

2008 NAPC INSTITUTE: The Perfect Storm

Co-Sponsored by NAPC and the Community Service Council (CSC) - Tulsa, Oklahoma

**September 13 (2 p.m.-6 p.m.)
September 14 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.)**

Radisson Hotel, Love Field . Dallas, Texas

At the last two NAPC conferences, we've focused on "The Perfect Storm" of unprecedented forces which will impact our lives and communities.

Now NAPC members are invited to gather in Dallas September 13-14 (just before the fall Board meeting) for an in-depth exploration of what these forces may mean for our future, our organizations, and our work.

Participatory sessions will be led by Phil Dessauer and Jan Figart (CSC) and by Prof. Tommy Darwin from the University of Texas at Austin.

*New: A presentation on population, the key dimension of change shaping all sources of the Perfect Storm.

NAPC Institute: The “Perfect Storm”

Engaging our communities...stimulating an effective response

Surviving and possibly even thriving will require a dramatically new framework of thinking.

We have no choice.

Like our colleague organizations in NAPC, Tulsa's Community Service Council provides leadership in community based planning and mobilization of resources to address health and human service needs.

During our long range planning process, we came to realize that our own community and its future are being profoundly affected by forces originating far beyond Tulsa. We began to identify and study some key “big picture” global and national developments, and to analyze their interrelationships and their probable local impacts.

We now believe we are in the midst of huge transitions; unprecedented and formidable changes now confront us, with more to come. The developments and forces in play are so powerful and numerous that as they converge, a “perfect storm” effect may be imminent. In some ways, it is already upon us. Ready or not, we are entering a new era.

Any transitions of great proportion and complexity are extremely difficult, and test the adaptive nature of our human capabilities. As cultural anthropologist Jennifer James notes, “We are changing faster than any other generation of Americans. The changes are deep and broad. Each of us will be asked to think in new ways. Yet the body and mind automatically resist significant changes.” Prevailing over the perfect storm will severely test us all as it will require first, and most importantly, that we build a 21st century mind and character founded on a new framework of thought.

What are the new realities we must accept, the new assumptions about daily life, our expectations of ourselves and others? What new thinking skills must be acquired to deal with the complexity and rapidity of change? What are new sacrifices to be made and new opportunities for success? What are priorities for getting started? Who will be the leaders to get us started and assure our efforts are sustained? Will you be one?

If we don't pause and prepare for this storm, we will most certainly experience its full fury. We really have no choice.

- Phil Dessauer, Jr., NAPC Board Member
Executive Director, Community Service Council

A G E N D A

September 13, 2-6 p.m.

PART I. Engaging the Perfect Storm

The key elements of the Perfect Storm

- . Understanding population as the key dimension of change
- . Describing the sources of the storm and their convergent effect
- . Participants' reactions, views and experiences

Evening: out to dinner...discussion continues!

September 14, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

PART II. Developing An Effective Response

A new and smarter commitment to leading change:

keys to effective community change when confronting the Perfect Storm

- . Community resilience, innovation, and infrastructure for moving ahead: what does it mean and how do we get there?
- . Individual engagement: how can we engage individuals, leaders of groups/organizations, and American citizens to effectively respond?
- . Organizational engagement: how can we engage groups, our own organizations, and others to effectively respond?

WHO IS INVITED TO ATTEND: NAPC members and interested colleagues from member organizations.

COST: No registration fee. The costs of the sessions and materials, refreshments Saturday afternoon and continental breakfast and lunch on Sunday are being underwritten by a private source. Participants will pay for their travel and lodging.

NAPC, CONNECTING OUR MEMBERS--A NEW APPROACH:

Members tell us the most valuable thing about NAPC is the chance to learn from one another within a vibrant peer network...but, there's never enough time for the in-depth discussions people would really like to have with one another. NAPC is responding by sponsoring this Institute. Members can explore a high-interest topic together, in a retreat setting, with ample time...scheduled the weekend just before the fall Board meeting, to offer multiple opportunities for the cost of a single trip.

RSVP BY AUGUST 22:

Register: email INSTITUTE@communityplanning.org

Hotel reservations: call 214-630-7000; ask for the National Association of Planning Councils group rate, which is \$79/night
