

# Community Alliance of Sarasota County Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disaster

## March 11, 2010 Meeting Summary

<b>Present</b>	<b>Agency/Organization</b>
Berns, Bob	Volunteer
Cherry, Mike	All Faiths Food Bank
Day, Anna	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
DeLoach, Nancy	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Desmond, Cindy	American Red Cross
Double, Nicole	All Faiths Food Bank
DuPlantier, James	Friendship Volunteer Center
Ellerbe, Kenneth	Sarasota County Fire Department
Ferrier, Anne	Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health
Gorelick, Phil	Jewish Family and Children's Services
Hencye, Curtis	Calvary Chapel Relief Ministries
Herrygers, Debbie	Sarasota Memorial Hospital
Johnson, Linda	Department of Children and Families
Kahn, Janet	Early Learning Coalition
King, Mary	Sarasota County Extension Services
Kopp, Barbara	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
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
Mahadeo, Jamie	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
McCrane, Ed	Sarasota County Emergency Management
McIntyre, Laura	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
McKenzie, Jon	Sarasota County Information Technology
McLeod, Erin	Senior Friendship Centers
Morrow, Rick	Sarasota County Planning and Development Services
Pope, Bryan	Salvation Army
Poswiatowski, Tammi	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Scott, Sylvia	Tidewell Hospice
Seville, Eleanor	Agency for Healthcare Administration
Sortore, Marion	Florida VOAD
Stearns, Stewart	Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Taylor, Chip	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Tracy, Pauline	Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Vibbard, Justin	Adventist Community Services
Wetherell, Joe	All Faiths Food Bank

Stewart Stearns welcomed the attendees. Self introductions were made. The meeting summary for the February 11, 2010 meeting was approved without correction.

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## March 11, 2010 Meeting Summary

### Bylaws Update

Stewart Stearns explained that the COAD Bylaws had never really been activated. Therefore, an Executive Committee meeting was held where it was recommended that the bylaws be changed and the Executive Committee be changed to a Leadership Team.

Marion Sortore and Stewart have come up with some recommended changes to the bylaws as follows:

- Take out any reference to the Executive Committee. It will be called a Leadership Team.
- Instead of Voting Partners and Non-Voting Partners, there will be Voting Members and Members.
- Membership application procedures have never been implemented. Communication is usually made by email. Members may apply for COAD membership by email. Current members will be grandfathered in.
- The termination of membership clause is clarified to read that those agencies that are unable to maintain their duties as voting members will be terminated.
- They added: "Emergency meetings are open to all voting members, members, and organizations/agencies invited by Sarasota COAD."
- Change Sunshine Philosophy to Sunshine Law.
- Added the definition of a quorum.
- Changed amendments from a 2/3 majority to a simple majority.

The bylaws will be brought back to the COAD at the next meeting for further discussion.

James DuPlantier asked how many votes the County will be allowed to make because there are so many representatives on the committee. There was no consensus reached.

### Review of Impact of Haiti Situation

Stewart introduced Ed McCrane, Emergency Management Chief, to discuss the current situation in Haiti. Ed took an opportunity to introduce the new County Fire Chief, Ken Ellerbe, to the COAD.

Ed explained that the Office of Repatriation has terminated all Florida repatriation efforts as of February 20, 2010. There is still a lot going on. The State Department is still operating in Haiti. They have issued travel warnings due to

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## **March 11, 2010 Meeting Summary**

lack of food and water, disease, devastation, and aftershocks. You can get some good information on how you can help from the website that has been set up for the Haiti disaster.

Curtis Hencye shared some of his experiences in Haiti with the COAD. Ed explained that the next challenge for Haiti is going to be the beginning of the rainy season. Also, they are predicting an active hurricane season this year. Continued COAD long-term recovery planning is essential to allow Sarasota to respond to these events.

### **EOC Hurricane Exercise for 2010**

Ed McCrane explained that the upcoming hurricane exercise is state-wide. Having the state decide the type of event can tend to limit us locally in what we can do. This year the state is going to relocate the entire EOC to their alternate location in Stark. They have chosen to re-enact a storm from 1941 which landed as a Category 3 in the Miami-Dade area then exited between Collier and Lee County. It then hugged the coastline and hit the panhandle. The tentative timeline is as follows:

- May 6 – meeting of the Public Safety Advisory Group to discuss the threat
- May 7 – Meeting of EM staff to work on the Planning “P”. They will use the web PSN system to notify special needs individuals.
- May 10 – EOC activation (day shift)
- May 11 – EOC activation (night shift)

The COAD can decide how they want to play. He suggested that some injects could be developed to be used on May 11 (Tuesday). Ed will be sending out further information by email.

### **Discussion Regarding Update to ESF 8 Plans**

Barbara Kopp explained that they are working on getting the ESF 8 (Health, Medical and Human Services) Strike Teams planning documents on to standardized templates. Some of the Strike Teams are already working on it. The new Developmental Disabilities Strike Team will have to start anew since they don't have an existing plan to work from.

