

Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness

SUCCESS STORY

MARYLAND

Meta-Leadership welcomed Non-traditional Partners to Preparedness

Contributor: Elizabeth Hyleck

“The importance of working with cross-sector colleagues has been deeply embedded by practicing Meta-Leadership.”

Elizabeth Hyleck works for a membership organization for foundations and corporate giving programs that provides education, networking opportunities and technical assistance to help members be effective grantmakers and impact community conditions. When Hyleck thinks of the Maryland Meta-Leadership Summit she helped to plan in July 2009, she says, “We cast a wide net for participants to be certain we invited unusual suspects. The Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers itself was one of those - we’re not in the ‘disaster circle’ – so the connection to other groups was extremely helpful.”

Meta-Leadership encourages philanthropy to engage new partners to address a concern

After attending the Summit, Hyleck worked with representatives from the Mayor’s Office of Emergency Management, United Way of Central Maryland, and Johns Hopkins Medical Center to build relationships with those who, unlike her organization, were more knowledgeable about and engaged in preparedness. While working with these and existing contacts, such as the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Hyleck discovered a mutual concern for vulnerable populations and those who serve them. As a result, when World Relief expressed an interest in supporting preparedness training for leaders of the faith-based community, Hyleck marshaled resources and developed a collaborative effort to provide that training. With World Relief providing financial support and much of the legwork, and with the assistance of the United Way, a seminar was provided to leaders from different religious communities, including speakers from the American Red Cross, Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and the Governor’s office.

The value of the connections made with Meta-Leadership

The importance of working with cross-sector colleagues, she says, has been deeply embedded by practicing meta-leadership, and Hyleck is hopeful more events will follow. “We’re still percolating,” she says. She has reconnected with some of the contacts she made at the Summit, and whenever possible attends Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meetings to stay informed, a meeting she did not attend prior to her Meta-Leadership experience. “I don’t think we can overstate the importance of involving nonprofit agencies beyond those known for their assistance in disasters. There is a role for us, too.”

The Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness empowered business, government and nonprofit leaders to act together in times of crisis. The five-year initiative connected 5,000 business, government and nonprofit leaders in 36 communities. For resources and more information about Meta-Leadership visit the [CDC Foundation Meta-Leadership Website](#).



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