



Scott Needle, MD
Chair, National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters
1265 Creekside Pkwy, #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. The 2006 Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act, reaffirmed by the 2013 Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Reauthorization Act, established the ASPR as the principal adviser to the HHS Secretary, responsible for providing integrated policy coordination and strategic direction with respect to all matters related to public health, medical preparedness, and deployment of the federal response for public health emergencies and incidents.

In 2014, the National Preparedness and Response Science Board (NPRSB) was asked to identify future strategies that best support successful achievement of ASPR's mission and that of HHS with regard to preparedness, response and recovery. The members voted and approved a report of the Future Strategies Work Group in 2015 that suggested long-term strategies to best enable the ASPR and the Secretary of HHS to be fully successful in achieving its goal of protecting Americans' health and safety during emergencies, and fostering community resilience to withstand and respond to emergencies. The report also highlighted ASPR's accomplishments and its impact on national health preparedness and resilience. It assessed environmental, scientific, health care, and fiscal policy, and other relevant spheres for potential short and long-term conditions that may affect ASPR's mission space. It compared ASPR's current mission, requirements, strategic objectives, resources and capabilities against those conditions to identify potential future resource and capability gaps.

I am interested in the National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters (NACCD) performing a similar review with the aid of the NPRSB report and specifically from the perspective of children's needs in disasters. Please develop a final report which provides a prioritized list of suggestions regarding pediatric issues and priorities for consideration by the ASPR moving into the future. Focus on ways for the ASPR to be successful in achieving the goal of protecting the health and safety of children during emergencies, and fostering their well-being and resilience to withstand and recover from disasters. The NACCD has a great deal of expertise in pediatric disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. I believe the NACCD

findings will augment the issues and concerns raised in the NPRSB report based on its unique focus on areas of great import to children.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the medical 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