

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

June 18, 2007 Meeting Summary

Present

Benson, Doreen
Berns, Bob
Blandford, Vicki
Calkins, Susan
Day, Anna
DeLoach, Nancy
Dennis, Kerry
Dorwarth, Pam
Dunio, Donna
Dunn, Deborah
Glasser, Kay
Griffin, Michael
Hencye, Curt
Hitchingham, Kelsey
Kunkel, Ben
Kutch, Kim
Lehman, Cindy
LeVan, Sandi
Levesque, Elaine
McArdle, Ann
McFarland, Harold
McLeod, Erin
Metheny, Deborah
Million, Bob
Montgomery, Scott
Natiello, Lois
Nieskes, Gary
Rezola, Inaki
Remali, Leslie
Schrepf, Sheryl
Schulz, James
Shipley, Dianne
Shoemaker, Nancy
Sortore, Marion
Stover, Dennis
Suarez, Alberto
Taylor, Chip
Tracy, Pauline
Wismer, Bruce
Young, Alex

Agency/Organization

Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Volunteer
Tidewell Hospice and Palliative Care
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Jewish Family and Children's Services
U.S. Access Board
American Red Cross
Jewish Family and Children's Services
Human Services Advisory Council
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Calvary Chapel
Friendship Volunteer Center
United Way 2-1-1
DCF – Suncoast Region
ACHA
The Salvation Army
First Step of Sarasota
Easter Seals
American Red Cross
Senior Friendship Centers
Sarasota County School Board
Siesta Key Chapel
Sarasota County Emergency Management
DCF – Suncoast Region
Lions Club
American Red Cross
Church World Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Catholic Charities
Friendship Volunteer Center
Friendship Volunteer Center
United Way 2-1-1
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pine Shores Presbyterian
United Way

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Staff Present

Mahadeo, Jamie
Poswiatowsky, Tammi

Agency/Organization

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

Leslie Remali, Church World Services, explained the phases of a disaster - mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery. Unmet needs are defined as basic, life sustaining needs that survivors cannot provide for themselves. However, don't confuse this with pre-existing conditions. Unmet needs can be caused by loss of life, injury, loss of income, etc., as identified by the survivor. In most cases, a caseworker will verify need.

Some survivors 'fall through the cracks' due to:

- inadequate insurance
- failure to call FEMA to register
- failure to understand victim rights
- failure to appeal to the government when assistance is denied
- failure to fill out Small Business Administration (SBA) packet for the family assistance program which provides a maximum of \$28, 200. SBA works quickly, within 1 week, to get money to applicants who are qualified. Low interest loans are also provided to eligible applicants.

Long-term recovery organizations have access to funds that COADs and VOADs do not have because they are mission-based on recovery and disaster assistance. LTROs should be available to people who seek out assistance. The LTRO is responsible for developing a plan to meet a specific unmet need.

There is no organization within a community other than, perhaps, Habitat for Humanity, whose mission includes rebuilding homes after a disaster. Lucky communities will be visited by religious groups who will build homes. Many different partners are willing to help pull together a coalition for the purpose of long term planning. A coalition of not-for-profits, the faith based community, and the government in the form of Community Development Block Grant dollars can all be used to rebuild homes.

There are two ways to organize recovery - a committee or an organization as defined by the community. A long-term recovery organization usually operates independently or under the auspices of another agency. It may be community-based, faith-based or a collaboration of both. The LTRO goes beyond material resources to deal with community rebuilding. Many different agencies around the table can deal with issues based on each agency's capability.

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Why have another committee? Designated funds come in for a disaster. Who will manage them is decided by the long-term recovery committee. You can tell a successful LTRO if an individual only has to tell their story once. Collaboration and cooperation between agencies is necessary. The LTRO benefits survivors by: simultaneous access, collective problem solving, quick decision making, etc. The advantages to agencies are: avoids duplication, cases are opened to the full range of resources, there is a system for future interaction, it allows agencies to return to normal operations, etc.

Leslie will return to do the tabletop exercise which will take about 4 hours. Staff requested a copy of her presentation for those who are interested.

VOAD Status

Bylaws for the COAD have been revised from the previous draft. The committee was asked to provide Pauline with comments and notes. A new draft will be presented at the next meeting.

Marion advised that the COAD is indeed a member of the Florida VOAD. In fact, Sarasota County was selected to be a voting member representing the region. Marion Sortore is our representative on that board.

CAN Conference

Michael Griffin, Chip Taylor, Bill Little, and Pauline Tracy attended the Coordinated Assistance Network Conference held a few weeks ago. Sarasota County was the only governmental agency that attended. CAN is a case management information sharing system that goes up after a disaster. Right now, CAN is used only by non-governmental organizations. There is a 6 city pilot project being planned. It was mentioned that CAN is considering expanding the pilot project to include government. Sarasota County volunteered to be a pilot site. We are waiting to hear. There are some dollars associated with being a pilot site. The Ford Foundation would fund part of the costs.

Chip advised that they will be scheduling another meeting of the information sharing committee once we hear from CAN. We are anticipating acceptance as a pilot site. The group needs to come to an agreement on the type of software platform to use.

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Status of EMPA Grant Awards

Sarasota County Health and Human Services and Friendship Volunteer Center each submitted an EMPA grant application. Neither was funded. Out of 133 grant applications, they only funded 16.

Elder Care Strike Team Report

The committee met and established an objective to expand the group in the next few months. They have 3 or 4 new members now. Marion Sortore is one of the new members. They are seeking representation from South County and the involvement of more different organizations.

Changes to the ICS 207

Chip advised that they have made some changes to the 204. Since James Schulz is leaving, Jamie Mahadeo will take over his spot at the ESF 15 desk. Sheryl Schrepf will be filling in at the ESF 8 desk. The Volunteer Task Force has changed and divided into two strike teams – Volunteer Strike Team and Donations Strike Team.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disasters will be held on July 9 at 4:00 p.m. It will be held in the auditorium at the Health Department, 2200 Ringling Boulevard, 2nd floor.