
Regional Mass Fatality Response System

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What is the RCPGP?

Regional Catastrophic Planning Grant Program

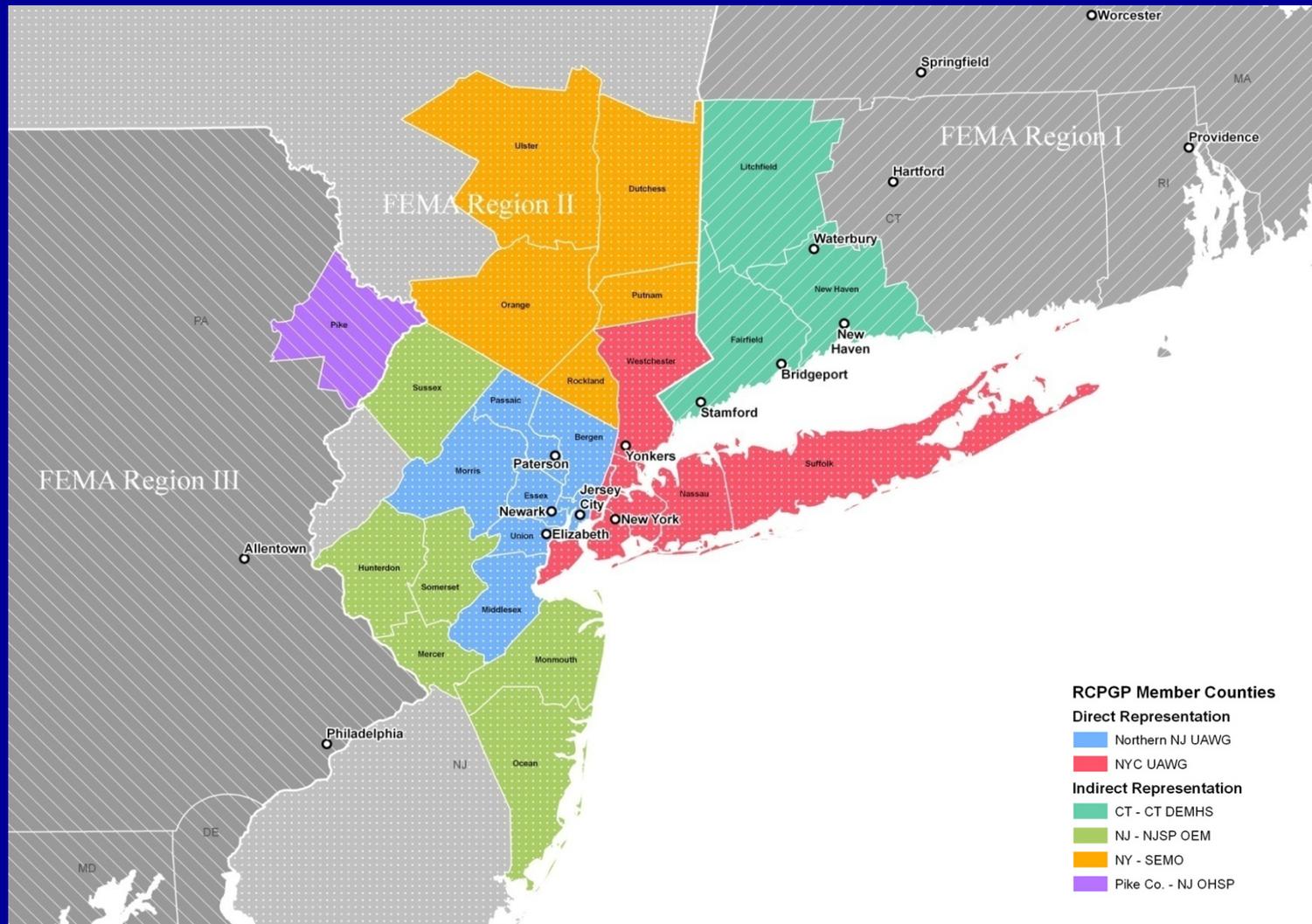
- A regional planning initiative for 10 high risk urban areas across the nation
- The NYC/Northern NJ site includes jurisdictions from:
 - New York
 - New Jersey
 - Connecticut
 - Pennsylvania

This is a planning grant.

