

Wednesday, May 21	Session Title	Description	Track	Presenter(s)
Session 3: 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm	Going the Distance: Bringing Health and Hope to Underserved Communities Across States Impacted by Hurricane Helene	Participants will explore how leveraging tools like social media, community networks, and mappingâ€”combined with the agility of small, focused teamsâ€”played a pivotal role in rebuilding health infrastructure across Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Tennessee. This session will highlight innovative strategies for delivering comprehensive healthcare, including mental health support, mobile medical services, donated supplies, and grant assistance. Additionally, it will delve into the power of community-based approaches, such as engaging local leaders and customizing interventions to reflect cultural contexts, to enhance the impact and sustainability of disaster response efforts. Attendees will gain insights into fostering resilience and driving long-term recovery in underserved populations.	Emerging Practices & Innovation	Kennedy Sease, Shonda Scott, Jen Peng, Prabu Selvam
Session 3: 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm	Pet Shelters of the Future	<p>Nearly two decades after Hurricane Katrina and the PETs Act, effectively caring for people and their pets is still an evolving component of shelter planning. There are currently three generally accepted models for pet sheltering, each of which has benefits and challenges. In this workshop, we will focus on the least common of the three: co-habitation. In the co-habitation shelters, people and their pets stay together in the dormitory and the animals are cared for exclusively by their owners.</p> <p>While co-habitation can create significant complications for shelter managers and jurisdictions, it also has the potential for better outcomes in resiliency and recovery for people and their pets. Using a series of recent case studies, we'll showcase creative and innovative pet sheltering practices to demonstrate that co-habitation is possible, desirable, and the future of mass care.</p>	Emerging Practices & Innovation	Celia Jackson, Roxana Petzold
Session 3: 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm	Navigating Change: Supporting Migrant, Displaced, and Refugee Communities in Disasters	This workshop offers participants a comprehensive understanding of the unique challenges faced by migrant, displaced, and refugee populations in disasters. Starting with key definitions and distinctions, participants will gain insight into how to effectively communicate and serve these groups. The session includes a moderated panel discussion featuring subject matter experts and individuals with lived experience, sharing firsthand stories and practical insights into the barriers these communities face during disasters and their paths to recovery. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to bridge service gaps and engage with local organizations.	Social Justice & Equity in Disaster Response	George Hernandez

Session 3: 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm	Supporting Infant Feeding in Disasters: Lessons from the SAFE Infant Feeding Team and CGBI Collaboration	<p>In the wake of Hurricane Helene, the North Carolina Breastfeeding Coalition's SAFE Team (Support and Advocacy for Feeding Emergencies) mobilized to address the unique challenges of infant feeding in disaster-stricken areas. From navigating formula shortages to ensuring breastfeeding safety amidst water and power outages, the SAFE Team provided comprehensive support for families across Western North Carolina.</p> <p>This workshop will share the innovative approaches employed by the SAFE Team, including partnerships with the Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute (CGBI) to enhance evidence-based practices. Key topics will include conducting equitable rapid needs assessments, delivering culturally competent education, and creating scalable models for community-led disaster response.</p> <p>Attendees will leave equipped with tools and strategies to integrate infant feeding support into their disaster response frameworks, ensuring no family is left behind. Join us as we explore how going the distance in disaster response means prioritizing the most vulnerable, fostering collaboration, and building resilient communities.</p>	Social Justice & Equity in Disaster Response	Love Anderson, Julia Bourg, Brandi Harrison, Jayne Capenter
Session 3: 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm	Collaborative Solutions: The Intersection of Philanthropy and Academia in Fostering Equitable Disaster Resilience	<p>This session will: 1) showcase and share successful collaborations between philanthropy, academia, and community-based organizations; 2) engage the audience in solution-focused dialogue around common barriers to disaster recovery and explore how evidence-based practices can help overcome these; and 3) provide concrete actionable recommendations on how to foster collaborative relationships with academic and philanthropic organizations that can support attendees and their organizations. The presentation will highlight the partnership between the Walmart Foundation and the Consortium for Equitable Disaster Resilience (CEDR) and showcase several of their innovative initiatives that have enhanced capacity among small community-based organizations, advanced community participatory research, and identified systemic barriers to disaster recovery. To demonstrate the power of collaboration and foster cross-sector and diverse partnerships in real time, this session will facilitate an interactive dialogue around shared struggles in the disaster recovery space. This dynamic dialogue will draw upon the diverse experiences and expertise from those in the room to identify and elevate possible solutions to some of these vexing problems.</p> <p>Resources highlighted in this session, including an open-source course developed by CEDR that covers such topics as AI's use in the workplace and grant writing, will expose attendees to capacity-building tools available to them that can amplify and accelerate their work.</p> <p>Attendees will leave with actionable insights, tangible materials, and renewed inspiration to form partnerships that transcend traditional boundaries and propel communities toward a brighter, more resilient future.</p>	The 4 C's	Brooks Nelson, Timothy Davidson, Regardt Ferreira

Session 3: 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm	Leveraging Blockchain Technology for Rapid and Transparent Disaster Relief: A Collaborative Approach	<p>This workshop will explore the transformative potential of blockchain technology in disaster relief operations. Focusing on the Kare platform by AID:Tech, we will discuss how digital identities and blockchain facilitate rapid, transparent, and secure aid distribution. Through real-world case studies, including collaborations with organizations like Saint Vincent de Paul DSC and Endeavors, participants will gain insights into successful implementations and the impact on affected communities.</p> <p>The session will also cover best practices for establishing effective public-private partnerships to enhance disaster response and recovery efforts.</p>	Emerging Practices & Innovation	Niall Dennehy, Matt Keller, Cathy Garcia
Session 3: 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm	The LTR Orientation: The Important Pieces of an LTRG	<p>As we are aware disasters, especially major disasters, are hitting areas that have never experienced them before or have not had one in many decades. It is important for NVOAD to continue to reach out and educate those who are new to disaster recovery. This LTR orientation is important to all of those who are having their first experience with a disaster, whether natural or man-made. This will help the state and local VOADs have an invaluable impact on those affected.</p> <p>This session puts forward the concepts of a well used and successful response to community disasters. These best recommendations of NVOAD will support each community in their recovery by highlighting how each of the LTRG committees fit together and work as one to get the entire community recovered. Promoting the 4Cs through the work of over 100 partner agencies shows how NVOAD and its members provide the knowledge and leadership necessary for a successful recovery.</p> <p>This was presentation at the 2024 convention that had more than 125 registered which shows a need for it again.</p>	Training & Education	David Rauer, Mellie Thomas