

LONG-TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEE

July 14, 2009 Meeting Notes

Present:	Carol Alder	Office of Financial Planning
	Jack Dahlmann	State Emergency Management
	Jamie Mahadeo	Health and Human Services
	Ed McCrane	Emergency Management
	Jon McKenzie	IDEAS
	Tammi Poswiatowski	Health and Human Services
	Inaki Rezola	American Red Cross
	Marion Sortore	Florida VOAD
	Stewart Stearns	Community Foundation
	Pauline Tracy	Health and Human Services
	Bruce Wismer	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Ed McCrane explained to the group that the Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP) has nothing to do with the LTRC as relates to long-term recovery. The PDRP relates to the redevelopment of the community, infrastructure, etc. It is for devastating events, for example, if the barrier islands were wiped clean. The County has been named a pilot program for the state and, as such, is eligible for grant funding to develop a PDRP. Many communities in Florida did not have a PDRP when the hurricanes of 2004-05 hit. They found out the hard way that these plans need to be in place before an event. This is what Sarasota County is planning for now. In the event that the county gets totally impacted, it is our roadmap for redevelopment. The long-term recovery piece that the LTRC is involved with has to do with human services only, the impact of which will not be addressed in the PDRP.

Marion Sortore noted that after Hurricane Charlie in Arcadia, the long-term recovery entity through various means helped individuals in totally rebuilding their homes. Ultimately, homes went up that did not look exactly like the home that was there previously. When Code Enforcement reviewed the property, they demanded that the changes be removed even if there was a permit. This caused significant problems and wasted precious resources. It could have been avoided if one agency was in active discussion with the other.

Marion also noted that a significant amount of money came down to various groups in the community for recovery. It was found 16 to 18 months later that, if the groups had been coordinating their resources, it would have avoided duplication of services. Sarasota County and the Long-Term Recovery Committee do not want to be in this position. Ed explained that in the hours and days after an impact, the county would make sure that the right players are in the room to coordinate activities before recovery takes place. Additionally, there will be mobile permitting vehicles that will troubleshoot to avoid these problems before they happen.

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Marion explained to the attendees that had not previously been involved that long-term recovery is designed to assist individuals that have accessed all the services they can and still don't have the resources they need to recover.

Jack Dahlmann explained that his agency does public assistance concerning counties, private, nonprofit organizations, and municipalities. They work with FEMA to do a survey to see what damages have been done to public facilities and nonprofits such as nursing homes to provide recovery assistance.

Marion explained that Essential Services Centers were created to provide services before a disaster happens. They are a one-stop shop where people can come in and register for services. For Sarasota County, the Tapestry software system will allow individuals to give their vital information once. Any service agency partnering with Tapestry will be able to bring this information up and avoid the stress on individuals of having to explain their situation numerous times. It will also avoid duplication of services.

Essential Services Centers will morph into Disaster Recovery Centers once the event is declared officially a disaster. This will enhance the services previously provided by the ESCs.

Jack Dahlmann explained that the Federal government can give either individual assistance declarations or public assistance declarations or both depending on the situation.

Marion explained that FEMA offers training to teach people how to take disaster assistance applications. There is a cadre of individuals in Sarasota County who have already been trained.

Jon McKenzie explained that Tapestry is software that the Coordinated Assistance Network created to provide case management during disaster recovery. Sarasota County can use this software pre- and post-disaster declaration to assist individuals with their unmet needs. Our goal is to have this software online no later than September 1, 2009.

Carol Alder explained that the County collects volunteer hours for reimbursement by FEMA via the FEMA Daily Log. She agreed to work with the faith community and others as needed to explain how and when these logs need to be filled out.

Next Meeting

The next Long-term Recovery Committee meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the Health and Human Services Building, 2200 Ringling Boulevard, Room 226 (Auditorium).