



# Healthcare **Readiness** Series

Preparing for Summer 2026 Events—and Beyond!



## Frontline Communications, Public Health Preparations, and Crisis Response Wednesday, April 29, 2026

9:30am – 10:00am Registration, Coffee, & Connecting

10:00am – 10:15am Welcomes & Introductions

**RAYMOND BRANDES**  
Chief Operating Officer, NJHA

10:15am – 11:15am Public Health Mass Gathering Preparedness

**KAREN DEMARCO, MPH, CPM**  
Health Officer, Hunterdon County Health Department

Public health departments have partnered with public safety agencies to protect communities, from routine operations to major event preparedness, response, and recovery. Led by Karen DeMarco, this session highlights the county public health role during major events and may include updates on MCIs and patient surge.

*Participants should be able to describe the role of county public health departments during major events and explain how public health collaborates with public safety partners across preparedness, response, and recovery phases.*

11:15am – 11:30am Break

11:30am – 12:30pm Human Trafficking Awareness

**DANIELLA CAPONE, LSW**  
Coordinator of Human Trafficking Support Services, The Covenant House

Daniella Capone highlights the work of Covenant House New Jersey in advancing human trafficking awareness and survivor support, providing healthcare and public safety professionals with essential knowledge, resources, and professional perspectives ahead of the FIFA World Cup and other Summer 2026 mass-gathering events.

*Participants should be able to recognize key indicators of human trafficking and identify available resources to support survivors, enhancing preparedness for large-scale events and mass gatherings.*

12:30pm – 1:30pm Lunch

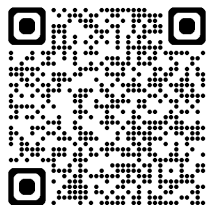
1:30pm – 3:00pm Access & Functional Needs (AFN)  
Planning and Response Considerations

**KELLY BOYD, AFN COORDINATOR**  
IEM Assigned to the NJ Office of Emergency Management (NJOEM)

**PHYLLIS WORRELL**  
Co-AFN Coordinator, Burlington  
County Office of Emergency Management

This session addresses critical gaps in equitable emergency response by emphasizing AFN and specialty patient considerations as core elements of planning, response, recovery, and mitigation, supported by facilitator expertise and lived experience in emergency preparedness.

*Participants should be able to identify Access and Functional Needs (AFN) and specialty patient considerations and apply inclusive principles across emergency planning, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts.*



View Online

