

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

January 15, 2009

Present: Bob Berns, Volunteer
James DuPlantier, Friendship Volunteer Center
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
Pauline Tracy, Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Gary Valinski, Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Sunie Wood, Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Discussion ensued regarding the poor attendance at meetings. Bi-monthly meetings were suggested and agreed to by general consensus.

Training for Volunteer Reception Centers was discussed. Friendship Volunteer Centers takes the lead on this. It was suggested that we not wait until a county-wide disaster drill to stage a VRC drill. It can and should be done separately. The month of May was suggested for a possible VRC drill. There was a draft VRC procedures manual prepared by Friendship Volunteer Center a year ago that needs to be updated and used during these drills.

It was noted that the memoranda of understanding need to be updated for the VRC sites. Jamie will be working on this. It was also suggested that we have a day set aside to visit each potential VRC site with James DuPlantier to familiarize him with the locations and to re-evaluate the sites for appropriateness.

The group agreed that there is a need for pre-hurricane season training with faith-based groups and neighborhood associations. These sessions have been held these in the past and have been well received by the community. Dennis Stover and James will contact Ed MCCrane to schedule the session. It was suggested that the American Red Cross be invited to be a part of the session this year.

The necessity of background checks was discussed. It was decided that the agencies receiving the volunteers take the responsibility for checking backgrounds, if they deem it necessary. The VRC doesn't have the resources or the ability to do background checks on each individual coming in to volunteer.

Discussion ensued regarding monetary and non-monetary donations. Volunteer Florida has a statewide MOU with the Seventh Day Adventists to manage large scale donations of non-monetary items. Several local faith-based organizations have also agreed (through FVC) to assist with these types of donations. James will follow up to confirm with those faith-based groups that they are still willing to

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take on this responsibility. MOUs need to be developed with those entities that will be willing to accept donations of small amounts of clothing or other items. Donations of food that is not accepted by Salvation Army, the County, etc., will be offered to All Faiths Food Bank. Individuals wishing to make monetary donations will be provided a list of non-profit agencies to contact including the Community Foundation which will be accepting donations made directly to or on behalf of the COAD to be directed to local relief efforts. A manual is being developed that will outline the donations process.

At the next meeting the committee will review the draft donations manual and discuss VRC training.

Next Meeting

The next bi-monthly meeting of the Volunteer and Donations Strike Team will be held on March 12 at 9:00 a.m. at the Salvation Army on 10th Street.