

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

August 13, 2009

Present: Nicole Double, All Faiths Food Bank
James DuPlantier, Friendship Volunteer Center
Linda Johnson, DCF
Kathy LaPietra, American Red Cross
Jamie Mahadeo, Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Jennifer Ourednik, Sarasota County Health and Human Services
John Phillips, Goodwill Industries
Bryan Pope, Salvation Army
Dennis Stover, Senior Friendship Centers
Pauline Tracy, Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Gary Valinski, Sarasota County Health and Human Services

Training

James DuPlantier reported that there was a faith-based training held at the EOC on May 19. Fifteen organizations were represented at the meeting. Ed McCrane made a presentation on the functioning of the EOC.

The Volunteer Reception Center training was held June 9. It was a three to four hour course on how to operate a VRC. Fifty-five people attended.

There was a community education meeting held June 19 at the Community Foundation. Ed McCrane made a presentation on disaster preparedness.

Children and Families Strike Team

A question came up in the last Children and Families Strike Team regarding resources for diapers and formula for the shelters as well as for families in need. It was explained that ESF 15 receives donations but is not a store. Most of the donations received should be monetary. During an event, Jamie Mahadeo advised that requests for such items could be routed through the resources unit, ESF 7, for response. Nicole Double stated that All Faiths Food Bank maintains a small store of diapers and formula. Dennis Stover suggested contacting EM to see if this is on the list of things they stockpile in the event of a disaster.

H1N1 Status

Pauline Tracy advised that the H1N1 vaccine should be received by the Health Department by the end of October. ESF 15 will be set up to meet the need for volunteers to assist with paperwork, comfort small children, and crowd control. The H1N1 vaccine consists of two shots given 28 days apart. They can receive the seasonal flu shot at the same time as the H1N1.

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Mission Statement

The mission statement was adopted as follows:

To coordinate the utilization and deployment of volunteers and donations in order to meet the needs of affected people before, during and after any type of hazard.

COAD Brochure

The committee reviewed the draft COAD brochure and made the following suggestions:

- Improve the graphics
- Spell out COAD above the acronym rather than below it

Dennis Stover agreed to mark up a copy of the brochure with other recommended changes and give it to staff.

After Action Report

Pauline Tracy went over the Improvement Plan Matrix of the After Action Report. The following comments were made:

- The list of ESFs and their descriptions have been laminated on a large chart for display in HHS Ops during an event.
- The Community Pharmacy will be making a presentation to the COAD in October.
- Ken Skalitzky and Jack Dahlmann will speak to the COAD in September regarding Essential Support Centers and what items can be reimbursed by FEMA after a disaster.
- Create a form providing more specific information on calls received in HHS Ops that includes the information necessary to be input into EISMax.
- More clearly communicate with the COAD regarding who needs to be at future exercises in HHS Ops.
- Tammi Poswiatowski and Ed McCrane will work with DOT representatives to ensure the appropriate highway signs are displayed to direct people to VRCs, ESCs, etc.
- Need to develop a better way to define special needs to clarify what populations are affected.
- The Health Department Pharmacist (Michael Demico) and/or the Medical Director (Dr. Heymann) will come to the October COAD meeting to discuss medication issues during a disaster

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- Are there any volunteers that can be used as interpreters? There is a great need for interpreters during a disaster.
- Meet with Ed McCrane and Scott Montgomery to discuss credentialing procedures for volunteers. Are the wrist bands enough?

Messaging Subcommittee

There is a need to prepare canned media messages prior to an event regarding a variety of volunteers and donations issues. Nicole Double, James DuPlantier, John Phillips and Kathy LaPietra agreed to work with Jamie Mahadeo and Pauline Tracy to develop these messages.

Donations Manual

Jamie Mahadeo distributed a revised donations manual to the group for their review. She asked for assistance in identifying other issues (scale of the disaster in particular) that need to be brought into the manual. No volunteers came forward.

During the discussion, Nicole Double suggested that the field adjacent to their facility is vacant. It could be used, among other things, by DCF if they need a field location for their emergency food stamp services.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Volunteer and Donations Strike Team will be held on September 17 at 9:00 a.m. at the All Faiths Food Bank, 8171 Blaikie Court, Sarasota, 34240.