

Community Alliance of Sarasota County Community Disaster Preparedness Committee

Sarasota County Twin Lakes
6700 Clarke Rd.
Conference Room A

April 10, 2006, 3:00-5:00 P.M.

Meeting Summary

Members Present:

Berns, Bob
Dunio, Donna
Giles, Tom
Gorelick, Phil
Johnson, Lee
Kleckauskas, Aleda
Knox, Al
Kutch, Kim
Lacher, Miriam
Lehman, Cindy
Little, Bill
Mahadeo, Jamie
McLeod, Erin
Natiello, Lois
Nieskes, Gary
Pope, Bryan
Rezola, Inaki
Shoemaker, Nancy
Sortore, Marion
Stephens, Carl
Stover, Dennis
Tanner, Bert
Taylor, Chip
Tracy, Pauline
Wismer, Bruce

Agency/Organization

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters
Southwest Florida American Red Cross
Senior Friendship Center
Jewish Family and Children's Services
YMCA of Sarasota
Hospice of Southwest Florida
Peace River Presbytery
DCF – Suncoast Region
Bayside Center – Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Agency for Health Care Administration
Sarasota County Health Department
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Senior Friendship Centers
DCF – Suncoast Region
Lions Club
Salvation Army – Sarasota Corps
Southwest Florida American Red Cross
Catholic Charities
FL Conference of the United Methodist Church
Friendship Volunteer Center
Friendship Volunteer Center
Salvation Army
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pine Shores Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Others Present:

Berman, Richard
Day, Anna
Dennis, Kerry
Montgomery, Scott
Reardon, Colleen
Small, Millie

Sarasota County Emergency Management
Agency for Persons with Disabilities
Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Sarasota County Emergency Management
Salvation Army
Senior Friendship Center

Staff Present:

DeLoach, Nancy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pesic, S. Boban	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Poswiatowsky, Tammi	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Shiple, Dianne	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
Glasser, Kay	Human Services Advisory Council
Gorman, Sarah	Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County, Inc.
Heath, Mary	TideWell Hospice and Palliative Care
Jaffe, Pat	Medical Reserve Corps (SCHHS)
McCormick, Joe	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
Pfaff, Tom	Goodwill Industries
Porter, Mark	YMCA, VP of Youth and Family Services
Schulz, James	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Stearns, Stewart	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Stewart, Chris	First Step of Sarasota
Stone, David	Pastor, First Brethren Church
Suarez, Alberto	United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota
Williams, Harold	Agency for Health Care Admin – Ft. Myers
Young, Alex	United Way of Sarasota, Committee Chair

The Sarasota Community Alliance Community Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC) met on Monday, Monday, April 10, 2006, at the Sarasota County Twin Lakes, 6700 Clarke Rd, Conference Room A, from 3:00-5:00 P.M. Boban Pesic welcomed CDPC members, and Introduction of the meeting participants followed. The March 13, 2006 CDPC Meeting Summary was agreed unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

Elder Care Strike Team

The Elder Care Strike Team's new leadership is working on the new plan of the Team's activities. Pam Meunier, Sarasota County Health and Human Services, is the new Team Leader. Next meeting of the Team is set for May 19, 12 P.M.-1 P.M., at the Center for Healthy Aging.

Youth and Families Strike Team

Lee Johnson informed the CPDC the Team will meet on May 24, at 9-10:30 at YMCA Sarasota.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Strike Team

Pauline Tracy reported the next meeting of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Strike Team will be held on April 24, at 4 P.M., in the Sarasota County Health and Human Services, 2200 Ringling Boulevard. The meeting will address issues of leadership, communication, and the role of the Strike Team within HHS Ops (Health and Human Services Operations), County EOC, and participating organizations.

Volunteer Task Force

Dennis Stover reported for the Volunteer Task Force. The Task Force met on April 20, 2006 in the Salvation Army. The members reviewed VOAD, Citizens Corp, Pandemic Flu preparedness Pet Friendly Shelters, and agencies' Disaster Plans.

