

Conference Agenda		
8:30 – 9:00	Registration/Networking	Welcome Refreshments by The Salvation Army Canteen
9:00 – 9:30	Conference Begins Opening Remarks	Melissa Spencer, Coordinator, Story County Emergency Management John Benson, Director, Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Mindy Benson, Chair of Board of Directors, Iowa Disaster Human Resource Council
9:30 – 10:30	Auditorium	Self-Care for Disaster Responders: Taking Care of Yourself in Order to Help Others Vic Young, Team Rubicon
10:30 – 10:45	Break/Networking	
10:45 – 11:45	Auditorium	Experiences from the Field: Volunteers in Disaster Response Panel Discussion Cassie Dubberke, Invest DSM Dewitt Boyd, Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa Brad Lathrop, Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa Barb Meister, GoServ Global Moderator: Reece Downey, IDHRC Volunteer & Donations Management Committee
	Classroom A	Overview of the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program & Iowa Disaster Case Advocacy Mary Ready, Iowa Community Action Association Kent Maahs, Iowa Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management Lori Williams, Iowa Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
11:45 – 12:45	Don Hampton Service Awards Ceremony & Lunch	Lunch provided by Hot Meals, USA Awards Presentation for 2022 Don Hampton Service Awards
12:45 – 1:45	Auditorium	Spring Community Disasters: Lessons Learned Panel & Discussion Marissa Reisen, Washington County Emergency Management Agency Travis Beckman, Johnson County Emergency Management Agency Scott Clarke, American Red Cross
1:45 – 2:00	Break/Networking	
2:00 – 3:00	Auditorium	Unnderderstanding How to Serve Individuals with DementiaDuring Disasters Hayl Bergeland, Iowa Dept. Health and Human Service
	Classroom A	Legal Issues and Considerations in Times of Disaster Josh Gaul, Iowa Legal Aid Lisa Gavin, Iowa Legal Aid
3:00 – 3:30	Wrap up/Reflections of the Day	Mindy Benson, Chair of Board of Directors, IDHRC Jodi Freet, Treasurer, IDHRC



2023 Don Hampton Conference & Awards Ceremony Speaker Bios

Opening Remarks

Melissa Spencer

Melissa has served as Story County Emergency Management Coordinator since 2022 and Deputy Coordinator since 2008. She served as a Telecommunicator for the Story County Sheriff's Office from 1998-2008 and served 5 years with the Nevada Fire & EMS Department as a volunteer fire fighter and EMT.

John Benson

John Benson began working for the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management in 1992. During his time with the department he has worked in the Public Assistance Program in the Response and Recovery Bureau, as the off-site response planner for the Quad Cities nuclear power station, the 911 program manager for the state, the legislative liaison for the department and the department's chief of staff.

Mr. Benson started leading the team as the department's director in October 2021.

He is a 1989 graduate of Iowa State University.

Understanding How to Serve Individuals with Dementia During Disasters

Hayl Bergeland

Haylee Bergeland, or "Hayl", is the Education Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Program within the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (Public Health Division) and an instructor for Kansas State University's Center on Aging (global campus). She owns GLADYS, llc, a consulting business that provides aging in-place consultations, end-of-life care, and support for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. Hayl has a Master of Science (MS) degree in Gerontology and a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Psychology. She has graduate certificates in both Conflict Resolution and Grief Support and a certificate in End-of-Life Care as well as certification as a Victim Advocate.

Hayl and her dogs are certified therapy dog and crisis response teams and previously were contracted by Polk County to provide crisis and grief intervention to victims of violent crime. She

has served as a volunteer canine crisis response team within the state of Iowa since 2019. The nonprofit Hayl founded in 2015, the Iowa Human-Animal Bond Society, was previously a IDHRC council member.

Experiences from the Field: Volunteers in Disaster Response Panel Discussion

Cassie Dubberke

Cassie Dubberke (she/her) is a Construction Specialist with Invest DSM in Des Moines, IA. Prior to her current role, she spent six years working with Habitat for Humanity affiliates, serving alongside AmeriCorps, community volunteers, homeowners, and other community stakeholders. Cassie spent four years as a Habitat Construction Manager in the field and two years leading the Iowa Habitat Mobile Response Team, coordinating tornado recovery efforts in Marshalltown as well as some flood recovery in SW Iowa.

