenting and moderating more than eight courses, one of which was a two-day course called "Mitigation Planning for Local Governments".

For more information, please contact Heather Golightly at 904.279.0885 x. 113.

## **Northeast Florida Healthy Start participated in two statewide health summits**

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) and the Office of Minority Health's (OMH) 2007 Minority Health Disparities Summit's theme was "Addressing Health Disparities: Moving Beyond Hope to Action." The summit focused on the 2007 initiative from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Minority Health that empowers communities to take action and develop a common agenda to end health disparities.



*June 1, 2007 marked the first day of Hurricane Season. The Council is committed to keeping the residents of our region informed. Please visit our Web site for information and resources to help you in preparing for this Season.*

The summit was held in Tampa on May 16-18, 2007, with

the 2007 Governor's Conference on Women's Health during the same week (May 14-18, 2007). The OMH worked in collaboration with the DOH Office of Women's Health Strategy to bring both of the conference's to the Tampa Convention Center.

Several initiatives affiliated with the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition were featured during a poster presentation session of the Florida Minority Health Disparities Summit held in Tampa, May 16-18. These projects, which address racial disparities in birth outcomes and infant mortality, were The Magnolia Project, Project Moses and The Westside W.I.L.D. Flower Project. The Magnolia Project and research findings from its pilot evaluation were also featured as one of the seminars in the Women's Health Research track offered during the Governor's Conference on Women's Health.

For more information, please contact Katie Wehr at 904.279.0885 x. 128

***Bringing Communities Together to Advance the Regional Agenda***

## **“Fighting Terrorism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” was planned by the Emergency Preparedness staff**

Northeast Florida Regional Council’s Emergency Preparedness staff, along with the North Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force, planned and effectively completed a two-day “Fighting Terrorism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” workshop at the Doak Campbell Stadium at Florida State University. The workshop attracted 250 participants from local law enforcement, fire/rescue, EMS, human services and other various agencies from around the state of Florida.

The workshop featured presentations by eight experts from the U.S. and Israel on topics that included Facility Security, Police Intelligence, Aviation Security, Trends in Homeland Security, International Islamic Terrorism and many more critical topics.

Speakers included the Israeli Consul General, Dr. Yitschak Ben Gad; Chief Superintendent Asa Gil-Ad, Israel National Police; Dr. Robert Friedmann, professor of Criminal Justice and chair of the Public Safety Partnerships at Georgia State University. Throughout the day the participants were able to interact with each of the speakers.



For more information, please contact Joe Garcia at 904.279.0885 x 133.

## **Teeples honored with Distinguished Service Award by American Planning Association**

Council CEO, Brian Teeples, was honored at the 2007 First Coast APA Awards Ceremony held on May 23, 2007, at the University Center at the University of North Florida, as the recipient of the **2007 Distinguished Service Award**.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Teeples in recognition of his outstanding career in planning and for having made a significant contribution to the field of planning.

For more information, contact Mike Hadden at (904) 279-0885 x 104.



Pictured at left: Mark David Major of the First Coast APA presents the 2007 Distinguished Service Award to Brian Teeples.

## **State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program in Nassau is commended by homebuyers**

Housing is a concern that affects living conditions for populations in every county in the Northeast Florida region. Affordable housing is not an issue for some in the region, but is for those in lower income brackets, especially elderly households and low income families. The Council is involved in meeting this need through its administration of two State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) programs.

The SHIP Program for Nassau County has been praised by Justin Galione, the President of Young American Homes, Inc. A letter addressed to the staff expressed the immense amount of gratitude the new homebuyers have due to the SHIP classes and the respect they feel from the Northeast Florida Regional Council’s SHIP staff.

The staff was also commended for being helpful, insightful and timely. Young American Home, Inc.’s homebuyers feel as though they have someone looking out for their interests instead of just making a commission on them.

Please contact Karolen Merritt at 904.279.0885 x. 161 for more information.

