

Community Alliance of Sarasota County Community Disaster Preparedness Committee

May 15, 2006, 3:00-5:00 P.M.
Sarasota County School Board
1980 Landings Blvd, Sarasota, FL

Meeting Summary

Members Present:

Berns, Bob
Dunio, Donna
Glasser, Kay
Gorelick, Phil
Gorman, Sarah
Kutch, Kim
Lehman, Cindy
McLeod, Erin
Natiello, Lois
Stover, Dennis
Tanner, Bert
Tracy, Pauline

Agency/Organization

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters
Southwest Florida American Red Cross
Human Services Advisory Council
Jewish Family and Children's Services
Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County, Inc.
DCF – Suncoast Region
Agency for Health Care Administration
Senior Friendship Centers
DCF – Suncoast Region
Friendship Volunteer Center
Salvation Army
Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Others Present:

Caroline Zucker
Kathy Farabee
Neset Hikmet
Sarah Harris
Michael Barber

Jewish Family and Children's Services
FIND
University of South Florida
Community Center for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing
The Bradenton Herald

Staff Present:

Pam Meunier
Pestic, S. Boban
Poswiatowsky, Tammi
Schulz, James

Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Committee Members

Not Present:

Arch, Dee	Children's Medical Services
Bigner, Mike	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Carter, Bob	Senior Friendship Centers
Giles, Tom	Senior Friendship Center
Heath, Mary	TideWell Hospice and Palliative Care
Jaffe, Pat	Medical Reserve Corps (SCHHS)
Johnson, Lee	YMCA of Sarasota
Kleckauskas, Aleda	Hospice of Southwest Florida
Knox, Al	Peace River Presbytery
Lacher, Miriam	Bayside Center – Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Little, Bill	Sarasota County Health Department
Mahadeo, Jamie	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
McCormick, Joe	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
Nieskes, Gary	Lions Club
Pfaff, Tom	Goodwill Industries
Pope, Bryan	Salvation Army – Sarasota Corps
Porter, Mark	YMCA, VP of Youth and Family Services
Rezola, Inaki	Southwest Florida American Red Cross
Shoemaker, Nancy	Catholic Charities
Sortore, Marion	FL Conference of the United Methodist Church
Stearns, Stewart	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Stephens, Carl	Friendship Volunteer Center
Stewart, Chris	First Step of Sarasota
Stone, David	Pastor, First Brethren Church
Suarez, Alberto	United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota
Taylor, Chip	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Williams, Harold	Agency for Health Care Admin – Ft. Myers
Wismer, Bruce	Pine Shores Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Young, Alex	United Way of Sarasota, Committee Chair

The Sarasota Community Alliance Community Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC) met on Monday, May 15, 2006, at the Sarasota County School Board, 1980 Landings Blvd, from 3:00-5:00 P.M. Boban Pesic welcomed CDPC members, and introduction of the meeting participants followed. The April 10, 2006 CDPC Meeting Summary was agreed unanimously, with the understanding that a few minor typographical changes would be made.

Subcommittee Reports

Elder Care Strike Team

Erin McLeod announced the Team met April 28, which was Cathy Emmett's (former Elder Care Strike Team Leader) final meeting. An updated list of needs, agencies, and contact information has been compiled. The Strike Team has recognized a need for identification

for re-entry into evacuated zones. Pam Meunier stressed during Hurricane Charley DCF staff could not enter into the county to conduct field work if they did not reside in the affected area. Dennis Stover informed the group the Friendship Volunteer Center created bands last year, and suggested EOC may have a similar program. Volunteers had different color bands to show they were registered volunteers. Bob Berns, VOAD, said the county issues passes. Pauline Tracy added passes are issued county by county, and each county is responsible for who they will let in.

For more information contact Erin McLeod, (941) 556-3243, emcleod@seniorfriendship.com or Pam Meunier, (941) 861-2578, Pam_Meunier@doh.state.fl.us

Youth and Families Strike Team

Mark Porter presented Lee Johnson. The Youth and Families strike team will meet on May 24 at Lee Johnson's office at YMCA, at 9:00 AM .

