

# Community Alliance of Sarasota County

## Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)

January 8, 2007, 3:00-5:00 P.M.  
Senior Friendship Centers  
1888 Brother Geenen Way, Sarasota, FL

### Meeting Summary

#### Members Present:

Berns, Bob  
Bigner, Mike  
Carter, Bob  
Dunio, Donna  
Gorelick, Phil  
Grognet, Ron  
Johnson, Lee  
Kutch, Kim  
Lacher, Miriam  
McLeod, Erin  
Natiello, Lois  
Shoemaker, Nancy  
Sortore, Marion  
Stephens, Carl  
Stover, Dennis  
Wismer, Bruce  
Young, Alex

#### Agency/Organization:

Volunteer  
Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice  
Senior Friendship Centers  
Red Cross  
Jewish Family and Children's Services  
Red Cross  
YMCA  
DCF  
Bayside Center  
Senior Friendship Centers  
DCF  
Catholic Charities  
Friendship Volunteer Center  
Friendship Volunteer Center  
Friendship Volunteer Center  
Presbyterian Disaster Services  
United Way of Sarasota

#### Others Present:

Allen, John  
Ayres, Eugene  
Ball, Eleanor  
Blandford, Vicki  
Davis, Al  
Day, Michael  
Effron, Wendy  
Gorski, Brian  
Heath, Melissa  
Houseweart, Kathleen  
Kahn, Janet  
Lesaltato, Chuck  
Levesque, Elaine  
McRane, Ed  
Miller, Anne  
Nemia, Linda  
O'Reilly, Peter

VISTA  
Sarasota County Emergency Management  
Friendship Volunteer Center  
Tidewell  
Consuming Fire Int. Ministry  
DCF  
Jewish Family and Children's Services  
Sarasota County Emergency Services  
Tidewell  
SMH  
Early Learning Coalition  
Sarasota Sheriff's Office  
First Step of Sarasota  
Sarasota County Emergency Management  
Sarasota County Emergency Management  
Friendship Volunteer Center  
Friendship Volunteer Center

Rafferty, Casey  
Small, Millie  
Springer, Carrie  
Stuckey, Bob  
Suarez, Michael

Friendship Volunteer Center  
1<sup>st</sup> Congregation U.C.C. Church  
Coastal Behavioral Healthcare  
Sarasota County Emergency Services  
Sarasota County Emergency Services

**Staff Present:**

Benson, Doreen  
Crelin, Sheryl  
Day, Anna  
DeLoach, Nancy  
Hall, Kathleen  
Kopp, Barbara  
Little, Bill  
MacLeod, Sandra  
McGuirk, Cher  
Meunier, Pam  
Poswiatowski, Tammi  
Taylor, Chip  
Tracy, Pauline

Sarasota County Health and Human Services  
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**Members Not Present:**

Arch, Dee  
Giles, Tom  
Glasser, Kay  
Heath, Mary  
Jaffe, Pat  
Knox, Al  
Lehman, Cindy  
Mahadeo, Jamie  
McCormick, Joe  
Nieskes, Gary  
Pfaff, Tom  
Pope, Bryan  
Porter, Mark  
Rezola, Inaki  
Stearns, Stewart  
Stewart, Chris  
Stone, David  
Suarez, Alberto  
Williams, Harold

Children's Medical Services  
Senior Friendship Centers  
Human Services Advisory Council  
TideWell Hospice and Palliative Care  
Medical Reserve Corps (SCHHS)  
Peace River Presbytery  
Agency for Healthcare Administration  
Sarasota County Health and Human Services  
Coastal Behavioral Healthcare  
Lions Club  
Goodwill Industries  
Salvation Army – Sarasota Corps  
YMCA Youth and Family Services  
Southwest Florida American Red Cross  
Community Foundation of Sarasota County  
First Step of Sarasota  
First Brethren Church  
United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota  
Agency for Healthcare Administration, Ft. Myers

The Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disaster Committee (COAD) met on Monday, January 8, 2007, at Senior Friendship Centers, 1888 Brother Geenen Way, from 3:00-5:00 P.M.

Cher McGuirk updated the group on the status of various grant applications. They are submitting two grants; one to hire an individual to assist the PIO and to hire a

communications specialist, and one to pay for the emergency manager position at Friendship Volunteer Center. She advised that the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual VOAD Conference will be held from April 17 – 20 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Awards were given to five VISTA workers recognizing their one year anniversary of service to the community.

Bill Little gave the history and background behind the establishment of the SCOAD. He mentioned a number of incidents that have taken place such as the FEMA trailer community established after Hurricane Charley, the establishment of Spns shelters at Robards and in Venice, and the hurricane response efforts taken after Hurricane Katrina. He emphasized the fact that the community has taken ownership of the responsibility for emergency response rather than leaving the burden on Emergency Management.

Discussion ensued regarding the Introduction to ICS classes held by the Health Department that established a common language for the community and structured and aligned Sarasota County's emergency response with that used throughout the nation.

Nancy Shoemaker pointed out that the biggest single impact made by SCOAD was the establishment of relationships with community partners and the development of a communication mechanism that did not exist just a few years ago.

Dr. Sandra MacLeod challenged the group to prepare for a Pan Flu worldwide outbreak of influenza with no vaccine available. The bird (avian) flu is a respiratory virus that occurs in wild birds. It doesn't usually affect humans. At the present time, there is no bird flu present in the United States. She advised that the viruses change rapidly. It takes more than 6 months to develop a vaccine. As of June 2006, 230 people have been infected worldwide with half dying from the illness. Should a flu hit here, you can expect one third of the work force to become ill. Dr. MacLeod encouraged everyone to develop their own private plan in case of such a development.

Alex Young gave an award to Bob Berns in thanks for his years of service to emergency management and the community in Sarasota County. Refreshments were provided.