VOAD integrated into CDPC

Marion Sortore provided an overview on VOAD (please see attached presentation) and how VOAD within CDPC can become COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters). VOAD provides more flexibility than a single agency, in planning for and executing tasks in emergency. Marion indicated state VOAD is not active, and VOAD/COAD issues will be discussed at the upcoming state meeting. CDPC has more components than a traditional VOAD, and the issue of long-term recovery in Florida counties is very important. Marion stressed until COAD is recognized, it has to register as VOAD.

Pauline Tracy stressed the advantages of CDPC being designated as VOAD. This includes links to national organizations and pool of resources beyond the county and state.

Dennis Stover stressed the need for stronger leadership or co-leadership to address needs of VOAD. He recommended the CDPC become VOAD of Sarasota.

Bob Berns, a long-term VOAD chairman for Sarasota and surrounding counties (including Manatee and Charlotte), stressed the issue of unmet needs after disaster. Instead of going to community services, citizens can have an organization to request services and a centralized resource bank. Also, information flows inward, regardless of the contact point, and this way the entire VOAD is being contacted.

Bruce Wismer reiterated being part of national VOAD provides access to local VOADs.

Phil Gorelick recommended whatever approach is used for this season it should be done by June 1, 2006, and reminded all for a need of backup system if the existing systems are disabled due to the impact of the incident(s).

Boban Pesic suggested a listserv to facilitate CDPC and VOAD collaboration and information sharing. Donna Dunio suggested the list all participating organizations is provided to the media since media is not aware of the number of organizations participating in CDPC and VOAD.

Bill Little stressed the CDPC/VOAD leadership is a separate issue and will have to be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting participants stressed the need to engage FEMA liaison in this collaborative process since the collaboration to this date has not been optimal.

Chip Taylor recommended a motion for a vote on VOAD becoming part of CPDC. Donna Dunio made a motion seconded by Lee Johnson. All members unanimously voted to accept VOAD integration into, and becoming part, of CDPC.

Public Awareness/Media

Dianne Shipley reviewed activities of the Subcommittee on Public Awareness and Media. Presentations have been made to various groups. Bill Little is presenting at St. Paul's Lutheran church at the end of month. Diane maintains an archive list of speaking engagements, and Bob Reddy has written articles on CDPC and emergency preparedness in the local media. Dianne is working on proactive outreach to county government.

Sharing Client Information

Boban Pesic provided overview of the Subcommittee work on behalf of Alberto Suarez, the Subcommittee Chair. The Subcommittee met twice. Sharing information has been very limited or non-existent. Agencies were asked to bring their workflow and client intake forms, to help the Subcommittee conceptualize data sets that can be shared across agencies. American Red Cross provided an overview of its workflow, and presented CAN (Coordinated Assistance Network) system (<http://www.can.org>), first rolled out in 2004 Hurricane season, and available to agencies for client data collection and management. CAN training is available online, and CAN is an alternative for local, regional and national client data sharing. Government agencies can submit information to CAN, however, they cannot retrieve information from it due to client privacy restriction rules in the national relief agencies' bylaws. This issue needs further research since government agencies also need customized reports for agency coordination and client assistance in emergency response, recovery, and mitigation. The Subcommittee decided to invite county EOC shelter data management staff to participate at the Subcommittee meetings, and share information about County Shelter database development so the issues are addressed concurrently and across agencies and disciplines. The meeting participants stressed the importance of managing the release of client information before an emergency to timely and effectively address the potential (in planning) and actual (in response, recovery and mitigation) unmet needs of the communities. American Red Cross (ARC) uses a proprietary CAS (Client Access System) to upload information to CAN, and local ARC chapters will program CAS to "talk" to CAN by July 1, 2006. Other major agencies in the county also utilize CAN.

Bill Little raised the issue of funding available for wider adoption of the system. CAN received funding through 2007 from national grants.

Boban Pesic informed the Subcommittee that University of South Florida (USF) is resubmitting grant focusing on local healthcare information network that will address the issue of improving healthcare planning during emergency relief operations. A USF research associate has been participating in the Client Information Sharing Subcommittee, to assist in the development of the client information sharing in the County.

Identifying Additional Partners/Vulnerable Populations

Due to issue-interdependence within this Subcommittee, and possible time and resource overlap, members of the workgroups on Developmentally Disabled, Homeless, Hearing/Vision Impaired, and Non-English Speaking Population, decided to meet as a single Subcommittee. Next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 3:30 PM, in Catholic Charities, Sarasota.

Workgroup on Developmentally Disabled

Diane Shipley sent contact information for the welcome center. Dianne met with Dennis Stover to talk about next steps. Dennis will have meeting set up with Loveland center.

Workgroup on Homeless

Accessing/not accessing shelters is a critical issue before, during and after incidents. Long-term recovery plans are needed, and collaboration with local, regional, and national agencies should be strengthened.

Workgroup on Hearing/Vision Impaired

Lois Natiello is working to identify key links in the community.

Workgroup on Non-English Speaking Population

Nancy Shoemaker indicated stakeholders' and leaders' need to be involved at the regional level, to address non-English speaking population issues in emergencies. Many tasks can be accomplished before emergencies including development of boilerplate statements and prerecorded messages. Nancy asked if these tools have been translated into needed languages. Dianne Shipley informed the Committee Sarasota County Health and Human Services has an after-storm poster in Spanish, and has links established with media outlets broadcasting or publishing in Spanish, and is working on developing its Russian, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese resources. Bill Little informed the Committee the agencies can use the County Health and Human Services resources to translate emergency preparedness flyers and related information.

Upcoming Meetings

Boban Pesic asked the Committee if 2nd Monday in the month, 3-5 PM is the best time for the CDPC meetings, and requested Committee members let him know meeting date and time preferences. Boban also stressed one or more meeting should be held in the southern parts of the county.

Donna Dunio informed the Committee that American Red Cross offices are close to Twin Lakes, and the location has a conference room that can accommodate the Committee for one or more meetings.

Chip Taylor suggested CDPC meetings be held in conjunction with Community Alliance's Steering Committee meetings.

Other Issues/Actions

Richard Berman stressed ESF 8 (Health) desk at EOC liaison works with HHS Ops and reports to EOC (Emergency Operations Center) Operations Section Chief. He also stressed PSN (Persons with Special Needs) field officers will report to him during emergency since EOC Shelter Branch is under EOC Operations Section.

Pauline Tracy stressed the need for agencies to be involved in HHS Ops (Health and Human Services Operations) in response and recovery rather than the County EOC that can serve as the next response "layer" once HHS Ops resources are exhausted. Pauline suggested ICS-100 (Introduction to ICS) training is offered at one of the upcoming CDPC meetings.

Carl Stevens, President of Amaryllis Park Neighborhood Assoc, is working in the community on disaster preparedness. She provided a flyer on the April 29, 10 A.M. -1 P.M. workshop, and requested the CDPC help promote the event.

Marion Sortore informed the Committee about May 13 faith-based organizations emergency preparedness training in St. James Church on Honore Avenue from 9 A.M. to 2 P.M. Marion will provide additional information about the event.

Lois Natielo informed the committee on the Department of Children and Families need to develop site for food stamps. This can be managed in collaboration with other agencies or independently. She requested the County EOC's input on this issue.

Bill Little stressed NPODs (Neighborhood Points of Distribution) are being set up, and the issue of food stamps can be addressed in the NPODs set up.

Several meeting participants stressed the issue of critical incident stress management, and certification is important in disasters. The Committee was informed about informational meeting on April 5 at 7 P.M., to determine the level of interest for a team in Sarasota. Currently, the closest teams are in Naples and Tampa. Training will be available in May and July for certification. The training is available May 25/26, June (TBD), and July (peer to peer). All three sessions are 2-day courses.

Phil Gorelick reminded the Committee on April 21st PTSD conference in Cay Club (old Holiday Inn). Those interested in participating should contact Phil by Friday, April 14, 2006.

Next Meeting

Next CDPC meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2006, 3:15 -5:00 PM at Sarasota County School Board, Landings Boulevard, Sarasota.