



Jon Romine
Tessa LeSage
April 11, 2023

Health & Social Services Branch April Meeting

Lee County Recovery Task Force



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Introductions

Recovery Task Force Updates

Problem Solving Process

Research and Data

Next Steps

Discussion and Questions

Public Comment



Introductions



Membership

- **Branch Leads:**
 - Troy Churchill
- **Branch Members:**
 - Dana Begley
 - Dawn Belamarich
 - Nicole Calderone
 - Therese Everly
 - Dr. Tom Felke
 - Julie Ferguson
 - Angela Katz
 - Jorge M Quiñonez, M.D.
 - Ken Smith
 - David Brown
 - Stefanie Ink-Edwards

Introductions



Branch Meeting Support Team

Facilitator(s)

- Jon Romine
- Tessa LeSage

Branch Support

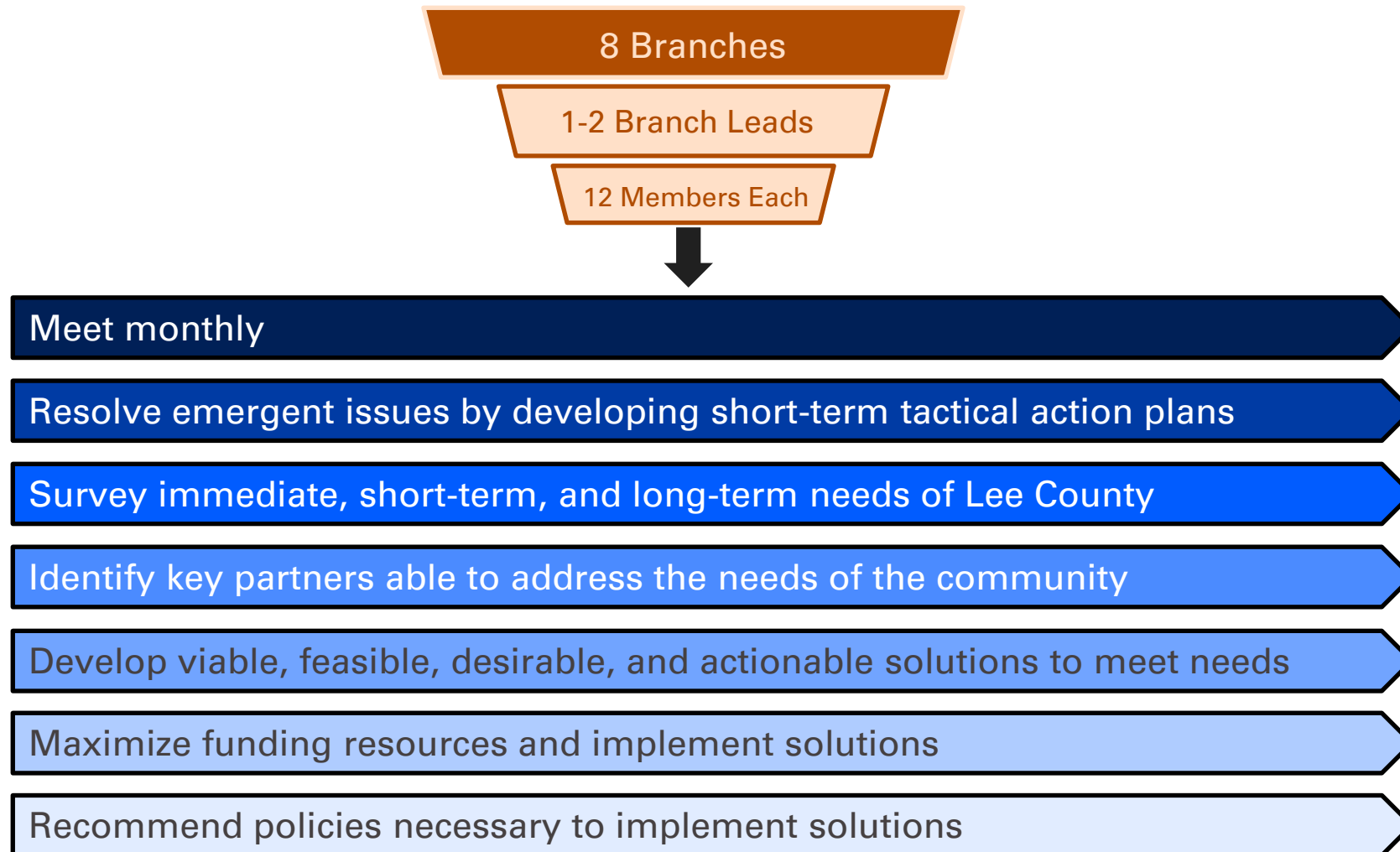
- Robbie Heere

Recovery Task Force Membership

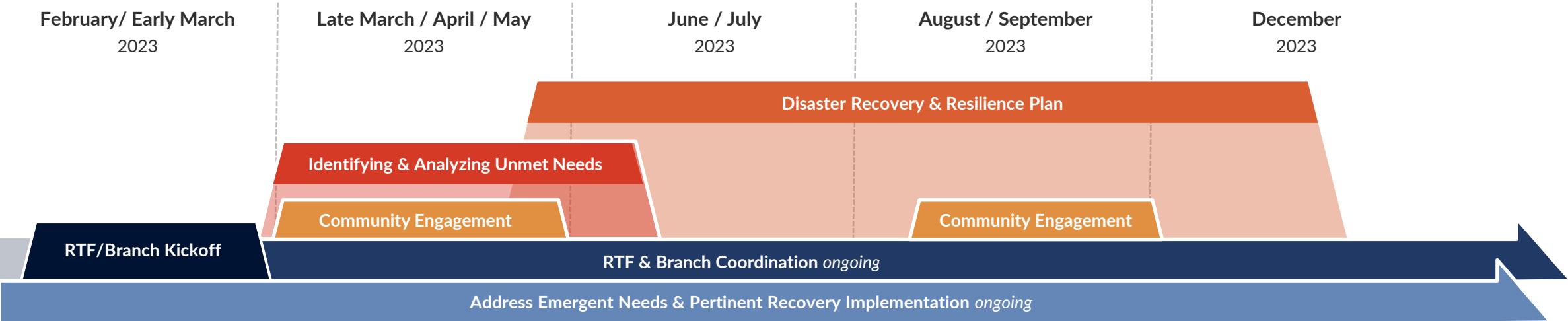


Agency	Position	Representative
Board of County Commissioners	Commissioner	Kevin Ruane, Chair
City of Bonita Springs	Councilman	Chris Corrie
City of Cape Coral	Mayor	John Gunter
Village of Estero	Mayor	Jon McLain
City of Fort Myers	Mayor	Kevin Anderson
Town of Fort Myers Beach	Councilman	Bill Veach
City of Sanibel	Councilwoman	Holly Smith
Law Enforcement	Undersheriff	John Holloway
Lehigh Acres Fire District	Fire Chief	Robert Dilallo
Lee County School Board	Chairman	Armor Persons
Lee Health	Board Member	David Collins
Legislative Delegation	Representative	Jenna Persons-Mulicka
Constitutional Office	Property Appraiser	Matt Caldwell

RTF Structure: Branches



High Level Process for Long-term Recovery Planning



RTF / Branch Kickoff

Establish the working structure for RTF and launch branches. Identify immediate needs and goals to address.

Launch website.

RTF & Branch Coordination

Identify recovery objectives; inform impact and needs assessment; establish projects; incorporate community's priorities; inform long term planning; oversee recovery plan implementation.

Identifying & Analyzing Unmet Needs

Hurricane Ian storm impact analysis, and a cursory look at outstanding needs that will begin to shape recovery priorities.

Community Engagement*

Comprehensive community outreach to inform and validate needs, identify solutions, and validate planning.

Hurricane Ian Disaster Recovery & Resilience Plan

A framework for Lee County's recovery from Hurricane Ian, including prioritized projects, funding sources, and key stakeholders.

Emergent Needs & Pertinent Recovery Implementation

Conduct recovery operations and manage recovery funding streams: short-term, intermediate, long-term.

RTF is forum to identify emergent and time sensitive needs and identifying best path forward.