NY\Northern NJ Project Site	
FY'08	FY'09
\$9.9M	\$7.2M

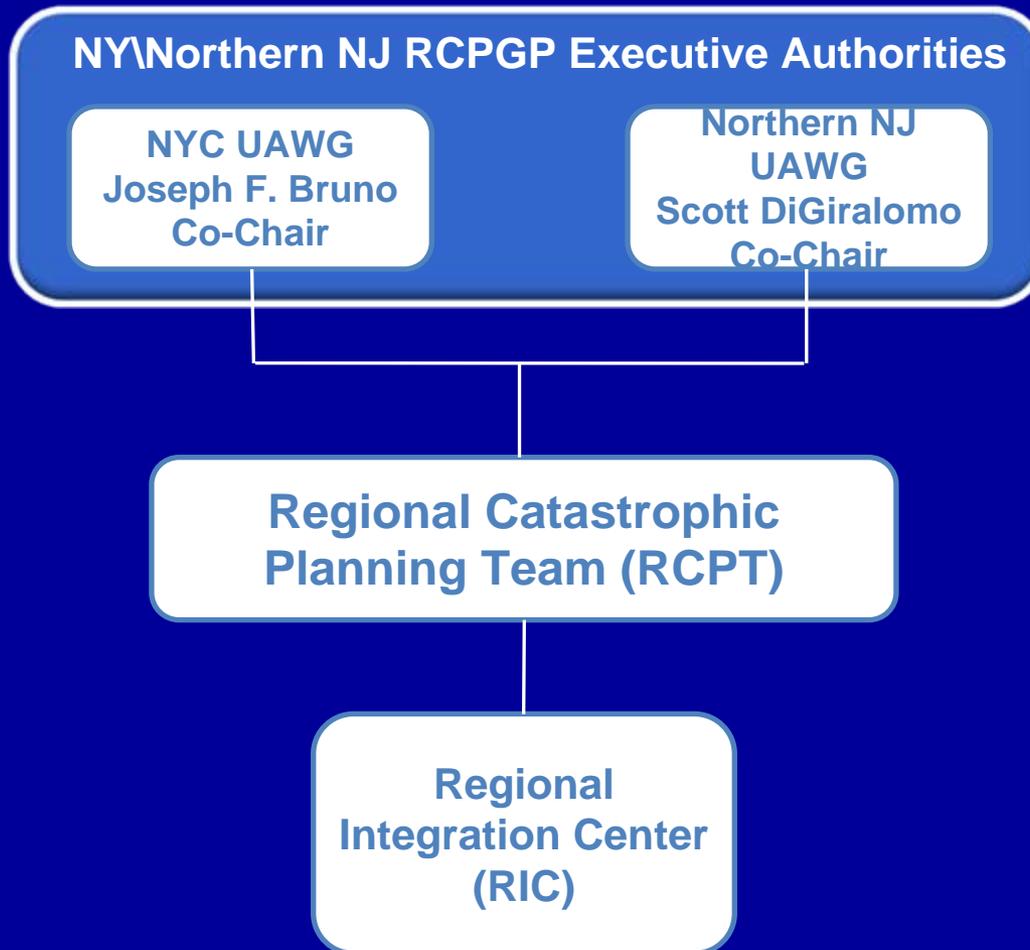
Project Site-NY\northern NJ

30 counties → 22 million people → 1 out of 14 Americans



The NY\Northern NJ RCPGP

Two Tier 1 Urban Area Work Groups



Who oversees the RIC?

Regional Catastrophic Planning Team (RCPT)

13 members representing 11 agencies across the project site

RCPT
Libby Graham - CT DEMHS
Jack Burns - Northern NJ UASI
Joseph Picciano, Brad Mason - NJ OHSP
Kevin Fowler - NJSP OEM
Kelly McKinney - NYC OEM/NYC UASI
David Sheppard - NYS OHS
Gerard McCarty – PA NYNJ
Gregory Brunelle, David DeMatteo – SEMO
Ed Schneyer - Suffolk FRES
Jennifer Wacha - Westchester OEM

RCPGP Plans

FY'08	FY'09
Disaster Housing Recovery Plan	Regional Disaster Housing Recovery Center Plan
Regional Infrastructure Protection Plan	Regional Critical Infrastructure Power Assessment Project
Regional Radiological Dispersion Device	Regional Improvised Nuclear Device (IND) Plan
Regional Catastrophic Planning System	Regional Private Sector Integration Plan
Regional Evacuation and Sheltering	
Regional Mass Fatality Plan	
Regional Debris Management Plan	
Regional Continuity of Operations Plan	
Regional Logistics Program	



Regional Mass Fatality Management System



Mass Fatality Incident



- What is a MF Incident?