Chip Taylor, SCHHS, asked if the group has reached out to day care facilities. It is crucial day care centers re-open as quickly as possible to allow parents to return to work. Mark Porter is not aware this has been discussed, and will bring it to Lee's attention. Chip suggested Janet Kon be invited to the meeting on May 24, and stressed the need to look at plans that have been developed.

For more information contact Lee Johnson, (941) 951-2916 x1007, lhjohnson@sarasota-ymca.org or Pam Meunier, (941) 861-2578, Pam_Meunier@doh.state.fl.us

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Strike Team

Sarah Gorman announced the strike team met on April 24. Attendees were representatives from Coastal Behavioral, Bayside, Red Cross, and Jewish Family & Children's Services. The Team expects a representative from the Department of Children and Families at the next meeting, and intends to reach out to hospices. In the event of a disaster, all members of the Team with the exception of Sarah, will work at their own agencies. The Team is participating in pre-disaster planning, ensuring relationships are built, and establishing communication protocols. The Team's next meeting is on June 1st at 4:00 PM, in Sarasota County Health Department, Room 1157. The meeting will address inoculating responders against burn out, identifying sources of training for staff (Red Cross currently has a program, Salvation Army may offer a program; Major Tanner will follow up). Also, the Team will be developing a laminated card for responders to identify early signs of burnout, and will address how best to reach out to private mental health providers. The Team has also indicated a need for crisis counselor resource team(s) in an incident, that can be dispatched to areas of need (homes, shelters, etc.).

Mark Porter, YMCA, suggested contacting Mike Barnes at Argosy University. Mike provided training on compassion fatigue. He previously worked at Sarasota Memorial Hospital and Bayside.

For more information contact (941) 373-7070, sarah.gorman@healthystartsarasota.org or Pam Meunier, (941) 861-2578, Pam_Meunier@doh.state.fl.us

Volunteer Task Force

Pauline Tracy announced she and Dennis Stover have been speaking to different groups talking about CDPC and volunteers. Pauline and Dennis will be speaking at local CHATs in June. In addition, Julie Ford, ABC Channel 7, has conducted an interview with Pauline, and may have a reporter cover a story since hurricane season starts June 1. Future training is being planned for faith-based organizations. Currently, two training sessions are scheduled on Volunteer Reception Centers (VRC). One on May 25, and the other on May 31, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. Dennis Stover will send a flyer to Boban for distribution to Boban.

Volunteer Task Force has met with the EOC regarding pet-friendly shelters. The county has four shelters, and the Task Force is trying to find volunteers to work in shelters. Volunteers may also come from the Charlotte County. Dennis has a list of volunteers who want to work with pets/animals. Currently eighty volunteers who want to work with animals, are in the database. The list has been sent to the EOC.

The Task Force is looking for volunteers in the event of Pan Flu outbreak. A training for faith-based organizations has been conducted.

The Task Force will update plans on what agency roles are pre, during, and after the incidents.

The meeting scheduled for May 18 is being cancelled. A meeting will be scheduled in June.

For more information contact Dennis Stover, (941) 953-5965, dstover@seniorfriendship.com or Pauline Tracy, Pauline_Tracy@doh.state.fl.us

Public Awareness/Media

Dianne Shipley is on vacation, and Boban informed the group that Dianne is continuing to reach out to local media. Also, Michael Barber, Staff Writer, the Bradenton Herald who attended the May 15 meeting, has been added to the CDPC distribution list.

For more information contact Dianne Shipley, (941) 861-2852, Dianne_Shipley@doh.state.fl.us or Boban Pesic, (941) 861-2759, Slobodan_Pesic@doh.state.fl.us

Sharing Client Information

Boban Pesic provided a handout on CAN (Coordinated Assistance Network), and feedback from 2006 Governor's Hurricane Conference. The workgroup will go through intake forms and other data-related document from each agency at the next meeting. It will determine common variables that can be shared, develop a unique client identifier,

and address client privacy. Identified issues include availability of databases to the stakeholders in need of access to client data in emergencies, and government access to the database given the privacy clauses that bound many non-profits regarding sharing client data.

Dr. Neset Hikmet, University of South Florida, thanked the CDPC members for their letters of support for the USF's grant proposal for Florida Health Information Network Information Exchange project. He announced a graduate student has been allocated to work on the project. If grant is awarded, more staff will be added.