# Community Alliance of Sarasota County Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disaster

March 11, 2010 Meeting Summary

## Strike Team/Committee Reports

### *Mental Health/Substance Abuse Strike Team*

Miriam Lacher advised that the Strike Team met on Monday. Tammi Poswiatowski has agreed to help them with the development of their planning template. They are in the process of updating their resource list. They need new representatives from DCF and Hospice and are working with those agencies to come up with candidates. Miriam and Susan Goffard, Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, are working together to develop a method to be used by those individuals who would like to be credentialed to do mental health work during the time of a disaster. She has invited these individuals to attend their next strike team meeting.

### *Elder Care Strike Team*

Erin McLeod explained that the Elder Care Strike Team met that morning. Barbara Kopp was present at the meeting and went over their disaster plan with them. They had a good discussion on the key points of the plan. They are working on their meeting schedule for the rest of the year. Their next meeting is May 13, but that may have to change due to the EOC drill. The next meeting will be held at the Red Cross. They plan to have a tour of the facility.

### *Youth and Families Strike Team*

Linda Johnson confirmed that they too are working on their planning format. They are also updating their resource list. They are having some attendance problems that they hope will soon be resolved.

### *Volunteers and Donations Strike Team*

Pauline Tracy explained that the strike team met this morning. They are working on developing their training schedule. Friendship Volunteer Center is responsible for annual faith-based training at the EOC, Volunteer Reception Center training, and community disaster training at the Community Foundation.

Pauline introduced Curtis Hencye who has come up with a new recommendation for training. He wants to open the day-long training up to all agencies. They will have presentations on disaster relief planning. He wants to present attendees with alternatives in how they can respond to a disaster. They will have tables of information and subject matter experts on things like first aid, volunteer resources, work teams, etc. This will encourage networking in focus areas of interest to the agencies.

# Community Alliance of Sarasota County Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disaster

## March 11, 2010 Meeting Summary

Pauline updated the group on the Haiti donation effort that took place several weeks ago. They collected 11 pallets of items to be shipped. The individual who was supposed to arrange transportation was unable to do so due to the difficulty in getting into the country and the increased cost of the airlines. Several alternatives were discussed regarding how to get the donations to their destination. Ed McCrane will work with Scott Montgomery in his office to address the situation with the individual involved. Pauline explained that they had another problem with getting the event notices out through the PIO. They probably could have gotten more donations if it had been properly noticed. Ed asked them to contact him in the future if that happens again.

Marion Sortore suggested that an ad hoc committee be put together to develop pre-positioned media releases. Ed will find out who from the Communications Department can be assigned as the point person for the COAD to assist in the development and implementation of media releases. If anyone is interested in working on this ad hoc committee, please email Jamie Mahadeo.

### *Long-Term Recovery Committee*

Marion Sortore updated the COAD on the efforts being made toward the development of a Long-Term Recovery Manual. She has been working with Manatee County to get their input as well. They want to create a document that could be shared by both counties. There is a lot more work to do on it. The document will be brought to the COAD for review and comment when it is ready.

### *Developmental Disabilities Strike Team*

Anna Day indicated that they have had more interest shown in attending the DD Strike Team meetings. They had a speaker come from the Health Department to discuss emergency planning for this population. They will have a table at the Oak Park Agency Fair. They hope to have their resource list ready by then. The Rotary Club has agreed to pay for the printing and laminating of the resource list. Their next meeting is March 25, 2010.

### **Spiritual and Emotional Care Strike Team**

Stewart took the Chair's prerogative to add an agenda item to discuss a new strike team. He asked Marion Sortore to explain. She advised that the State VOAD has a Spiritual Care Strike Team. Stewart noted that the faith-based community is well represented in the COAD. Marion explained that the charge of the strike team would be to be a presence in the community for those who are

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## **March 11, 2010 Meeting Summary**

struggling spiritually after a disaster. Those individuals who need further mental health counseling would be referred to the Mental Health/Substance Abuse Strike Team. It would also weed out the individuals that would use a disaster as an opportunity to take advantage of the most vulnerable people. Phil Gorelick suggested that we contact Tom Pfaff with the Ministerial Association to get their input. Stewart offered to talk to Tom.

Miriam Lacher asked that this be brought back to the COAD as an agenda item for further discussion. She explained that there are people who will not want spiritual help that will want mental health counseling. The definition of spirituality needs to be developed during this conversation. Will there be duplication of effort here between the Mental Health/Substance Abuse Strike Team and the proposed Spiritual Care Strike Team? Chip Taylor explained that the COAD Strike Teams act as the bridge between the COAD and a segment of the community in a specific functional area. For example, the Mental Health/Substance Abuse Strike Team is a linkage between the COAD and those in the community who provide mental health services.

The consensus was to bring this issue back to the COAD on another agenda.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Sarasota COAD is scheduled for April 8, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. at the Health and Human Services Building, 2200 Ringling Boulevard, Sarasota in the Auditorium.