- Common definition

Mass Fatality Incident (MFI) is an emergency management term used to identify an incident involving more decedents and/or fragmented remains than can be located, identified, and processed for final disposition by available resources

- “**Overwhelms Local Resources**”



Mass Fatality Incident

- An “objective” definition?
 - Any event having the potential to yield 10 or more fatalities
 - Any situation in which there are remains contaminated by chemical, radiological, nuclear or explosive agents or materials
 - Any incident or special circumstance requiring a multi-agency response to support ME/C operations
 - Any incident involving a protracted or complex remains recovery operation

5 Primary Objectives of a Successful Mass Fatality Management



- Investigate, Recover & Process Decedents in a Dignified and Respectful Manner
- Determine Cause & Manner of Death
- Perform Accurate & Efficient Identification of Victims
- Provide Families with Factual & Timely Information in a Compassionate Manner
- Conduct Rapid Return of Victims to their Legal Next of Kin



Regional MFM System

- What makes up a regional system?
 - Agency “systems” that talk
 - People who coordinate
 - Interoperable infrastructure
 - Similar policies, directives, and operations
 - Administrative similarities
 - Key personnel
 - Key assets
 - Common terminology
 - Communication

Accomplishments to Date



Mass Fatality Planning

Kickoff Meeting, June 2009 and Regional Meeting, September 2009

Established relationships with regional partners

Design Document



Capabilities Based Assessment

Released November 2009



MFM Capabilities

Held weekly meeting with New Jersey to Coordinate Logistics

UVIS



DVI Advisory Group

Met with DVI Advisory Group, September 2009

Developed DVI CONOPS



Plan, Train, Exercise

Conducted NTSB Training, NJ Exercise

Conducted mini-version of Regional MFM Response via Hudson River disaster, August 2009

Disaster Victim Advisory Meeting, Sept 2009

Capabilities Based Assessment



Purpose

- Determine the collective ability of regional Medical Examiner/Coroner (ME/C) offices to manage catastrophic events resulting in numerous decedents; identify strengths and gaps

Description

- Agency Information
- Disaster Planning and Preparedness
- Disaster Response Capabilities
- Subjective View of Preparedness

MFM Capabilities



Disaster Morgue



Hazmat Disaster Morgue



MFM Capabilities



What is UVIS?

- Unified Victim Identification System

Application

- Automation of processes into a central repository
- Collects information from relatives/friends of missing individuals following an incident
- Computer based system for tracking and identifying victims (living and deceased)



Unified Victim Information System

- Unified Victim Information System (UVIS), was developed to support and document tracking of missing persons in order to facilitate identification of the deceased.
- Because the application was developed utilizing Homeland Security funds (approximately \$1.5 million), the NYC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) has made it available at no charge to other jurisdictions.

Unified Victim Information System



- UVIS now contains some 60 software modules ranging from 311 call center, missing person's data, and Family Assistance Center modules to numerous modules for focused medical examiner (ME) operations.
- The primary objective of this project is to obtain a contractor to review and revise UVIS software to be interoperable within NJ's infrastructure and to coordinate implementation in NJ.

Unified Victim Information System



- In addition to building software equivalence on the NJ side, NYC, CT, and other regional partner networks will be linked to achieve seamless operations across the entire region.



Advisory Groups



- Disaster Victim Identification

- Antemortem/Postmortem (AM/PM)
- Data Collection
- Dental Identification
- DNA Analysis
- Fingerprints
- Interview

- HAZMAT

- FAC

- Incident Management Team

- IT

- Legal



Planning & Exercises



- These plans shall be linked to regional planning objectives under both the UASI grant program and the RCPGP as well as other planning efforts under the NJ/NYC Departments of Health.



HAZMAT Equipment & Training



- WMD/HazMat operations dealing specifically with contaminated human remains require special recovery efforts for which typical decontamination teams are not properly suited.
- Fatality management operations must maintain some internal WMD/HazMat resources with the capability to advise others in the hot zone of potential threats as well as regarding ME body recovery and evidence collection.
- For the well being of all responders and to ensure smooth field operations, it is preferred that ME staff perform the site survey, coordinate the recovery of bodies, body fragments, and accompanying effects.

Regional Mass Fatality Management Plan



Regional MFM Plan

GOAL: To develop a regional MFM response system that can:

