

Community Resilience Workshop - Data Needs for Resilience Planning and Decision-Making

Session 1: How Communities Characterize Themselves, Set Goals, and Make Decisions

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As the Community Resilience Coordinator, Janet Zeis is responsible for supporting the Emergency Management Division by creating and managing a comprehensive network of partners across the county, region, and commonwealth. Janet started in her current role, originally modeled after the Voluntary Agency Liaison position in 2011, three weeks before Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee impacted the area. Current projects include Resilient! Chester County, working with the Greater Philadelphia Long-Term Recovery Committee to address the needs of Hurricane Maria survivors who relocated to the Philadelphia area and across Pennsylvania, and pre-disaster recovery planning.



Earlier projects have been highlighted in Drexel School of Public Health's *Ensuring the Delivery of Human Services in Disasters* and UPMC Center for Biosecurity's *Local Health Department Capacity for Community Engagement and Its Implications for Disaster Resilience*.

Janet started at the County in 2003 as a part-time EMT Instructor in the Field Services Division. During this time, she worked as a classroom teacher and in the nonprofit sector where she wrote grants, designed curriculums, and developed community partnerships throughout Southeastern Pennsylvania. Janet received a Bachelor's Degree in Botany from Miami University of Ohio, and a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture from The Ohio State University.

Abstract

Resilient! Chester County: One Community's Love / Hate Relationship with Data, Tools, and Best Practices

Resilient! Chester County was created in 2015 out of the belief that county-level data was ideal for promotional purposes but not useful for emergency planning. There was also the recognition that community stakeholders were being over-utilized at a time when their staff and resources were shrinking. With over 500,000 people living in 73 municipalities across an area half the size of Rhode Island, defining anything while encompassing everything remains the Holy Grail as the idea of increasing resilience (365 days a year) through whole community planning has been embraced, but implementation remains a challenge.