

**Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disasters  
Volunteers and Donations Strike Team  
Meeting Summary**

**September 11, 2008**

Present: Bob Berns, Volunteer  
Kathy LaPietra, American Red Cross  
Jamie Mahadeo, Sarasota County Health and Human Services  
Lois Natiello, DCF  
Jennifer Ourednik, Sarasota County Health and Human Services  
Bryan Pope, Salvation Army  
Dennis Stover, Friendship Volunteer Center  
Pauline Tracy, Sarasota County Health and Human Services

The contact list needs to be updated. Jamie will send it out to everyone for review and correction.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to re-engage the faith-based community. Dennis or Pauline will contact Tom Pfaff and Bruce Wismer to encourage their participation. It was suggested that on October 30 at either 1:30 or 3:30 a faith-based meeting take place in the EOC. Dennis will contact Ed by COB tomorrow and let us know one way or the other whether Ed is available on that day. This is a good opportunity for the faith community to learn about us and about how they can network in the event of a disaster. A notice will be sent out to faith-based agencies as soon as the date and time are confirmed.

The committee needs to focus on the donations piece. It has not received much attention and needs development. The volunteer coordination piece seems to be operating smoothly. The Donations Subcommittee will draft donations procedures and Sunie Wood will do a report to the VDST at their next meeting. It was noted the PSAs regarding the types of donations to be accepted needs to be ready to go in the event of a disaster. Churches should be contacted to see if they will accept used clothing. The Salvation Army will accept baby care products, non-perishables, bottled water and monetary donations.

Discussion ensued regarding the locations available for Volunteer Reception Centers now that Twin Lakes is out of the picture. It was suggested that Nokomis Community Center and Colonial Oaks Park be added. The memorandum of agreement with Community Services needs to be updated.

Dennis advised that there has been a request made to send trained volunteer managers to the gulf coast. He will send out this request to the 90 or so volunteers that have been trained.

IDEAS (Integrated Data Exchange Alliance of the Suncoast) is replacing the Tapestry work group. Senior Friendship Center is working with Jon McKenzie on their disaster database. There is also a 2-1-1 information sharing resource directory capability.

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Background screening of volunteers was discussed. Red Cross only needs the name, birth date and Social Security number of the individual to do the screening. There is a fee of \$3.50 per person. The Health Department also screens their volunteers. Is this a recoverable expense from FEMA? We need to add background checks to our list of tasks to be addressed in the next year.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Volunteer and Donations Strike Team will be January 15, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Salvation Army on 10<sup>th</sup> Street.