Maximize efficiencies by sharing technical resources

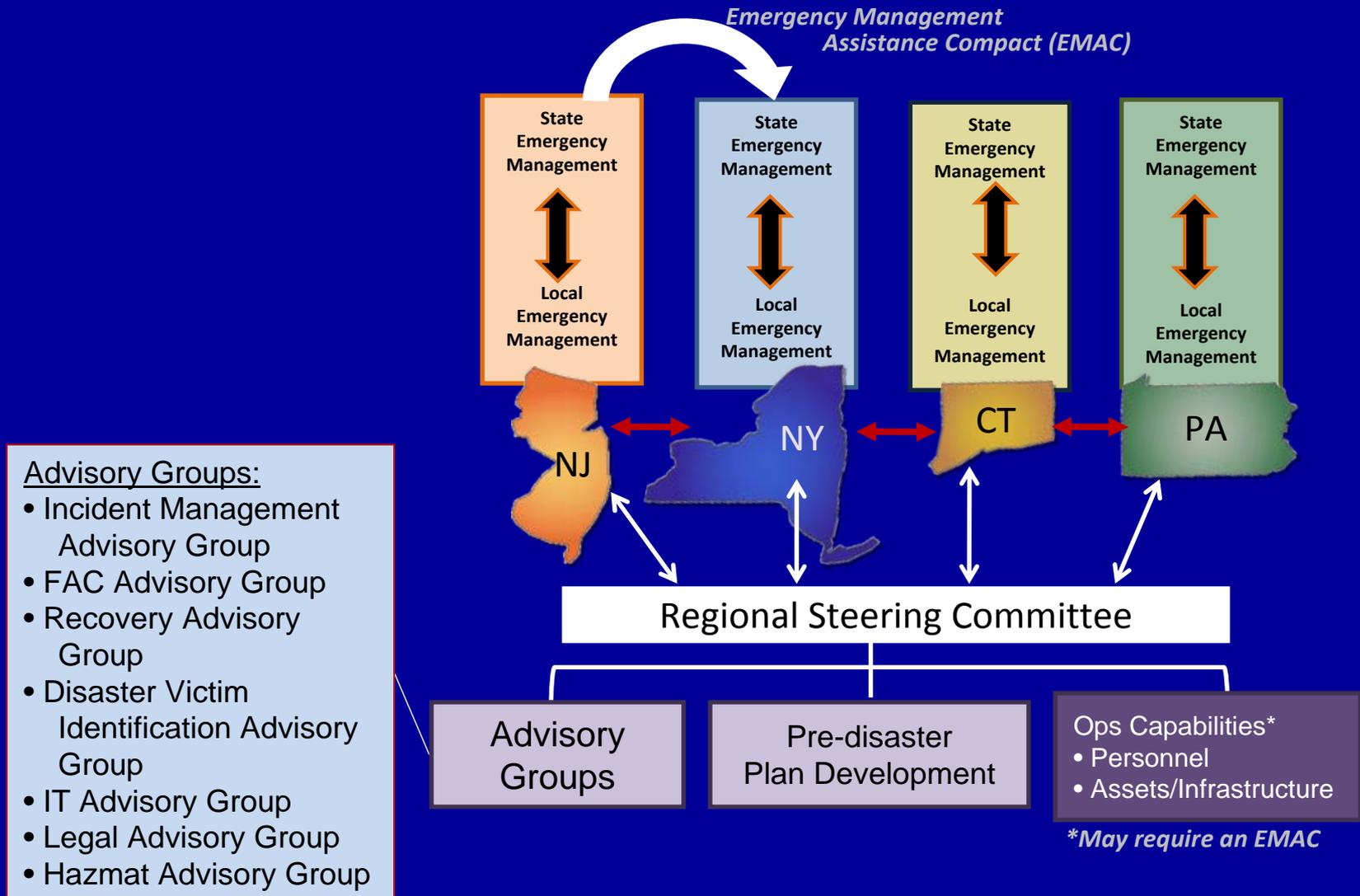
Provide SME advisory or operational support to affected jurisdiction(s)

Deploy specific MFM capabilities

Facilitate streamlined decision making among multiple stakeholders



Regional Coordination Playbook



Regional MFM Plan Objectives



- Development of standard/common decision making approach/tools.
- Standard/common MFM language.
- Standard/common operational approaches.
- Development of interoperability between individual ME/C resources.
- Establishment of baseline ME/C capabilities at the local, regional and state levels.
- Integration of all regional stakeholders in MFI planning, training, exercises, and response initiatives.

Family Assistance Center





Mission

A FAC operation is activated following a mass fatality incident. It is designed to provide a number of important services to families and friends of victims including casualty and medical examiner services; information to decision-makers, the media and the public; and emotional support and emergency social services

FAC Activation



FAC Activation Criteria	
Incident Type	Description
Mass Fatality	There is a potential for 10 or more fatalities
Missing Persons/ 311	Incident results in Unified Victim Identification System activation (with DoITT 311 Call Center) for missing persons
Transportation	Incident results in PANYNJ or NTSB requesting a New York City FAC
Large-Scale Disaster	Incident results in a multi-agency response with prolonged recovery where UVIS/311 system supports all medical examiner disaster operations even if 311 is not being used for missing persons reporting



Critical Services

- Casualty and Medical Examiner Affairs
- Missing Persons Operations
- Mental Health Assistance
- Critical Information Management

Medical Examiner Affairs (OCME)



- Register families
- Collect ante-mortem data and records (e.g. DNA, medical, dental, etc.)
- Liaise with medical and law enforcement authorities



