



Scott Needle, MD
Chair, National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters
1265 Creekside Parkway, #208
Naples, FL 34108

Dear Dr. Needle and Members of the National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters:

The Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) is a leader in preparing the nation and its communities to respond to and recover from public health and medical disasters and emergencies. Section 2811 of the Public Health Service Act, as amended, establishes the ASPR as the principal advisor to the HHS Secretary. ASPR is responsible, among other things, for providing integrated policy coordination and strategic direction with respect to all matters related to federal public health and medical preparedness. ASPR also oversees the execution and deployment of the federal response for public health emergencies and incidents covered by the National Response Framework.

In 2011, the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH) convened a conference on pediatric training needs for disasters. The National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters (NACCD) is uniquely positioned to assess the NCDMPH Conference Consensus recommendations, new developments, and remaining gaps in pediatric disaster training across the full spectrum of providers. That includes pre-hospital, hospital, ambulatory care, schools, child care, and the general public. I am interested in the NACCD's assessment of the recommendations, existing training materials and resources, in coordination with the NCDMPH as appropriate. Please develop a final report for the HHS Secretary and me that includes updates of the 2011 recommendations, training progress, resources developed, gaps that remain, and suggestions for mitigating those gaps. This effort will further identify the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed by the providers caring for children during and after disasters. The health and safety of children in emergencies relies on those providing their care to be well-trained and able to accurately respond to their needs. The NACCD's expertise in pediatric disaster preparedness and response supports this endeavor.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the medical and public health preparedness needs of our nation's children in disasters.

Sincerely,

George W. Korch Jr., Ph.D.
Acting Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response