

Community Alliance of Sarasota County Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)

March 12, 2007, 4:00-5:00 P.M.
Sarasota County Health Department
2200 Ringling Blvd, Sarasota, FL

Meeting Summary

Members Present:

Blandford, Vicki
Dennis, Kerry
Kendig, Calvin
Levesque, Elaine
McKenney, Kevin
McCrane, Ed
Metheny, Deb
Rezola, Inaki
Ritter, Skip
Sortore, Marion
Stover, Dennis
Sullivan, Bill
Wismer, Bruce

Agency/Organization:

Tidewell Hospice and Palliative Care
Jewish Family and Children's Services
Citizens Corps of Sarasota
First Step of Sarasota
Sarasota Family YMCA
Sarasota County Emergency Management
Sarasota County School Board
Southwest Florida American Red Cross
Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Friendship Volunteer Center
Friendship Volunteer Center
Southwest Florida American Red Cross
Presbyterian Disaster Services

Staff Present:

Taylor, Chip
Tracy, Pauline

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

The Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disaster Committee (COAD) met on Monday, March 12, 2007, at Sarasota County Health and Human Services, 2200 Ringling Boulevard, Room 226, from 4:00-5:00 P.M.

The February minutes were approved with the removal of Tom Giles and Carl Stephens from the member list.

Review Sarasota COAD Participants

Eleanor Ball was announced as a new COAD member and will be participating in the Vulnerable Populations Sub-committee. Attendance at the COAD meetings has been good, but attendance by individual agencies is not consistent. Once our VOAD status is known, agencies that are members of the COAD need to make sure they always have a representative attending the meetings. It was decided to review the membership list at that time, and then develop a "guest" list.

Discussion ensued regarding the membership status of the School Board and Human Services staff. It was decided that the School Board should be a member due to their role

in recovery assistance after a disaster. It was also decided that the membership of the committee should not be "staff heavy." Chip, Bill or a designee will represent Health and Human Services as a member of the committee. Staff, particularly with roles on a strike team or task force, will be welcomed and encouraged to attend and participate in meetings. The success of the group really depends on participation by the local agencies and organizations.

The need for a Chairperson and officers was discussed. It was decided that the committee should have standing members, but all are welcome. Guidelines will be established for members.

2007 Sarasota COAD Workplan

The role of Human Services (HS) staff within the strike teams, task forces and other subcommittees was discussed. The committee came to an understanding that the role previously held by Boban Pesic was to work with the staff support person of each team to set expectations of each group and work with the groups toward that common goal. The Health Department is looking at how to best to realign roles within the agency due to their inability to fill Boban's position at this time.

The Action Plan was reviewed and items pertaining to the full COAD were moved to the top. No one identified any training needs for the next year. One request for a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) exercise was received from the Volunteer Task Force (VTF). The new plan will be based on VOAD membership requirements, if any. Discussion ensued regarding how the group as a whole will be exercised.

It was the consensus of the committee that the COAD agencies be provided with technical assistance on the development of their own Comprehensive Emergency Management Plans (CEMPs). However, they will not be able to do this until FY 2008 due to the shortfall in staffing. Friendship Volunteer Center offered a training option, particularly if the EMPA grant is funded.

Marion advised the group that Scott Montgomery from Emergency Management has developed a planning template for neighborhoods that is easy to follow.

Discussion ensued regarding replicating the Sarasota COAD model in adjoining counties. To date, we have not been successful in reaching out to other counties. The VTF has done some work in this area (mutual aid with adjoining counties for VRC's). It was noted that the Youth and Families Strike Team always includes Desoto County.

It was decided that the completed 2006 action items will be removed from the plan. The 2007 items will remain, with status/comments.

Marion Sortore was announced as the new Chair of the Vulnerable Populations Subcommittee.

Discussion ensued regarding the issues surrounding the problem of sharing client information. There will be a national Coordinated Assistance Network (CAN) conference in

June on that topic. Staff are looking at alternative data systems. Based on our experience with the Katrina displaced persons, it was determined that the Homeless Services Information System (HSIS) would not work for this group. The Partnership for Children's Mental Health is currently seeking alternative case management databases which may also be useful to COAD. The possibility of setting up a joint case work center post-disaster with support from Emergency Management was discussed. Another option discussed was to have clients sign a universal disclosure and release of information form up front that will allow data sharing. The American Red Cross has a goal to develop a blanket release listing the agencies that information could be released to. This would need legal review from all agencies involved.

The Elder Care and Youth and Families Strike Teams are discussing the possibility of conducting exercises. They will provide an update at the next meeting.

It was noted that the Communication plan was inadvertently removed from the action plan but should be added back on.

It was announced that the ESF 15 Pan Flu Summit sponsored by Volunteer Florida and the Department of Health will be held March 29-30 in Orlando. Pauline Tracy and Marion Sortore will be attending.

The Hurricane Expo was held on Saturday, March 10. It was noted that the booth was hard to find. They only made about 75 direct contacts. Friendship Volunteer Center had a separate booth and a better location and 114 direct contacts and signed up 5 neighborhoods for presentations. Emergency Management had 125 direct contacts.

Ed McCrane and Bill Little will be speaking on emergency management on May 5 at Newtown Estates. All are welcome to attend.

Sarasota COAD was represented at the March 7 Pan Flu exercise. The breakout groups were very helpful and raised several good questions such as, "Who prioritizes where volunteers go?" The cities were also well represented. The event sparked a level of awareness with leadership. Other players in the community are beginning to realize that Pan Flu is not just a Health Department issue.