Missing Persons Operations (law)

- Manage missing persons operations
- Establish a single point of intake for all individuals who are reported as missing
- Establish a procedure for additional information collection
- Collect and consolidate information required to develop an accurate list of missing individuals



Mental Health Assistance

- Provide spiritual care
- Mental health assessments and interventions
- Crisis counseling
- Bereavement and traumatic grief interventions
- Referrals to additional services



Critical Information Management

- Daily Family Briefings at the FAC provide family and friends with the most up-to-date information about the incident
- Provide structure and routine
- Opportunity for family to ask direct questions and begin to process the information
- Important for families to hear new information at the briefing before it reaches the public



IT Roles and Responsibilities

Incident Actions

- Activated 311 Call Center for UVIS
- Work with the FAC Lead Team to determine the specific IT infrastructure and network requirements for a FAC
- Coordinate and oversee the provision, management and maintenance of technology supplies in the FAC



IT Roles and Responsibilities

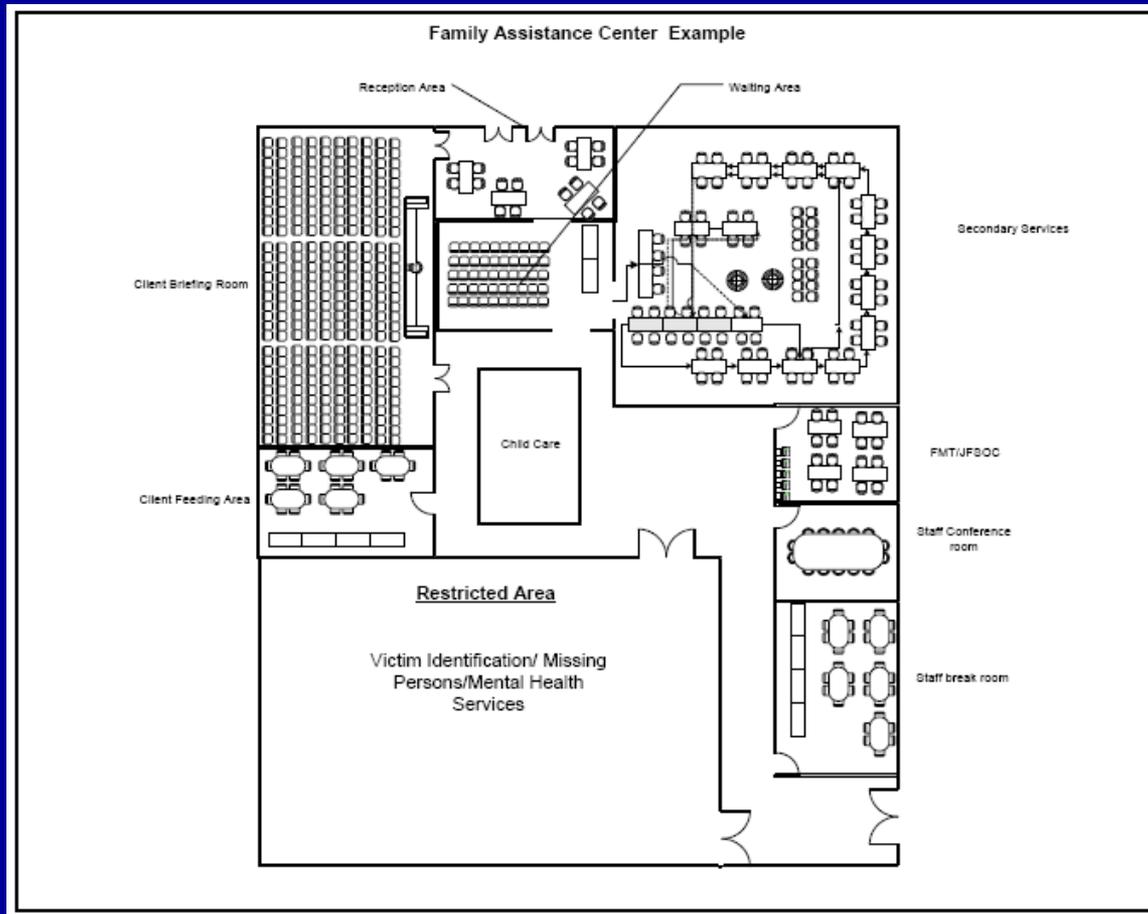
- Activate the FAC Client Appointment System and coordinate scheduling activities with 311
- Designate representatives for FAC Setup and Management Team and Management Group
- Deploy agency representatives to FAC
- Establish a phone number in coordination with CAU to ensure all remote questions and issues are addressed for family members outside NYC area
- Assist to demobilize hardware and coordinate with vendors and building owners to cease operations