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Updates from the Recovery Task Force Meeting



RTF Updates

1

Community Engagement Strategy

2

Emergent Issues

3

No New Priorities

4

CDBG-DR Process and Progress

Branch Priorities



Branches	Branch Priorities/Initial Themes
Planning & Capacity 	• Plan for improved short-term recovery response (immediately post-disaster) • Increase inter-governmental coordination for long-term planning for resiliency • Propose planning community priorities based on those hardest hit
Economic Recovery 	• Identify partnerships and incentives supporting the workforce, such as affordable housing near jobs • Identify Short-term actions that support the rapid recovery of businesses, including access to financing, and marketing the tourism-based economy • Rebuild more public access to natural resources • Prioritize industry-sector growth to build a resilient economy
Education & Workforce 	• Improve workforce participation by increasing skilled and credentialed workers to fill jobs in Lee County • Create ways to partner and leverage resources to increase shared ownership of education, to improve outcomes and opportunities from early childhood education to career • Create systems that foster lifelong learning and training opportunities for all • Address outside variables (housing, transportation, mental health, childcare, etc.) that hinder education and workforce
Health & Social Services 	• Access through mobile services and for special needs environments that includes necessary services and accessibility to facilities built to provide services, pharmacies, mental health services • Coordination of a resilience hub with dependable and real time information and based on prior mapping critical care infrastructure • Identify mental health responses in real-time, especially one-year anniversaries, with support for staff and considerations for workforce retention and well-being • Identify regulatory requirements for special services and supportive living centers, options for providers

Branch Priorities



Branches	Branch Priorities/Initial Themes
Infrastructure 	• Preserve and harden critical infrastructure such as water, power, transportation, communications and sanitary infrastructure systems • Pre-disaster planning for supplies, evacuation, and shelter, especially for special needs during emergencies fuel, and cascading points of failure of weak links • Address increased shelter needs and return to normal operations for schools • Identify redundancy in infrastructure, systems, and partnerships, and sharing assets among jurisdictions and outside areas • Determine long-term improvements for livability
Housing 	• Deregulation to reduce costs of housing and consistency of codes and permitting for efficiency • Zoning changes to comprehensive planning that increases density and redevelopment • Address housing issues and development incentives for vulnerable populations and communities
Natural Resources 	• Determine regulatory actions and incentives to address impacts of natural resources • Direct actions to improve hydrological and ecological conditions • Create public education and awareness campaigns to reduce the impact on natural resources
Cultural Resources 	• Identify short-term recovery and stabilization of the arts • Convene the arts community supporting cultural facilities and individual artists • Identify regional cultural planning and representation for the arts

Meeting Purpose



1 What other information do you need to design, identify, or evaluate solutions in this space? Are there information gaps?