DeWitt Boyd

Born and raised in North Carolina, DeWitt moved to Iowa in 2003. DeWitt studied Geography at the University of Northern Iowa and joined Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa immediately after graduation. He served two AmeriCorps terms with CCMI before becoming a full-time staff member. As the Iowa Program Manager for CCMI, DeWitt oversees the operations & development of a 30-40 member AmeriCorps program. Part of his role is working with natural resources agencies across Iowa and the Midwest to identify meaning service opportunities for his Corpsmembers. During his 10 years with CCMI, DeWitt has deployed to Oklahoma, Alaska, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, Puerto Rico & SW Iowa for disaster response. Although he doesn't get to deploy as often as he used to, he enjoys being able to provide those opportunities for his corps members. In his free time, he like to travel with his wife & dogs, canoe, garden, see live music & have way too many chickens.

Brad Lathrop

Brad Lathrop serves as the Des Moines Iowa Field Coordinator with Conservation Corps Minnesota & Iowa. He coordinates crews focused on habitat restoration, trail work and other conservation practices. Brad served as a crew member in Iowa during the 2020 season. He was deployed to St. Louis in 2022 to assist with flood damage assessment and cleanup. In July, Brad and a CCMI team deployed to Guam where he served as Incident Commander for AmeriCorps crews responding to Typhoon Mawar.

Barb Meister

My passion is helping people at their lowest moment, helping them take the first step to their new normal, whatever that might be. I have been married to my high school sweetheart for 44 years and we have two sons. I love meeting people and sharing the passion I have for GoServ Global and the Gospel, and telling the incredible stories from my opportunities. This job has made me almost fearless, I love the challenge of figuring things out.

Reece Downey

Reece Downey previously served as a board member with the IDHRC. Reece served as a representative of Iowa Legal Aid, where he was a disaster paralegal focused on providing legal support and holistic assistance to survivors of the August 2020 derecho and other disasters as they arose, including the housing crisis following the COVID-19 pandemic. Reece now works as a financial aid advisor at the University of Iowa, but had to make one last visit at his favorite annual conference!

Overview of the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program & Iowa Disaster Case Advocacy

Mary Ready

Mary Ready (she/her) graduated from Loras College in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature and International Studies. She went on to work in the Refugee Resettlement field in various capacities throughout Iowa until 2019. Mary currently serves as the Director of Programs at Iowa Community Action Association in Des Moines, IA where she works with Community Action Agencies across the state's 99 counties to address the causes and conditions of poverty. In this role, Mary provides development, training, and oversight for a variety of programs, including the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program & Iowa Disaster Case Advocacy program, ensuring quality and consistent service delivery across Iowa's 16 CAAs. When not working, you can find Mary volunteering with Des Moines' Young Nonprofit Professional Network chapter as well as a variety of immigrant and refugee service organizations, knitting, baking, playing D&D, and cuddling with her Golden Retriever.

Kent Maahs

I am a proud native Iowan and grew up in Lake City. I now live near downtown in Des Moines. I am an avid reader and cinephile, and also spend a lot of time volunteering around town, most notably with the Des Moines Arts Festival and Iowa PBS.

I attended Luther College and then received my undergraduate degree from ISU and later a Masters of Public Administration from Drake University.

Prior to coming to HSEMD, I worked for the Dept of Natural Resources in the Water Quality Bureau and before that was part of the NPO world at the Science Center of Iowa.

Lori Williams

Lori Williams has been working with communities and volunteers during disasters for more than 15 years. In her role at the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Williams supports and engages with voluntary organizations active in disasters across the state of Iowa before, during, and after disasters occur. As an Operations Officer, Williams fulfills the role of a "State Voluntary Agency Liaison" and serves as a central

coordination point between local, state, and federal governments and voluntary, faith-based, and community organizations responding in times of disaster – including support for long term recovery groups, mass care, reunification and family assistance, unmet needs, and additional areas addressing underserved, underrepresented, and marginalized populations. Within the Individual Disaster Assistance Programs, Lori oversees the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program and Iowa Disaster Case Advocacy.

