

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES STRIKE TEAM
MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 2009

In attendance: Barbara Kopp, Carmen Hill, Laurel White, Carmela Gaudet, Judi Martin, Mandy O'Malley, Michelle Pilkington, Mary Smith, Rik Jimison, Anna Day

Since this was the first meeting of this strike team, Anna Day explained the concept of the strike teams as well as the Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) system. A flow chart of the Health and Human Services Operations Recovery (HHS OPS Recovery) system was also provided showing how the operation works.

Incident Command Systems (ICS) were also discussed and the trainings that are offered in this area.

Discussion centered on what the team wants to accomplish for the coming year. Some of the items that will be pursued further are:

- Is there a written policy from the state that suspends capacity requirements of group homes after a disaster strikes?
- What exactly does a "special needs shelter" mean? How do people apply?
- Can the special needs shelters handle children with unique issues ie; sensory, behavior issues?
- Can the special needs shelter designate a specific room for these children and would therapists be permitted to come into the shelters to staff these rooms? Have Health Department staff come to meeting to discuss these shelters.
- How are children in foster care dealt with in disasters? Have DCF representative attend a meeting.
- Could these volunteers register with the Medical Reserve Corps?
- Create a resource list of community agencies.
- Create a list of respite providers that are already certified to volunteer in a disaster.

Also discussed was the need for a strike team leader. Health and Human Services provides back up staff to assist but a leader needs to be named. Anna asked that everyone think about if they would be able to take on this role and to let Anna know if they are interested.

Carmella Gaudet provided a resource book on Emergency Preparedness Guide for Floridians with Disabilities. She will research as to if others are available or the possibility of ordering additional copies.

Barbara Kopp will attempt to arrange Health Department staff to come to the next strike team meeting to discuss special needs shelters.

Anna encouraged everyone to start making lists of resources they feel would be necessary for individuals with disabilities after a disaster. These will be used to create the resource list. Anna asked that these be brought to the next meeting. Anna also asked for everyone

to think of other agencies they feel should be part of the strike team and to invite them to the next meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2009 at 10:00 in room 2063 of the Sarasota County Health Department.