2 Are there other experts, organizations, or institutions you would like to hear from?

3 What kinds of solutions are you already considering for exploration?



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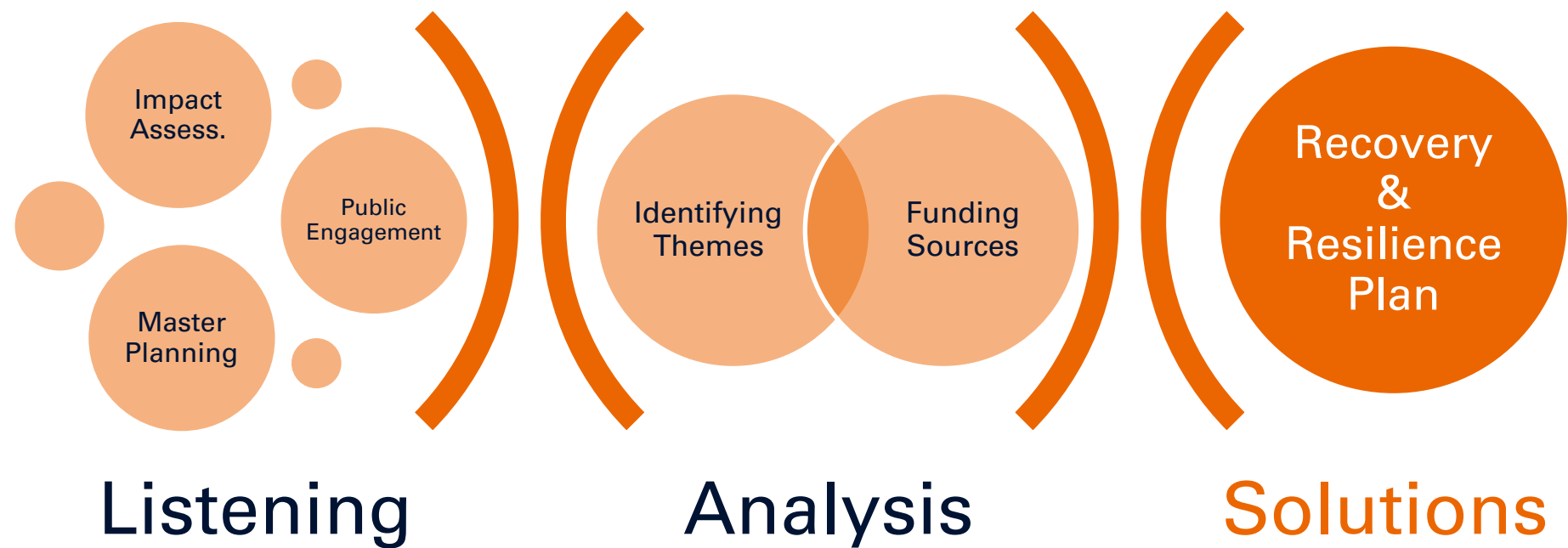
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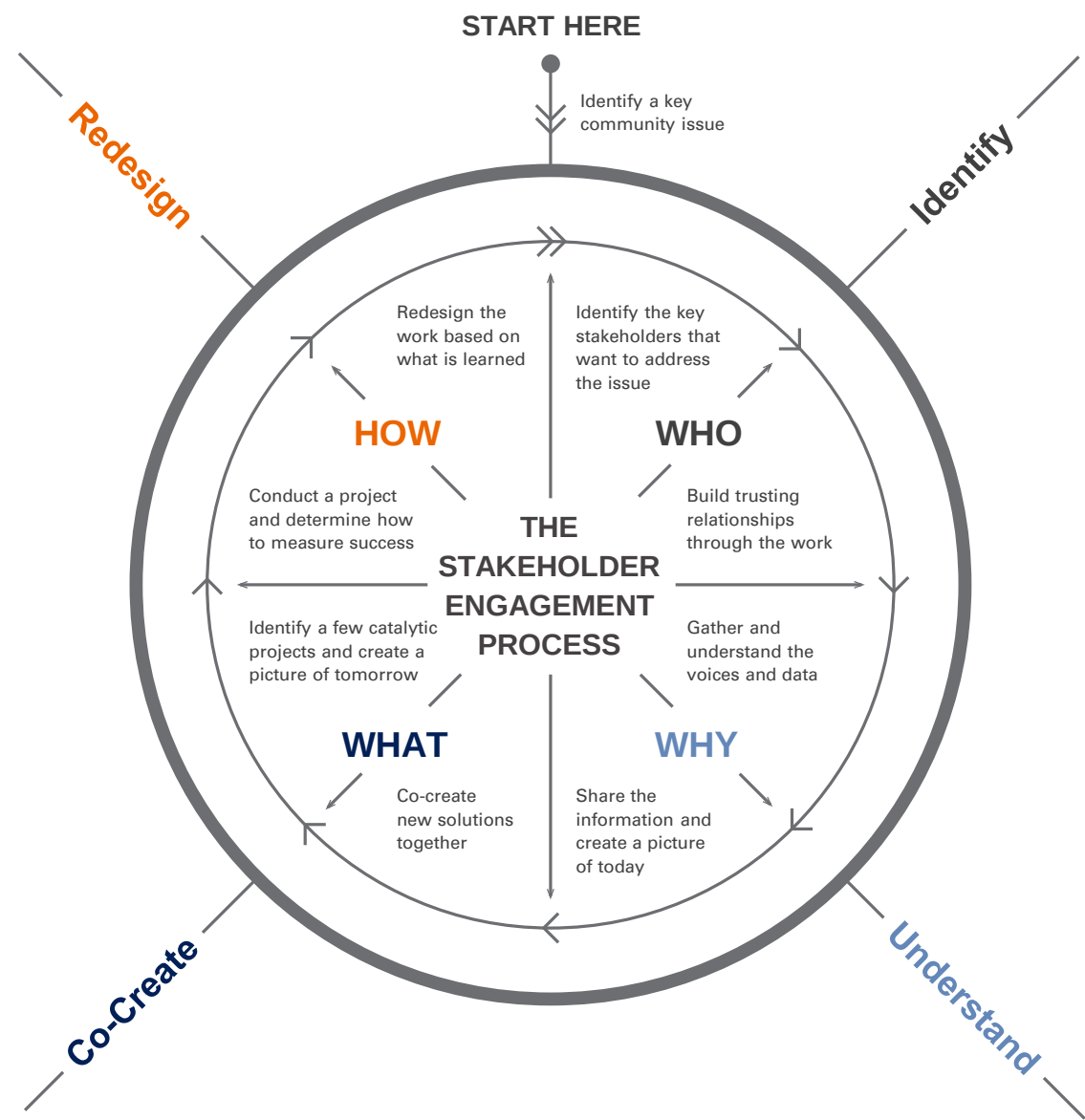
Public Comment



