

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES STRIKE TEAM  
MEETING MINUTES

May 28, 2009

In attendance: Barbara Kopp, Anna Day, Judi Martin, Michelle Pilkington, Inaki Rezola, Hal Hedley

Approval of April 23, 2009 minutes- Motion Michelle Pilkington, 2<sup>nd</sup> Judi Martin

Inaki Rezola of the Red Cross provided a presentation on the services of general shelters. Questions were asked related to developmentally disabled individuals such as can they come to a shelter unescorted. They can but it would be preferred if they did have a friend or relative with them. They will not be turned away if they are by themselves. Also, is it a possibility that the shelters could be staffed with a behaviorist if needed? They would be willing to work out something and the volunteer would need to come from the Medical Reserve Corp. Would there be space available for individuals to go to that need a quieter area? They would try to work with this and the individuals would need to alert the shelter staff on admittance that they have special needs. Inaki did state that empathy animals are not permitted in general shelters just service animals. If individuals have empathy animals, they would need to go to the pet friendly shelters.

Barbara Kopp discussed the Hurricane Exercise that is scheduled for June 2 and that members are asked to participate in this exercise. It will be held at the Sarasota County Health Department in the auditorium starting at 8:00 a.m. Barb will send an e-mail out to all members requesting their attendance.

Mission statement: Judi Martin offered a suggestion of a mission statement which has been adopted by the team.

“To provide access to information regarding response and recovery resources after disaster events to developmentally disabled individuals and their families”.

Strike team leader: This has been tabled until next meeting.

Minutes: Anna Day has requested a volunteer to take on the role of taking minutes for the meetings. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Judi Martin discussed that the Whole Child Project is working on a resource book for individuals with disabilities. She will obtain a copy of this when it is completed so this can be incorporated as part of this teams resource directory.

A discussion ensued regarding the name of the strike team. Members felt that “developmental disabilities” narrowed the scope of the team and that it was actually to capture all individuals with disabilities. It was decided that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

It was asked by COAD that the team come up with priorities of the team that will be posted on the COAD website. The following are the priorities discussed:

- Obtain written policy from the state that suspends capacity requirements of group homes during/after disasters.
- Is there an emergency payment system?
- Have volunteers register with the Medical Reserve Corp. (Behavioralists, respite providers)
- Have a resource list of community agencies.
- To educate/inform individuals living independently without agency support on hurricane planning. How do we capture who these people are?
- Continuous recruitment of members for the team.

It was encouraged that current members of the team attend the next Developmental Disabilities committee meeting to recruit new members for the strike team.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2009 at 10:00 at the Health Department. Location to be determined.