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**IOWA OFFICIALS SHARE DISASTER EXPERIENCES WITH NATIONAL CHILDREN'S
COMMISSION
RECOMMENDATIONS BEING DEVELOPED FOR PRESIDENT OBAMA AND CONGRESS**

Washington, D.C. – Today, The National Commission on Children and Disasters met with Federal, state and local officials in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, one of the communities hardest hit by the severe flooding and tornadoes in 2008. The field visit brought to light the unique challenges of meeting the disaster recovery needs of children.

Commission Chairperson Mark K. Shriver and Commission members Sheila Leslie and David Schonfeld hosted the meetings which addressed topics such as school recovery, mental health services, child welfare, child care, disaster case management and long-term community recovery.

“The days and months following disasters aren’t just about rebuilding roads and bridges, they’re about rebuilding lives,” said Commission Chairperson Mark Shriver. “Iowans tragically know that when disaster strikes, our children too often suffer the most. Every disaster provides us with one more lesson for being better prepared. We hope to learn as much as possible from Iowans affected by the 2008 floods and tornados.”

The Commission intends to carry forward its findings from the meetings into the development of a national recovery framework and its next report to President Obama and Congress due in October 2010.

“We are honored that the Commission chose to visit Cedar Rapids today. It is our hope that Iowa’s story will serve as a catalyst to reform disaster recovery policies so that the nation is better prepared for the next disaster,” said Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division Administrator Dave Miller.

“By bringing together local, state and federal stakeholders who have an interest in the welfare of children, we can best address the needs of this very vulnerable population. Iowa has many accomplishments to share in this area, as well as lessons learned through our continued recovery, that can benefit the nation as a whole,” said Rebuild Iowa Office Executive Director Lt. General Ron Dardis.

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