



University of Massachusetts Boston

Center for Rebuilding Sustainable Communities after Disasters

John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies

An international conference on

Rebuilding Sustainable Communities for children and their families after Disasters

November 16-19, 2008

Mark Sloan



Mark Sloan's keynote presentation is titled:

Hurricane Katrina: The Reliant City Story

Mark Sloan joined the staff of the Harris County (Texas) Judge's office in February of 2002. He is the Director of Community Emergency Response in Harris County Judge Ed Emmett's office. He oversees various projects relating to homeland security initiatives, including numerous grant applications, community preparedness and training programs, and coordinates outreach activities for the Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. As the Director of the Harris County Citizen Corps, an innovative, award-winning citizen preparedness initiative, recognized as a National Best Practice, he coordinates all aspects of the program. Working with a team of County technology experts, he developed one of the first websites devoted to the sharing of citizen preparedness volunteer opportunities and tracking of volunteer hours. The site links users to the most helpful and informative websites on citizen preparedness throughout the country. Since 2002, over 4,337,000 individuals have visited the website (www.harriscountycitizencorps.com) and over 4,950 have completed the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course. During the Katrina relief effort at the Astrodome Mark was assigned to the Unified Command to coordinate the volunteers. During the 21 days over 60,000 volunteers received various assignments that helped over 65,000 evacuees from New Orleans. On September 9, 2005, Mark was recognized for his efforts by ABC Nightly News as the Person of the Week, and at the 2006 National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, he received the Special Award; Texas' Response to Katrina Evacuees, for leadership and coordination. Mark received "The Presidents Call To Service Award" in September of 2007 recognizing the accomplishments of the Harris County Citizen Corps and for coordinating the volunteer response during the Katrina relief effort. He is a member of the San-Jac All-Hazards Type III Regional Incident Management Team and serves on the advisory board of 'Ready Houston!' which is committed to teaching individuals and families, houses of worship, non-profit organizations and small businesses how to be more disaster resistant. He also served as the chairman of the Harris County Department of Education ALERT Task Force. The goal of this initiative was to strengthen and improve school/campus safety (crisis) plans by identifying and utilizing partner resources to implement emergency response and crisis management trainings emphasizing mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. In 2003 he worked closely with the Super Bowl XXXVIII (38) Executive Host Committee to coordinate County resources as needed for highly successful weeklong celebration. Mark served as a Director of Homeland Security & Special Projects on the staff of Harris County Judge Robert Eckels from February 2002 to March 2007.

For further information, please visit our conference website:

www.rebuilding.umb.edu/rscbfd