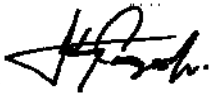




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PRESS RELEASE

From: Cameron County 
To: News Media
Reference: County Best Practices Award
Date: Monday, December 7, 2009
Time: 3:00 PM
Effective: immediately
POC: Johnny Cavazos

---For immediate release, effective Monday, December 7, 2009---

Cameron County to receive “County Best Practices Award” from Texas Association of Counties Leadership Foundation

You are, hereby, invited to attend a special awards presentation during Commissioners’ Court meeting on Thursday, December 10, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. where the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) Leadership Foundation will present Cameron County with a “2009 County Best Practices” Award.

The award recognizes county initiatives that serve as models to others and save taxpayer monies, selects programs to receive high honors for innovation, achievement and delivery of service.

In this particular case, Cameron County, along with Hidalgo County, are being honored for delivery of services in health and human services for the Deaf Link program through which the counties partnered with local TV stations to provide emergency alerts in American Sign Language interpreted by a private contractor, Deaf Link.

“These two counties spearheaded a national precedent and worked collaboratively with private sector and other government agencies for this important service,” said Deaf Link CEO Kay Chiodo.

County Judge Carlos H. Cascos stated, “This partnership with the Texas’s Division of Emergency Management, our counterparts from Hidalgo County, Deaf Link and the local media proved fruitful during Hurricane Dolly as the hearing-impaired received timely, emergency-related messages.”

“Captioning messages cannot effectively reach the deaf. ASL-interpreted messages do. This program definitely works.” voiced Johnny Cavazos, Cameron County Emergency Management Coordinator.

“We are a tool in the hands of local emergency management staff. These two counties were the first to bridge the gap to get ASL-interpreted messages into the hands of the deaf community via a solid partnership with local television news media,” added Chiodo.

Questions in reference to this event may be made to the Cameron County Judge’s Division of Homeland Security, Emergency Management and Fire Marshal Service (956) 547-7000 [M-F 8am to 5pm].

What: Texas Association of Counties Leadership Foundation “Best Practices” Award Presentation

When: 5:00 p.m. Thursday, December 10, 2009

Where: Cameron County Commissioners’ Court Room 1100 E. Monroe St. (2nd Floor, Brownsville)

Who: Cameron County Commissioners’ Court, past TAC President (current Brazos County District Clerk) Marc Hamlin, Deaf Link CEO Kay Chiodo, and other special guests

---For immediate release Monday, December 7, 2009---