



RC/PIO News & Notes

July 10, 2026

A Weekly Update from **Eric Jens, Risk Communicator** – Georgia Department of Public Health. Contents may be FYUO – For Your Use Only

News & Notes

Another week of hot weather and FIFA World Cup events will again be among our featured highlights. Other events include the annual National Access and Functional Needs Symposium, Disaster Mental Health training, and an update on the quarterly statewide DPH Risk Communicators meeting slated for later this month.

FIFA

Among the FIFA activities in Atlanta this week was the match on Tuesday that resulted in a 3 to 2 win for Argentina over Egypt. Attendance at Atlanta Stadium was 62,734 for the match, and close to 10,000 more at surrounding fan fests. The Atlanta Joint Operation Center and Joint Information Center were at Level 1 activation throughout the day. The FIFA World Cup 2026 Citywide Response Teams channel, ironically, has 404 members. Once again, health risks and safety concerns were centered on hot weather and fireworks.





Who can provide Disaster Mental Health Services?

- Anyone with proper training can provide practical and emotional support
- *Professional mental health license not required*



this may not be a prime responsibility for some, it can benefit anyone. Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities' Kalie Burke said you never know what situation you may find yourself in during a disaster response and it is always better to be mindful and better equipped when that situation arises. Her training included helpful information, a triage priority activity, and a scientific explanation of human brain responses to disaster situations.

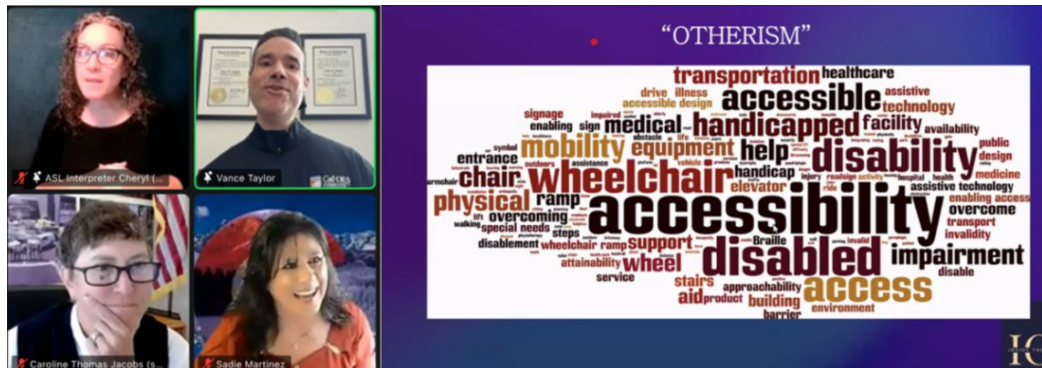
Disaster Mental Health training

Thursday's Disaster Mental Health Field Response training helped provide a variety of participants with better skills that can be applied in different emergency situations. While

AFN Symposium

The fifth annual national Access and Functional Needs Symposium was held on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, with many of the traditional speakers plus some new presenters. Co-facilitators Vance Taylor and Sadie Martinez talked about challenges related to labels and how frequently some labels have been changing in

recent years. They both stressed that the focus should be on doing the work of getting resources to those who need it most during disasters. Other speakers pointed out the significance of inclusive planning when setting expectations for evacuations, issuing alerts, and other emergency management considerations. Taylor said, "Plans matter. Technology matters. But neither are more important than recognizing other people." He said resilience is often thought of as having the ability to stand on your own, but should really mean that no one should have to stand alone.



Risk Communicators Quarterly meeting

The agenda is almost final, and invites should be sent early next week for the next quarterly DPH statewide Risk Communicators meeting to be held from 10:00 am until noon on Wednesday, July 29. We'll be talking about FIFA games and hurricanes, plus the latest on digital communications and more.

Next Week Preview

FIFA activities in Atlanta will wrap up next week. Then it will be time for all the various response reviews and other activities that are soon to follow. The hot wash could literally be hot.

About "News & Notes"

"News & Notes" is a weekly communication for risk communicators and public information officers across Georgia's 18 public health districts. The goal of this communication is to enhance preparedness by exchanging information on significant events, training, and other planned activities. Some information herein may be considered FYUO (For Your Use Only). Please be judicious when forwarding. For

questions, comments, or to submit information for inclusion, contact Eric Jens at Eric.Jens@dph.ga.gov.

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Georgia Department of Public Health | 200 Piedmont Ave, SE | Atlanta, GA 30334 US