Overview of Branch Problem Solving Process



Process



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Priority 1 Key Challenges and Needs



Improved healthcare access for residents, including special needs supporting care, pharmacies and mental health services

- Healthcare access is a challenge.
 - **Almost 44%** of Lee County adults have experienced **difficulties or delay in obtaining healthcare related services** in the past year.
 - **18.5%** of Lee County adults **lacked health insurance**.
- Considering the experiences and needs of seniors remains critical.
 - Roughly **8,000 patients evacuated from 47 nursing homes and 115 assisted living facilities** days after Hurricane Ian's landfall.
 - **78 nursing homes lost power** and implemented emergency generator power plans.
 - Most of the storm fatalities were people aged 50 and older.
- Health infrastructure must be defined broadly. **Hurricane Ian disrupted access to over 30 Walgreens and CVS locations** in Fort Myers for weeks.

Priority 1 Key Findings



- Following Hurricane Ian's Impact:
 - Cataloguing and understanding **access issues and usage trends** during disaster can be **key** to developing **system-wide improvements**. More study may be necessary.
 - Anecdotal evidence from healthcare providers suggests underutilization of shelters may be a significant issue for those with special needs.
 - County Emergency Management has added a "**People with Disabilities Advisor**" for training and support.
 - **Registrations** for Special Needs Sheltering are **not accepted within the five-day hurricane forecast zone**.
- Mental and behavioral health needs remain increased for as much as five-years after a disaster. This is a **long-term challenge for Lee County**.

Key Research

- Community Health Needs Assessment (2020), Lee County, Florida
- Lee County Healthcare, Lee Health website
- Emergency Preparedness and Response, Lee County Health Department website
- The State of Mental Health in America 2022, Mental Health America

Priority 2 Key Challenges



Coordination provided by a resilience hub with dependable and real time information and based on prior mapping of critical care infrastructure

- When special needs and elderly populations intersect, the need for access to care in their communities increases.
 - Florida residents 45 and older, having a natural disaster plan, **declined from 75% in 2019 to 67% in 2022**, and **61% of residents planned to shelter in place** during the next storm.
- The demand for physicians in Lee County appears to be consistently higher than the supply (11%).
- The State will **face competition with other states** experiencing similar trends.
- Disaster survivors discharged from receiving medical care may face the challenge of having **no safe place to return**.
- Key **social service providers** reported a lack of communication during **initial response and recovery operations**; with central authorities and each other.

Priority 2 Key Findings



- Many states are exploring using “**resilience hubs**” or Community Resilience Centers to **address gaps in services or resources** in certain communities both during and between disasters.
- Community Resilience Centers Program will fund neighborhood-level resilience centers to **provide shelter and resources** during emergencies while also **strengthening community connections and abilities to withstand disasters** year-round.
- **Challenges** currently include:
 - Turnover
 - Funding
 - Limited resources in marginalized communities

Key Research

- Florida Physician Workforce Analysis
- Community Resilience Centers Program information site

Priority 3 Key Challenges



Strengthen regulatory requirements for special services and supportive living centers

- Florida Emergency Environmental Control for Assisted Living requires assisted living facilities and adult family care homes to **submit emergency power plans and maintain onsite generators** with fuel to operate between **48 and 72 hours**.
- Florida Health Officials are concerned this **might not be enough fuel** for extended power outages.
- Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration reported **100% facility compliance** ahead of Hurricane Ian.
- **All** of the roughly **80 impacted** long-term care facilities **reported activating their generators**.
- Healthcare experts have cited **a need for comprehensive facility assessments** and employee **emergency training for care facilities**.
- Florida governing statutes do not define **the frequency or type** of emergency training required for employees at different levels.

