

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

August 13, 2007 Meeting Summary

Present

Blandford, Vicki
Day, Anna
DeLoach, Nancy
Dennis, Kerry
Dorwarth, Pam
Dunio, Donna
Griffin, Michael
Hencye, Curtis
Knox, Al
Kutch, Kim
Lehman, Cindy
Levesque, Elaine
Ourednik, Jennifer
Smart, Kieran
Sortore, Marion
Stover, Dennis
Suarez, Alberto
Taylor, Chip
Tracy, Pauline
Wismer, Bruce

Agency/Organization

Tidewell Hospice and Palliative Care
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
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Calvary Chapel Relief Ministry
Peace River Presbytery
DCF – Suncoast Region
Agency for Healthcare Administration
First Step of Sarasota
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health Department
Friendship Volunteer Center
Friendship Volunteer Center
United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Pine Shores Presbyterian

Staff Present

Mahadeo, Jamie
Poswiatowsky, Tammi

Agency/Organization

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

Stewart Stearns introduced himself as the new Chair of the committee. Self introductions were made. The meeting summary for the July 9, 2007 meeting was approved.

September 7 Exercise

Tammi Poswiatowski updated the group on the weather-related exercise to be held on September 7. The exercise will be as real-time as possible. FDENS alerts will be sent to all individuals who have signed up. The Planning Section will use the latest contact information received to generate the alerts. Group leaders will report to HHS Ops (Health Department, Auditorium) for a briefing that morning. Strike Team members will be in the field where they should be during a real event. Radios will also be part of the drill. A Volunteer Reception Center will be open. The EOC Liaisons will be in the EOC. Michael Griffin explained the

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communications methods (FDENS, e-mail, cell phones, land lines, 800 mhz radios, etc.) that will be tested during the drill.

State VOAD Report

Marion Sortore summarized her observations at the state VOAD meeting. The entire board has changed except for one person. This meeting was an organizational meeting for everyone to meet and discuss the future of the Florida VOAD. They want to become more service-oriented in supporting local county VOADS. They are working with national response agencies (faith-based) to properly coordinate services to be provided in Florida. They did an assessment of the state VOAD using the national VOAD assessment tool. The Florida VOAD did not score highly but the exercise allowed them to set goals to meet in the future to become a sustaining VOAD. Marion suggested that our local COAD use this assessment tool to see how it matches up nationally.

Citizens Corps

Pauline Tracy advised that today is the three year anniversary of Hurricane Charley. She recounted the events that occurred in the aftermath of Hurricane Charley which ultimately resulted in the creation of the SCOAD.

Emergency Management staff has now asked that the Sarasota COAD consider serving as the designated Citizens Corps for Sarasota County as well. This would open up the possibility of additional funding, and allows the COAD to bring other groups to the table.

Marion showed a PowerPoint presentation drawn from a presentation found on the Citizens Corps website at <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cc/index.do>. The SCOAD already does most of what a Citizens Corps Council is required to do. Additional membership needed would include representatives of the local Volunteers in Police Service, Volunteer Fire Corps, and the Neighborhood Watch. Anne Miller is approaching the leadership of each of these groups to come to the table to discuss how we can work together as a Citizens Corps.

Discussion ensued regarding the details of the workings of Citizens Corps and how that might change what we already do. Marion assured the members that this will not refocus what we have already done, but should add value to our planning process. Questions arose regarding the significant administrative responsibilities that already come with the SCOAD and would only increase if the Citizens Corps title was adopted.

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Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of becoming a Citizens Corps. The committee requested that Anne Miller come to the next meeting to give Emergency Management's position on how this could work. Stewart asked that this be brought back to the next SCOAD meeting to let the committee members think about and research the concept.

2007 Sarasota COAD Action Plan

- Sharing Client Information:

Michael asked the agencies to make two lists:

1. the type of information that the agency can and is willing to release to other agencies, and
2. the type of information that the agency would like to have from partners during a disaster.

Chip Taylor gave an overview of his discussions with CAN (Coordinated Assistance Network) and other agencies during CAN's national conferences about addressing client data sharing on a national level. When Sarasota proposed to be accepted by CAN as a model site, they were surprised. They have never had a governmental agency that was interested in doing this. After much deliberation, CAN agreed that Sarasota could become a "Friend of CAN." This would give the county access to technical assistance, the possibility of a small amount of funding, and a software platform that could be accessed by local agencies to share client information. CAN has been working with a firm called VisionLink which had developed a software platform called Tapestry that appears to be the answer to many of the issues. The Tapestry software platform has been adopted in some larger cities with success.

At the present time in Sarasota County, United Way 2-1-1 of ManaSota is using IRIS software to support its information and referral system, while the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness is using Service Point, a web-based software platform developed by Bowman (Shreveport, Louisiana), to support the community's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Tapestry is a multi-faceted platform that appears to meet the needs of all agencies needing to share client information after a disaster, and could potentially be used to support the information and referral and HMIS functions as well. In other words, one system that could support all three functions in the community. Moreover, as a partner of CAN, Sarasota could likely get a substantial price break on the Tapestry software. There will be a meeting on September 10 to

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discuss the system. During that day-long meeting, VisionLink will have demonstrations of the software for a hands-on experience.

- Public Awareness/Media

Alberto Suarez reported that they distributed 500 2-1-1 brochures at the Hurricane Expo at Robards Arena. They distributed 200 – 300 newsletters describing the mission of the agency.

- Vulnerable Populations

Marion reported that the Vulnerable Populations Committee did not meet this month.

- Volunteers/Donations

Pauline reported that they focused on donations this month with a presentation on the virtual donations warehouse. They will be looking into it further at a later date. Tammi gave a presentation on FDENS to ensure that all the committee members were enrolled properly.

- Medical Reserve Corps

Susan introduced Dr. Kieran Smart who is the new Medical Director at the Health Department. With his experience, he will be very helpful to the MRC.

- Elder Care

This committee did not meet this month.

- Substance Abuse/Mental Health

Anna reported that they are still recruiting for the Strike Team Leader position.

- Youth and Families

Kim reported that their last meeting was on July 30. No changes were made to their action plan.

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Meeting Schedule

Tammi suggested that the meetings be moved up to 3:30 rather than 4:00 due to the long agendas. The consensus of the committee was to do so. However, the September 10 meeting will be at the regular time of 4:00 due to Tapestry demonstrations occurring that day.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disasters will be held on **September 10 at 4:00 p.m.** It will be held in the auditorium at the Health Department, 2200 Ringling Boulevard, 2nd floor.