

REM-October 4, 2024

Friday, October 4, 2024 9:20 AM

Texas 2-1-1

Amy Callaway

- What is 2-1-1?
 - One stop shop for resources
 - Bills, food, childcare, employment, etc.
- Owned by Health and Human Services
- Answered 24/7, 365 days a year
- Offers a language line- 150 languages
- Information- What do we mean?
 - Ex: What if you have a granddaughter that needs to get a driver's license? Call 2-1-1 and they can talk you through needed documentation.
- Who oversees 2-1-1?
 - Inform USA
- Resources are updated once a year
- 2-1-1 is in every state in the US.
 - Ohio, Georgia, and Illinois are 75%-90% covered
- 25 2-1-1 Regions
- Strategic Plan
 - When a disaster strikes, they are the ones that list where food distribution and shelters are
 - Keep 2-1-1 informed and then you can direct callers to 2-1-1 call center for information
- If someone has a Texas number they can call 2-1-1 directly
- If you have an out of state number, call 877-541-7905
- Who answers the phone?
 - United Way Greater Houston
- 2-1-1 helps with the below
 - Basic needs
 - Criminal Justice and Legal Services
 - Healthcare and Consulting
 - Mental Health Care
 - Older Adult Services (60+)
 - Veteran Services
 - Disaster Services
- Reassurance and rumor control during emergencies/disasters
- STEAR- Choose option 4, they will do intakes over the phone
- Tracks a callers needs and unmet needs during a disaster
- Emergency Service and Escalation Centers
 - Open 24 hours a day via volunteers

Stephanie Nichols (214)-909-1845

- Covers 7 different Counties in the DFW area
- Their resources typically come from our agencies
- Best way to contact them is via email or phone number listed above
- 2-1-1 is nationwide, including Canada
- **** UNITED WAY AND 2-1-1 ARE NOT THE SAME THING!!**
 - United Way assists, but call centers receive calls from all over the state
 - They may not provide the same services
 - Federal, State, or Local funding provided to United Way is then provided to local agencies
 - No direct services are given by United Way
- Counties covered by Stephanie Nichols- Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Navarro, Hunt, Kaufman, Rockwall, Navarro

- Counties covered by Amy Calloway-Erath, hood, Johnson, Palo Pinto , Parker, Summerville, Tarrant, Wise

CISA- Election Security

Keith Ingram

- What is Election Infrastructure?
 - Voter registration systems
 - Voting equipment
 - Technology infrastructure, electronic poll books
 - Storage facilities
 - Ballots
 - Voting locations
- Concerns
 - Civil unrest
- CISA Regions
 - 10- We are region 6
- All services offered by CISA are voluntary
- Current threats
 - Physical-violence
 - Operational-Foreign Influence Operations/Generative AI
 - Cyber- Ransomware/DDoS attacks
- CISA.gov/protect2024
 - Assistance with election security

Q&A

- Kaufman County- Can you assist with election planning?
 - Yes
- What if multiple polling stations are out, do you have contingency plans?
 - Every County is responsible for contingency plans
 - Think big- What if something happens at 5 different polling locations?
- How do you handle voting with what happened with hurricane Helene? How does that effect the election process?
 - When Sandy hit NJ, they had counties wiped out. They were able to implement laws on the spot for alternate procedures.
- Homeland Security Grant funding requires election security projects-What are projects cities can do to protect infrastructure other than physical location?
 - Accessing those funds- get security assessment form CISA for free.
 - Gives options for additional security to assist with applying for that 3% funding
- Do you talk to poling locations that the County picks?
 - If you're the owner of a public building- public schools included- shall be included per Texas law as polling stations.
- Are you guys working with 2-1-1 to mitigate some of the rumor control?
 - We do have rumor vs reality resources
 - 2-1-1 is happy to work with CISA to assist in rumor clarification

Scheduling

- Altering schedule
- Proposed: February, May, August, November
- Would start first quarter of 2025

REM Secretary Elections

- Erin Buttitta-City of Garland
 - With Garland for 1.5 years, before she had an internship with Rowlett while working on her Masters. Got her undergrad from A&M
 - She's been in the region for 2 years, and has gained a lot of experience, attended many

- conferences, regional meetings, working groups, training workshops, two major EOC activations (Sherwin Williams Plant & May 2024 Storms)
- Wants to help build partnerships in the region
- Mikey (Michael) Hernandez-NCTCOG
 - Liaison for several Cog meetings
 - Came from UNT- interned there as well, works in training and exercise now, wants to stay neutral for the group
 - If elected, wants to ensure that he takes vital and important notes
- Julie Winkler-Town of Addison
 - Been with Addison for 10 months, time to get into a regional role for support. Enjoys working in the REM world. Great opportunity to meet everyone, great discussions, would like to bring in additional speakers

Member Updates:

- COG
 - Nonprofit Security Program Grant opening soon
 - For nonprofits and their facilities
 - FEMA has begun webinars for election
 - New grant programs coming for community resilience
 - Working with transportation on Department of Energy grant
- NWS
 - Email went out for changing winter weather products
 - NWS chat- There has been a lot of deactivations of accounts. There is a requirement for validating your account every 6 months
 - Rolling into winter weather season, if you have any needs regarding winter weather preparedness let us know
- TDEM
 - 1 Nonprofit and local jurisdiction has applied for assistance from 4781 to be included by disaster declaration
 - 147 Season is coming- Will start reaching out by the first of December
 - Current guidance is that if you did yours last year, nothing has changed, you can send TDEM an email and that would suffice as an email. Cannot go past previous year though.
- TEEM
 - New officer: Rafael Hernandez from Ellis County
 - Next event December 5th, Culinary Drop Out in Dallas-Wear your holiday sweater!

New Secretary: Mikey Hernandez

Next Meeting: Atmos Energy Charles K. Vaugh Center (Plano) December 6th