Donna Dunio, American Red Cross, suggested CDPC members invite IT staff from their agencies to the Client Data Sharing Workgroup meetings.

For more information contact Alberto Suarez, (941) 345- 5804, asuarez@uw211manasota.net or Boban Pesic, Boban Pesic, (941) 861-2759, Slobodan_Pesic@doh.state.fl.us

Identifying Additional Partners/Vulnerable Populations

Workgroup on Developmentally Disabled

Phil Gorelick indicated the workgroup has not met due to scheduling difficulties.

Workgroup on Homeless

Bert Tanner, The Salvation Army, raised the issue of evacuation points and routes for homeless. Bert and Bryan Pope, are working on this issue, and will report at the next CDPC meeting

Workgroup on Hearing/Vision Impaired

The Workgroup will meet on May 18. Representatives from Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Limited Vision will attend.

Workgroup on Non-English Speaking Population

The Workgroup had two meetings, and assigned tasks to workgroup members to identify the gatekeepers in the community who are points of contact. Contacts have been made in the Spanish/Ukrainian communities, and the Workgroup members meet with representatives from Arcadia. The Workgroup is currently working on developing a list of Spanish-speaking community leaders. Also, a short-wave radio-operator group was formed in the Sarasota County. The Workgroup will contacts, and prepare the list for distribution.

Since issue-areas of the members of the workgroups on Developmentally Disabled, Homeless, Hearing/Vision Impaired, and Non-English Speaking Population, are common, the members of those Workgroups agreed to integrate four Workgroups into one workgroup, to

jointly and compressively address all pertinent issues in this domain. Next meeting will be held May 18, at 3:30 PM, at Catholic Charities. For more information contact Nancy Shoemaker, (941) 379-5110, SRQDisDir@comcast.net, Marion Sortore, (941) 322-4626, mrsortore@yahoo.com, Phil Gorelick, (941) 366-2224, pgorelick@jfcs-cares.org, Lois Natiello, (941) 316-6130, lois_e_natiello@dcf.state.fl.us, and Bryan Pope, (941) 364-8845, bryan_pope@uss.salvationarmy.org

Upcoming Meetings

Boban Pesic asked the Committee members if they prefer to continue to meet after the Community Alliance Steering Committee meetings. The consensus was committing a full afternoon to meetings could be difficult. Boban will survey the Committee members for an acceptable date and time by email.

Other Issues/Actions

Boban Pesic briefed the Committee on Governo's Hurricane Conference he attended in early May.

Legislature approved a budget of \$151.7 million for hurricane preparation. Of that amount, \$29 million will be used for hurricane evacuation planning. Two bills are currently pending in the state legislature that would designate \$3 million for generators for general population and special needs shelters, and \$45 million for county EOCs.

The conference had seventy training sessions and over a hundred workshops. Representatives from Jefferson County, Louisiana, participated at the conference to discuss issues from Hurricane Katrina. In some areas around New Orleans, key infrastructure, facilities, and traffic, are still under strain or out of service, and residents experience hardship.

All panelists stressed critical importance of communication, especially cross-agency and cross-jurisdictional interoperability of communication systems, procedures, and policies. The panelists appealed to the conference participants to press through their local, state and federal representatives, for federal regulation that will address communication interoperability, and enable flawless communication between emergency preparedness and response agencies at every level.

Pauline Tracey reported State VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster) had not met since last year due to lack of leadership, institutional development, and documentation mismanagement. New leadership is committed to reorganize State VOAD, and invited all interested agencies and organizations to re-apply for the State VOAD membership in July 2006.

CDPC members recommend County EM (Emergency Management) and other state and local government agencies, urge community partners to develop continuity of operations plans (COOPs), and request County EM reviews them.

Volunteer Florida provided booklet on how to write a COOP. The booklet is also available at www.volunteerflorida.org. Attempt will be made to obtain copies at the next CDPC meeting.

Pauline Tracy and Boban Pesic are considering a link on “disaster preparedness” on the Community Alliance web site. The link would provide documents distributed at CDPC meetings, links to other important web sites, and other information related to disaster preparedness and response.

Next Meeting

Next CDPC meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2006, 3:15 -5:00 PM at Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota.