

Community Alliance of Sarasota County Community Disaster Preparedness Committee

Ringling Auditorium (Room 226)
Health and Human Services Business Center
2200 Ringling Boulevard

March 13, 2006, 3:00-5:00 PM

Meeting Summary

Members Present:

Dunio, Donna
Emmett, Cathy
Gorelick, Phil
Gorman, Sarah
Jaffe, Pat
Lacher, Miriam
Natiello, Lois
Rezola, Inaki
Shoemaker, Nancy
Sortore, Marion
Stover, Dennis
Taylor, Chip
Tracy, Pauline
Wismer, Bruce

Agency/Organization

Southwest Florida American Red Cross
Senior Friendship Centers
Jewish Family and Children's Services
Healthy Start Coalition of Sarasota County, Inc.
Medical Reserve Corps (SCHHS)
Bayside Center – Sarasota Memorial Hospital
DCF – Suncoast Region
Southwest Florida American Red Cross
Catholic Charities
FL Conference of the United Methodist Church
Friendship Volunteer Center
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pine Shores Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Others Present:

Couch, Lamont
Dennis, Kerry
Jahn, Eric
McKenney, Kevin
Prescott, Casey

Representative Katherine Harris' Office
Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Suncoast Partnership
YMCA of Sarasota
Representative Katherine Harris' Office

Staff Present:

DeLoach, Nancy
Pesic, S. Boban
Scott, Roger
Shipley, Dianne

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
Berns, Bob	Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters
Bigner, Mike	Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice
Carter, Bob	Senior Friendship Centers
Glasser, Kay	Human Services Advisory Council
Heath, Mary	TideWell Hospice and Palliative Care
Johnson, Lee	YMCA of Sarasota
Kleckauskas, Aleda	Hospice of Southwest Florida
Kutch, Kim	DCF – Suncoast Region
Lehman, Cindy	Agency for Health Care Administration
Little, Bill	Sarasota County Health Department
Mahadeo, Jamie	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
McCormick, Joe	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
Pfaff, Tom	Goodwill Industries
Pope, Bryan	Salvation Army – Sarasota Corps
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's Community Disaster Preparedness Committee (**CDPC**) met on Monday, March 13th, 2006 at the Health and Human Services Business Center (2200 Ringling Blvd.) at 3:00 p.m. Boban Pesic welcomed the members, and alerted the group to Dennis Stover's paper entitled "Katrina – Lessons Learned", which discusses how critical the role of non-governmental aid and faith-based communities are. The February 13, 2006 CDPC Meeting Summary was agreed unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports and Discussion

Elder Care Strike Team

Cathy Emmett reported the Subcommittee held its first meeting February 17, 2006 at the Senior Friendship Center in Sarasota. The meeting focused on briefing participants on CDPC activities. Cathy Emmett and Ed McCrane participated in taping the May TV clip, which will air on Sarasota Educational TV. The interview discusses hurricane preparation for the elderly and people with special needs. Cathy stressed no representatives from the Department of Elder Affairs have been involved with the Subcommittee although House Bill 89, whose directives emulate CDPC activities,

directs the Department of Elder Affairs to establish response groups that would respond to persons with special needs in shelters requiring placement. To fulfill the mission of the Subcommittee needs to expand its membership, and invited representatives from the Social Security Administration, Alzheimer's Association, and Sarasota Memorial Hospital Memory Disorder Clinic. Dennis Stover shared article out of Miami that discussed mobilized team groups after a disaster that would respond to elders in apartment complexes. This may be looked at for further partnering opportunities. The next meeting of the Subcommittee is scheduled for March 24th.

Youth and Families Strike Team

Kevin McKenney, representing Lee Johnson, informed the Committee the YMCA is in the process of getting foster parents notified. YAMCA is ready for the upcoming hurricane season, and is verifying evacuation plans in the tri-county region.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Strike Team

Sarah Gorman reported the Strike Team has not met prior to March 13, 2006 CDPC meeting. Meetings are planned for late April and late May. Recent staff turnover with the agencies has left vacancies on the Team. The Strike Team is currently in communication with Coastal Behavioral Health Care, Inc. and the Florida Center, regarding new Team members. Following the CDPC recommendation, the team's approach to training and developing the capacity to function in emergencies will be "all hazards," not weather-related only. A high priority for the team is a training initiative on "compassion fatigue." The Strike Team will look at developing information or training on compassion fatigue, which will address the mental health needs of caregivers. Interest in the Sarasota model of community involvement in emergency planning has surfaced during recent participation in State conference calls. The model is attractive because it is a coordinated and integrated community response, not just government response. This might provide an opportunity for someone to come and speak at the Healthy Start state conference in July. Sarah will follow up with Pauline Tracy.

Boban Pesic provided an update on the Health and Human Services ICS (Incident Command System Database, indicating pertinent information requests have been sent to all Strike Team/Task Force Leaders for updated staff contact information.

Kerry Dennis, Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, requested Sarah Gorman add him to be in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Strike Team since Coastal Behavioral Healthcare will be the agency responsible for mental health and substance abuse clients.

Volunteers Task Force

Dennis Stover informed the Committee members about “Katrina – Lessons Learned,” a document published on the White House web site (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/reports/katrina-lessons-learned/index.html>) that highlights the role of volunteer organizations in disasters. Dennis also emphasized role of private sector in disaster preparedness, and the need for CDPC to think of ways to connect with the private sector and get them involved with CDPC. This includes getting local media, including ABC Channel 7, more interested in CDPC activities.

The Task Force is considering a close collaboration with VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Acting in Disaster). Dennis Stover, Marion Sortore, and James Schulz, met with Bob Burns, VOAD Director for Sarasota, to discuss ways to make VOAD more active and visible in the area, and to develop a foundation for closer collaboration between CDPC and VOAD. Marion Sortore who interacts with VOADs throughout state, will present on VOAD at the April CDPC meeting.

Task Force is developing an all hazards approach to emergencies, and held a meeting hosted by Health and Human Services and Friendship Volunteer Center for the faith-based community in March 2006 on Pan Flu. Recent reports indicated the seriousness of the Pan Flu threat, and later in the week Dennis Stover, Health and Humans Services, and faith-based organizations, are meeting with South County government to get volunteers engaged in disaster plans, pre-planning, and registration. To this end, a recommendation was made that a presentation on Pan Flu would be beneficial to the CDPC so everyone is brought up to date.

Donna Dunio, American Red Cross, will distribute an agenda of classes to anyone interested. Prerequisite course *Orientation into Disaster* is offered online. Once completed, all are welcome to participate in any of the classes offered. CDPC members can contact Dianne Shipley or Boban Pesic to coordinate contacts with local media outlets.

CDPC 2006 Action Plan

At the February 13, 2006 meeting the CDPC decided to form several ad-hoc subcommittees to address other issues and bridge conceptual and operational gaps that exist in the work of the existing Strike Teams and the Task Force. Boban Pesic attended two Subcommittee meetings, and indicated a lot of work still needs to be done to get the Subcommittees ready to structure and manage the problem. Determination will be made if the Subcommittees will become permanent Subcommittees of the CDPC.

Incident Command System (ICS) Training will be conducted according to the schedule presented at the CDPC February 13, meeting. The first ICS-100 (Incident Command System) training is scheduled for April 18, 2006 in the Health and Human Services.

Online training is self-paced. The classroom trainings are offered in either two full days, or five three hour sessions. A single three hour session, offered in subsequent months and specific to health and humans services, will be conducted by Cher McGuirk, Health and Human Services Emergency Operations Planning Coordinator.

Ad Hoc Data Sharing Sub-Committee

Eric Jahn reported for the Subcommittee on Client Data Sharing. The Subcommittee met on March 3, 2006. Human Services Information System is missing common data format between agencies. Members of the Subcommittee are working on a format FEMA systems will recognize, and is portable across the nation. The subcommittee will catalog all the fields, and research federal data specifications. Eric indicated resistance to share information among local and national agencies in Sarasota County, still exists. However, the Hurricane Katrina and its impact made everybody consider collaboration as the key issue in emergency planning. At the next meeting, Subcommittee members will share their client processing protocols and workflow.

Kerry B. Dennis, Coastal Behavioral Health Care, Inc., stressed the importance of client data protection.

Participants agreed to send business association agreement regarding data sharing to Health and Human Services Emergency Operations Planning for review.

Subcommittee on Public Awareness/Media

Diane Shipley reported for the Public Awareness and Media Subcommittee. Dianne is working on developing Subcommittee membership, on Pan Flu-related communication, and with federal and state officials on how to maintain standard speaking points on the Pan Flu. Avian/Pan Flu information is available on the County web (www.scgov.net). Dianne will also be contacting local and national media, to have them more engaged in covering CDPC activities.

Lamont Couch, Director of Outreach in the Office of Congresswoman Katherine Harris expressed Congresswoman Harris's interested in disaster preparedness activities. Lamont will recommend the Congresswoman Office's FEMA liaison attend future CDPC meetings.

Sub-Committees on Identifying Additional Partners/Vulnerable Populations

Subcommittee on Developmentally Disabled

Phil Gorelick informed the participants about the April 14, 2006 Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome seminar at Jewish Family & Children's Service of Sarasota-Manatee featuring Dr. Edna Foa from University of Pennsylvania.

Health and Human Services EOP (Emergency Operations Planning) has reviewed Emergency Preparedness Manual from the Diocese of Houston (Texas) adopted by several faith-based communities in Florida including United Methodist Church. United Methodists Church will conduct a non-denominational training on March 25th and April 1st in the Manatee County.

Subcommittee on Homeless, and Hearing and Vision-Impaired

Lois Natiello reported for the Subcommittee on Homeless, and Hearing and Vision-Impaired. The Subcommittee held one meeting that focused on Homeless/Hearing and Vision Impaired/Non-English Speaking Population issues. This meeting spawned additional questions including the issue of what hearing and vision impaired need to do when power is down. The question should, however, help the Subcommittee establish criteria and direction of work. The Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing has been contacted and provided useful information. Next meeting is scheduled for March 29th at 3:30 p.m., in the Catholic Charities, 4930 Fruitvale Road, Sarasota.

Subcommittee on Non English-Speaking Populations

Nancy Shoemaker and Marion Sortore reported for the Subcommittee on Non English-Speaking Population. The Subcommittee is identifying non English-speaking population in the community, and business leaders who will serve as liaisons with these communities. The Subcommittee is exploring communication methods and tools to use to reach non English-speaking population, including the number and type of TV channels this population listens to. This research also includes the resources within the school system in the county. The Subcommittee also decided to identify resources available from the County government available for this purpose. The next meeting of the Subcommittee is scheduled for April 5, 2006, Catholic Charities, 4930 Fruitvale Road, Sarasota.

CDPC meeting participants agreed to utilize Health and Human Services Emergency Operations Planning as a “hub” for gathering and disseminating information. Dennis Stover will provide a list of volunteer interpreters for distribution to the CDPC.

Next Meeting

The next CDPC meeting is scheduled for April 10, 2006 at Twin Lakes, 6700 Clarke Road, Conference Room A, Sarasota, Florida.