

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

**June 8, 2009 Meeting Summary**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Agency/Organization</b>
Day, Anna	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
DeLoach, Nancy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Dennis, Kerry	Jewish Family and Children's Services
Desmond, Cindy	American Red Cross
DuPlantier, James	Friendship Volunteer Center
Ferrier, Anne	Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health
Gallagher, Sandy	Catholic Charities
Glasser, Kay	Glasser/Schoenbaum Human Services Center
Gorelick, Phil	Jewish Family and Children's Services
Griffin, Michael	Sarasota County Health Department
Hencye, Curtis	Calvary Chapel Relief Ministries
Johnson, Linda	Department of Children and Families
Kahn, Janet	Early Learning Coalition
Kunkel, Ben	United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota
Lacher, Miriam	Sarasota Memorial Hospital/Bayside
LaFlame, Cheryl	Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Levesque, Elaine	First Step of Sarasota
Long, Beth	Vamo United Methodist Church
Mahadeo, Jamie	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
McIntyre, Laura	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
McLeod, Erin	Senior Friendship Centers
Patterson, Frances	Vamo United Methodist Church
Poswiatowski, Tammi	Sarasota County Health Department
Reynolds, Patti	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Scott, Sylvia	Tidewell Hospice
Stearns, Stewart	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Stover, Dennis	Senior Friendship Centers
Taylor, Chip	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Tracy, Pauline	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Vibbard, Justin	Adventist Community Services
Wismer, Bruce	Presbyterian Disaster Services
Wood, Sunie	Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Stewart Stearns welcomed the attendees. Self introductions were made. The meeting summary for the May 11, 2009 meeting was approved without changes.

**June 2 Disaster Drill**

Tammi Poswiatowski provided a draft After-Action Report for review by the committee. She explained that those in attendance at the drill were divided up into their strike teams and injects were provided for their consideration. Tammi

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asked the committee to provide input on the Improvement Plan in the After-Action Report. A strike team must be assigned to each item and will be responsible for proposing corrective action.

Pauline Tracy mentioned that a number of people came up to her after the drill and expressed their pleasure that the drill was of great benefit to them. They appreciated the fact that different scenarios were proposed as the day went along that kept up the pace of the event. They learned not only what other strike teams did but what other members of their own strike teams were responsible for.

Stewart Stearns said that one problem was the fact that the EOC did not open until 11:00 while HHS Ops started at 8:00. Therefore, there was no interaction with the EOC during the event. Next year the EOC and HHS Ops needs to be up and functioning at the same time.

**Strike Team/Committee Reports**

*Mental Health/Substance Abuse Strike Team:*

Miriam Lacher reported that they had scenarios which included the questions of where to obtain medications and how to interface with Project Hope and the Medical Reserve Corps. The need for an interview tool was mentioned to screen for depression and anxiety. They had questions regarding how to move individuals who fell under the Baker Act. If there was not placement available, how would the shelters handle these individuals? Discussion ensued regarding the need for law enforcement to assist in handling some of these individuals.

*Elder Care Strike Team:*

Erin McLeod reported that the team considered providing wrist bands for the elders that were coming into the community and proposed having a triage team at the point of entry to identify the particular needs of each individual. She mentioned that they had considered contacting the EOC on several of the injects. The committee did not know if or how that would work.

Pauline Tracy commented that the EOC will not be up and running for the entire time that HHS Ops is activated. At some point the EOC will start to wind down and close while HHS Ops is still fully functioning. They need to keep that in mind when running their scenarios.

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Erin noted that the Health Department's definition of special needs in shelters is different than the Elder Strike Team's definition. They found that the special needs elders would be going to general population shelters where they may need more assistance than is available. There is a need for a quiet place in the shelter for individual intake and evaluation.

Senior Friendship Centers will be offering a workshop on special needs shelters this coming Thursday from 8:30 to 9:30. Tammi Poswiatowski and Rob Day will be making a presentation on special needs shelters.

Stewart Stearns requested that a list of acronyms with definitions (like 'special needs') be developed to assist in HHS Ops with some of these issues.

*Youth and Families Strike Team:*

Linda Johnson noted that they need more specific information coming to the strike team before action can be recommended. They often didn't have enough information on a situation to make an informed decision. They ran into problems with where to put the 100 unaccompanied children in their scenario. They did not know when they should call the EOC for help.

*Volunteers and Donations Strike Team:*

James DuPlantier advised that Friendship Volunteer Center has an intake tool to screen volunteers for certain jobs. Stewart Stearns mentioned that the committees may need to complete such an assessment on their members in the event that one strike team needs to borrow members from another strike team. It would be helpful to know what each individual's skills are. Also, cross-training should be considered.

Pauline Tracy mentioned the possibility that, should the Red Cross shelters become full, they may come to the Volunteers and Donations Strike Team for assistance. The faith-based community may be the answer here. However, this is an area where more work needs to be done. Tammi Poswiatowski commented that ESF 18, Business, spent a lot of time during the drill finding housing for individuals. This will also be a resource for the strike team.

*Developmental Disabilities Strike Team:*

Anna Day reported that they were also having a problem with the definition of special needs. The special needs of the developmentally

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disabled are very specific. Shelters will not be designed to handle these individuals. One scenario required the placement for five individuals. They called one of the facilities and were told that they couldn't accept additional people because of their licensure. The strike team wants to know if the state will be waiving any of these requirements during a disaster. The facility also wanted to know who would be paying for this. The strike team did not have an answer.

*Long-Term Recovery Committee:*

Bruce Wismer advised the group that there is a meeting coming up with Ed McCrane to discuss how COAD fits into the new Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan. He will report back next month on the status of this plan.

**Tapestry Discussion**

Chip Taylor provided an update on Tapestry. Jon McKenzie is in the process of developing a Memorandum of Understanding between CAN and the County. They expect to have this completed in the next couple of weeks.

CAN still has an issue of data sharing with government agencies that has not been resolved. Some local agreement needs to be developed among users regarding the type of data each agency is willing to share. The first thing needed to be done is to get 2-1-1 to go live in the system. It is anticipated that this can be accomplished by July 1. The second thing to be done is to get the disaster portal on line. The third piece is how to integrate the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness in the system.

To get the system online, the agencies will need to agree to a common client release form and help in the development of the local screens. They hope to accomplish all of this including training on the system by August 1.

Pauline Tracy noted that the individual agencies on the COAD need to be registered on CAN. She referred to a handout entitled 'Registered Florida CAN Agencies (6-4-09)'. If your agency is not on the list and if your agency plans to provide case management after a disaster, you need to register with CAN. The website is CAN.org. It is a simple process to complete. Pauline asked that once an agency registers with CAN, to please let her know so she can update the local list. The CAN portal for Tapestry is called Recover Suncoast.

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**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Sarasota COAD is scheduled for July 14, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. at the Health and Human Services Building, 2200 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota in the Auditorium.