Spring Community Disasters: Lessons Learned Panel & Discussion

Marissa Reisen

Marissa Reisen has served as the Washington County Emergency Management Coordinator since July of 2017. Originally from Muscatine, Marissa has moved out of Iowa three times; to Texas, Wisconsin, and Utah, and keeps getting pulled back to her native state. She has a bachelor's degree in Physical Anthropology from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and a master's degree in Emergency Management from Millersville University in Pennsylvania. Her incredibly varied background (forensics, emergency medicine, biotech, and food processing) has proven useful in her Emergency Management career, as our disaster bingo cards continue to fill with bizarre things we never expected. She resides in Washington with her nurse extraordinaire husband, Chad, and her 2 energetic and goofy daughters ages 8 and 6¾.

Travis Beckman

Travis currently serves as Deputy Director of Johnson County Homeland Security and Emergency Management. He started with that agency in April 2017 after 9 years in the healthcare emergency preparedness sector. He has over 20 years of experience in emergency preparedness and response in both the private and public sectors. Travis studied Fire Science and is a Certified Emergency Manager from the State of Iowa and holds numerous certifications relating to safety, security and emergency preparedness through various learning centers and accrediting organizations.

Scott D. Clark

Scott D. Clarke retired as the Assistant Director of Banking for the State of Illinois. He served at the State's Division of Banking for 35 years, the last 20 of which as its Assistant Director. The Division of Banking has the responsibility for the supervision, regulation and examination of all state chartered banks, trust companies and foreign banking offices in Illinois as well as check printers, pawnbrokers, and automated teller machines owned by other than financial institutions. The institutions had more than \$ 250 billion in total assets and \$ 7 trillion in trust assets. During his time as a regulator, Clarke served as a member of the US Secret Service Electronic Crimes Task Force, Chairman of the Education Foundation of State Bank Supervisors, member of the Board of Directors of the Conference of State Bank Supervisors, the American Council on State Savings Supervisors and as Co-Chair of the US Treasury Department's Bank Secrecy Act Advisory Committee Financial Services Committee.

Clarke is a long time volunteer for the American Red Cross in various positions including the Chairman of the Illinois State Service Council. He currently serves as the American Red Cross liaison to Illinois State Government agencies. He also has served as a member of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (ITTF) since its formation in 2000. He serves as a member of the ITTF Emergency Management Committee, the Public Health and Medical Services Committee and the Critical Infrastructure Committee. Clarke has served on numerous disaster assignments for the American Red Cross in Illinois and across the country. Most recently, during the 2017 Hurricanes, he served as an American Red Cross liaison at FEMA's National Response Coordination Center in Washington D.C.

In recognition of his involvement in community service, Clarke was appointed by the Governor of Illinois as a Commissioner of Volunteerism and Community Service. As a member of the Commission, he serves as the Chairman of the Governance and Finance Committee. Clarke has received numerous awards including the Illinois Jaycees Ten Outstanding Young Persons, the American Legion Auxiliary Award for Excellence in Citizenship, the American Red Cross Paragon Award and the Western Illinois University Alumni Achievement Award.

Clarke is a graduate of Western Illinois University where he earned his degree in Political Science/Public Administration. While he was at Western, he was elected as the student member of the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities. He currently serves as a member of the Western Illinois University Alumni Council.

Self-Care for Disaster Responders: Taking Care of Yourself in Order to Help Others

Vic Young

Vic Young (She/Her) owns and operates her own coaching business - Mind Hive Growth Consultant. As a Growth Consultant, Vic serves both individuals and teams in building healthier selves and healthier communities. As a Positive Intelligence (PQ) Coach, Vic applies these skills to growing through any struggle or circumstance to the unique needs of each individual she serves. In addition to her work as a consultant, Vic has spent almost ten years serving as a Volunteer Leader with Team Rubicon in the disaster field. In her volunteer capacity, she has specialized in building self-care and wellbeing skills through each interaction. Vic lives in Grandview, MO with her husband Marcus, four cats, and their soon-to-be-born baby.

Legal Issues and Considerations in Times of Disaster

Josh Gaul

Josh Gaul has worked for Iowa Legal Aid since August 10, 2009. He has served in the role of Staff Attorney, Senior Staff Attorney, and was promoted to Managing Attorney in 2020. He

currently manages Iowa Legal Aid's Derecho 2020 and 2021 projects, Legal Hotline for Older Iowans, and Rural Justice Project for Older Iowans

Lisa Gavin

Lisa Gavin is Iowa Legal Aid's Disaster Relief Coordinator and also the managing attorney of the Cedar Rapids Regional Office. She graduated from Creighton University and the University of Iowa College of Law.