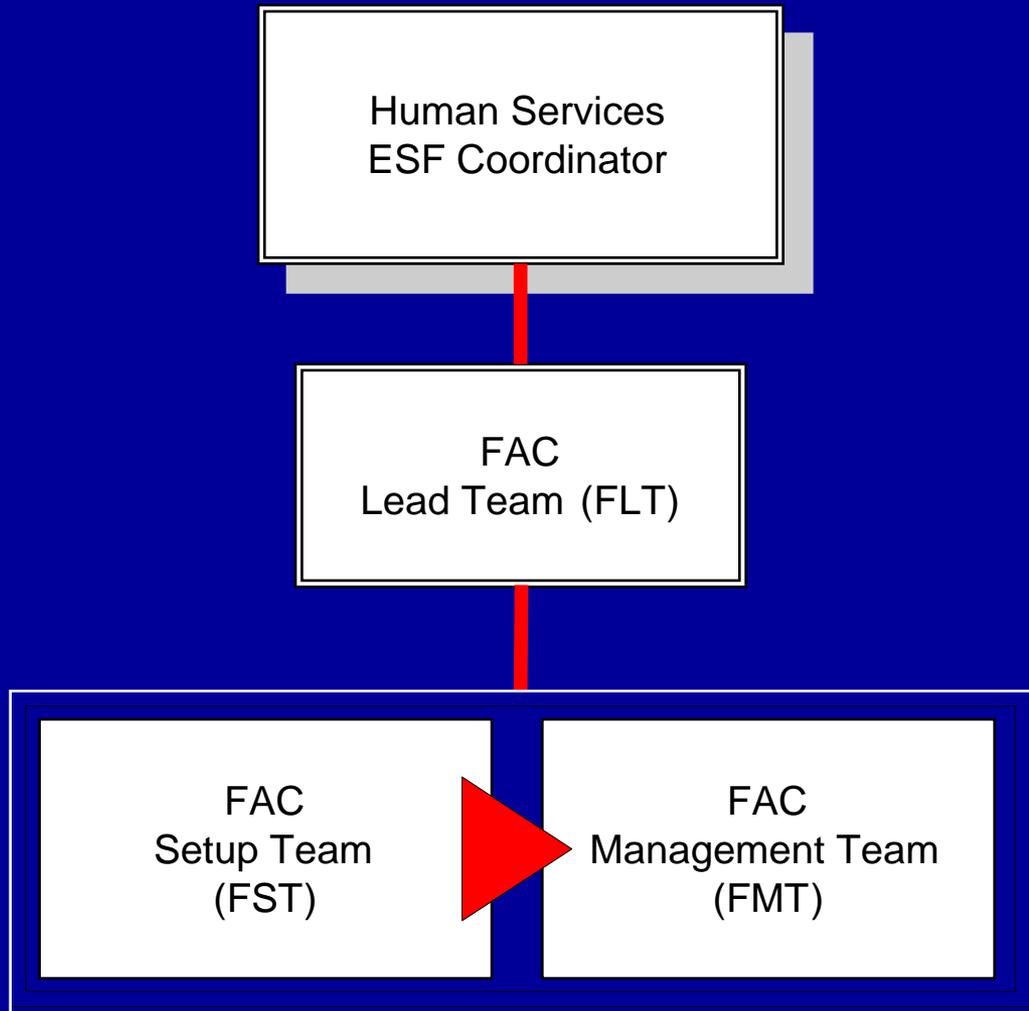
Secondary Services

Secondary Services	
Service Area	Agency
Financial Assistance, Food Stamps and Emergency Benefits	HRA and DASC Non-Profit Organizations
Small Business Counseling and Employment, Counseling/Assistance and Disaster Mitigation	HRA, SBA, DOL and SBS