Priority 3 Key Findings



- Comparing healthcare facility criteria to impact experiences can highlight comprehensive planning needs and create a framework for the facility.
- Florida Agency for Health Care Administration regulated healthcare facilities are **required to submit a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan** for County Emergency Management review.
 - **Using the Hurricane Ian experience to evaluate criteria** may provide a basis for achieving region-wide improvements.
- Examining potential best practices may provide more pathways to resilience.
 - Shell Point Retirement Community designed onsite shelter-in-place facilities that **were able to keep residents secure** during and after Hurricane Ian, despite sustaining damage.

Key Research

- Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, Florida Department of Health in Lee website
- Emergency Preparedness and Response, Lee County Health Department website

Priority 4 Key Challenges



Harden physical infrastructure of healthcare facilities

- Hospitals and care facilities experienced challenges maintaining power and water as well as securing fuel for generators.
- Healthcare services such as assisted living and pharmacies experience staffing challenges as many care providers were also impacted by the storm.
- Water utilities reported a region wide **drop in water pressure**, impacting critical facilities including the Healthpark Campus. This led to **400 patient evacuations** by airlift and ambulance.
- Facilities had to address **staffing** challenges caused by care providers sustaining personal impacts from the storm.

Priority 4 Key Findings



- Best practices may be emerging based on the experiences of some health institutions during Ian. Capturing these and employing them more broadly may be a battle-tested pathway toward resilience.
- Lee Health identified the **need to reduce reliance on outside utilities** during future disasters by installing back-up wells.
 - **Coordination with municipalities** is needed and includes:
 - Requesting permits.
 - Finding reliable secondary potable water sources and fire suppression methods.
 - Developing reliable secondary condensed water source for building cooling.
- Lee Health plans also include **mapping waterlines to avoid potential impacts from uprooted trees** and **improving communication resiliency** to reduce reliance on local cell towers.

Key Research

- Article from Wink News on How Lee Health's Healthpark and Golisano Children's Hospital weathered Hurricane Ian
- American Society for Health Care Engineering Health Facilities Management report
- Planning for Water Supply Interruptions: A Guide for Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities
- Planning for Power Outages: A Guide for Hospitals and Healthcare Facilities
- Working Without Technology – How Hospitals and Healthcare Organizations Can Manage Communication Failure
- Environmental Protection Agency Water and Healthcare Sector Interdependencies: Working Together Towards Resiliency

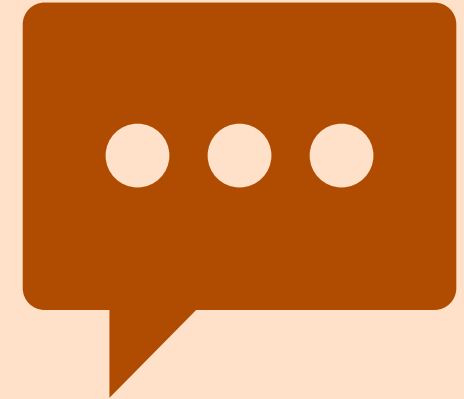
Meeting Recap



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Next Steps



Calendar of Meetings	
Date	Time (p.m.)
Tuesday, April 11, 2023*	3:00 – 4:30
Tuesday, May 9, 2023	3:00 – 4:30
Tuesday, June 6, 2023*	3:00 – 4:30
Tuesday, June 13, 2023 (as needed)	3:00 – 4:30
Tuesday, July 11, 2023*	3:00 – 4:30
Tuesday, July 18, 2023 (as needed)	3:00 – 4:30
Tuesday, August 1, 2023	3:00 – 4:30
Tuesday, August 15, 2023 (as needed)	3:00 – 4:30
Tuesday, September 5, 2023	3:00 – 4:30
Tuesday, September 19, 2023 (as needed)	3:00 – 4:30

***Rescheduled**

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Research and Data Presentation

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Discussion and Questions



Discussion to close after final member questions, before opening to Public Comment.

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Public Comment





Public Comment

Adjourn

Email: info@resilientlee.org

Health & Social Services Branch



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