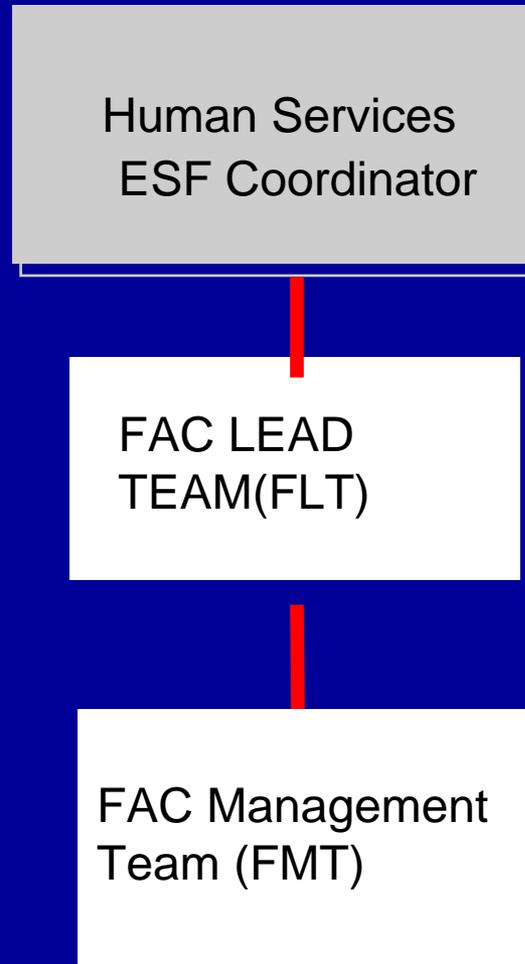
Stand-Alone FAC



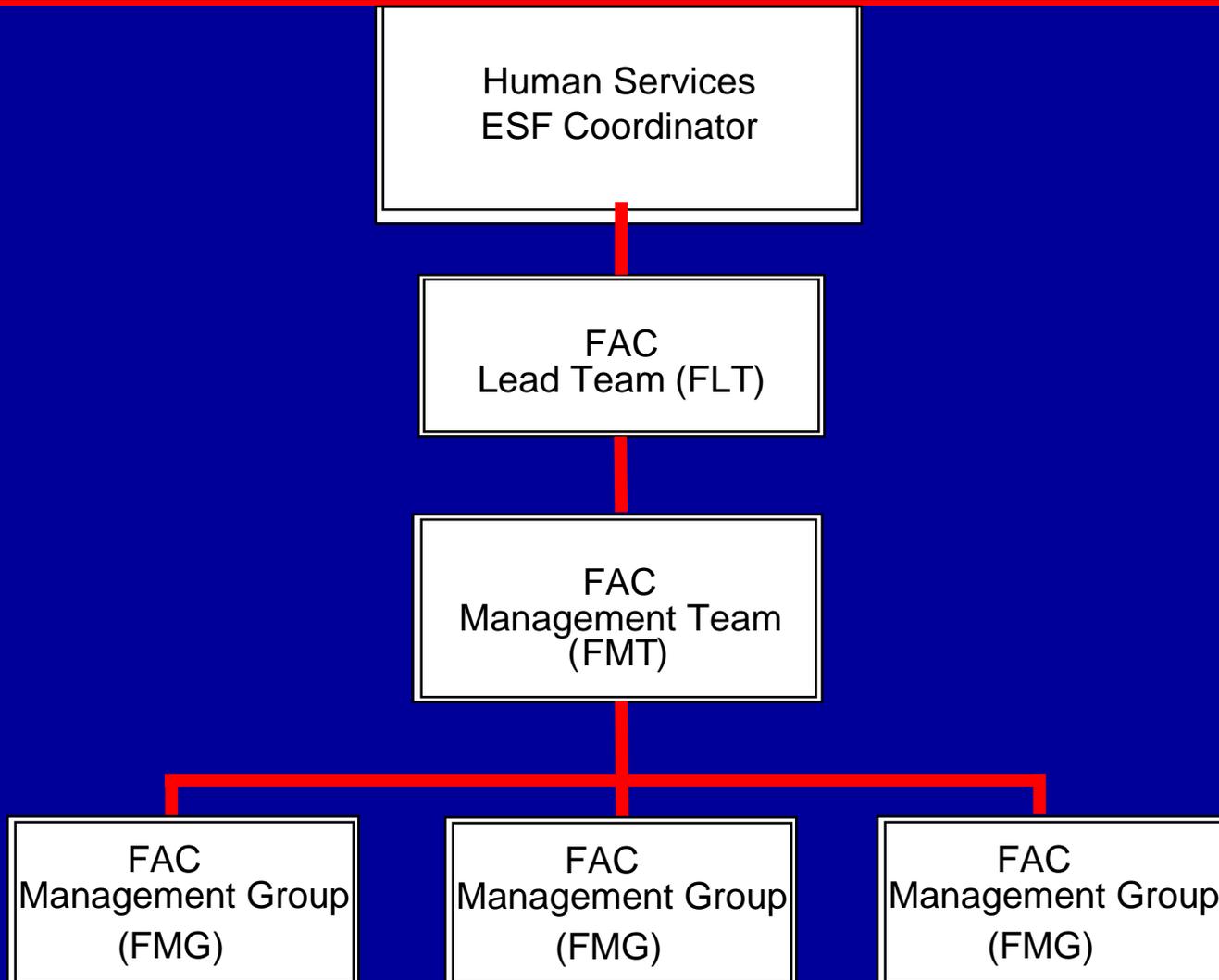
FAC Teams



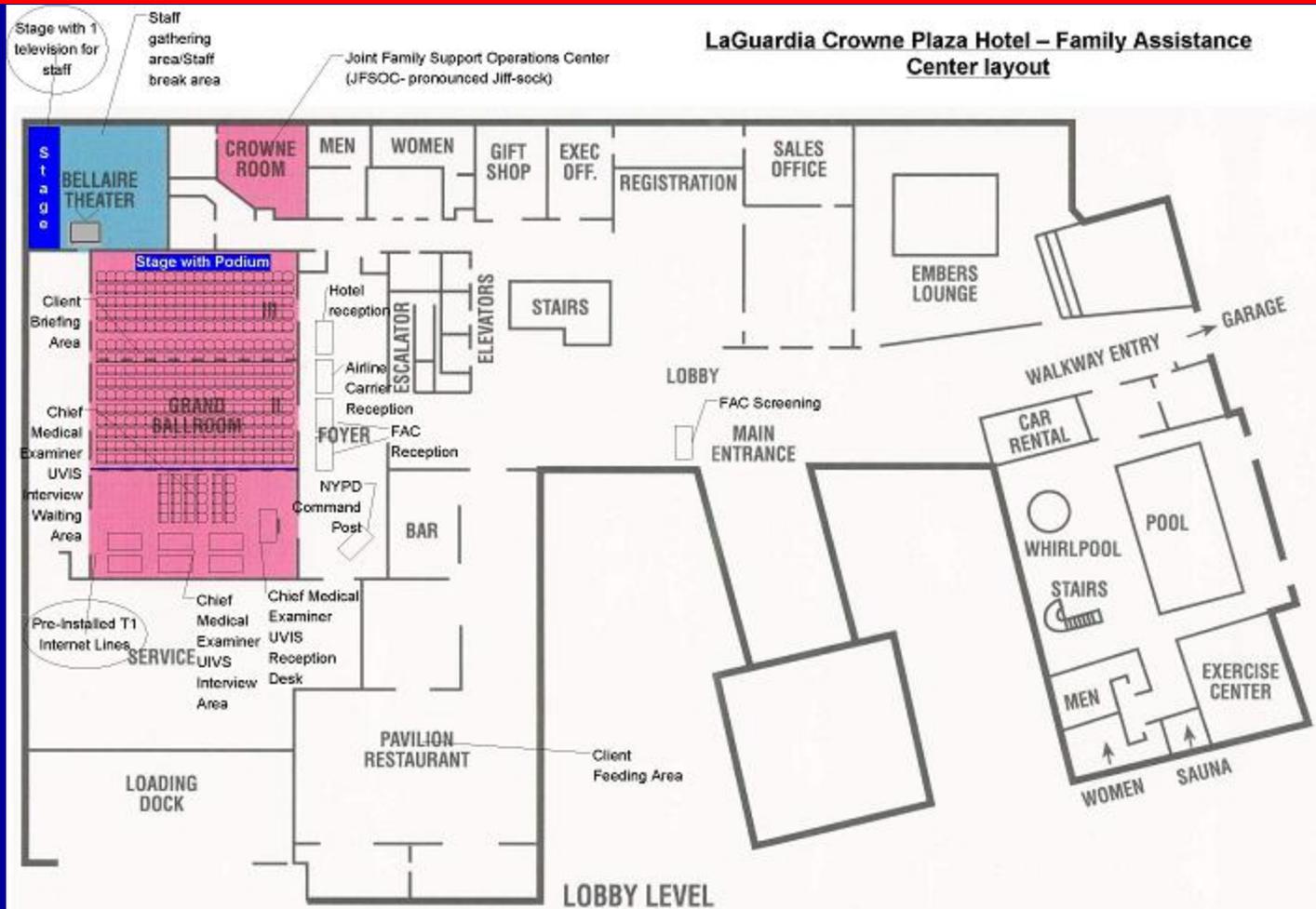
Single FAC Organizational Chart



Multiple FACs Organizational Chart



FAC Location





Federal Partners

- **DMORT Reg I/II/III:** Michael O'Neil, Kevin Costigan, Patricia Kauffman
- **DMORT FAC:** Don Bloom, Jennie Thommen
- **FEMA:** Ken Curtin, Kevin Malone
- **FBI:** Bruce May, Laura Riso
- **HHS/ACF:** Glen Karpovich
- **HHS/USPHS:** LCDR Andrew J. Chen
- **National Guard Bureau:** Sgt Kaczorowski
- **NY National Guard:** Andrew Feeney
- **NTSB:** Paul Sledzik
- **US Army Joint Mortuary Affairs Center:** Lee Green
- **US Northern Command:** Michael Luke



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