

Sarasota Community Organizations Active in Disasters Volunteers and Donations Strike Team

September 9, 2010 Meeting Summary

Present:

Cheryl Boland, Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health
James DuPlantier, Friendship Volunteer Center
Curtis Hencye, Calvary Chapel
Kathy LaPietra, American Red Cross
Melinda Lloyd, Sarasota Partnership for Children's Mental Health
Beth Long, Vamo United Methodist Church Emergency Response Team
Jamie Mahadeo, Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Jennifer Ourednik, Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Bryan Pope, Salvation Army
Inaki Rezola, American Red Cross
Vince Riva, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Pauline Tracy, Sarasota County Health and Human Services
Gary Valinski, Sarasota County Health and Human Services

James DuPlantier welcomed attendees. Self introductions were made with brief descriptions of the function of each agency. The meeting summary of the July 8 meeting was approved as written.

Co-location of Volunteer Reception Centers (VRC)

Jamie Mahadeo explained the concept of co-locating the County's VRC with that of the Red Cross to maximize resources and eliminate duplication of effort. Jamie explained the purpose of the VRC and the difference between an affiliated and unaffiliated volunteer.

Pauline Tracy and Inaki Rezola explained the confusion that ensued after Hurricane Charley when the volunteers were referred back and forth between the County's VRC, the Medical Reserve Corps office, and the Red Cross VRC. This new process is designed to reduce or eliminate that problem in the future.

Joint Volunteer Registration Form

Discussion ensued regarding the draft joint (County/Red Cross) volunteer registration form. This form will gather the basic information on the individual. It is understood that once the volunteer is placed to work with an agency, additional information will be required by that agency.

Every agency will maintain separate volunteer databases. However, an individual could be in two or more databases if they sign up at the VRC then are affiliated by an agency or agencies to work.

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Jamie Mahadeo presented the draft joint volunteer registration form (prepared by Kathy LaPietra) for comment. The following changes were suggested:

- Add the liability statement from the Friendship Volunteer Center form
- Add a matrix for languages indicating proficiency
- Ask if individual is willing to use language skills to do translation services

Discussion ensued regarding background checks. It was decided not to add anything on the form regarding background checks since some agencies do check and some don't.

It was suggested that the finalized form be sent out to the COAD membership to see if other agencies have any input to provide.

Discussion ensued regarding what logos need to be put on the form. Jamie will work with Kathy on that when finalizing the format. Also, the form may need to go through risk and legal review. The title of the form was changed to: Emergency Support Function 15 Disaster Volunteer Registration Form.

Pre-disaster Volunteer Registration

Based on discussions with the American Red Cross, Jamie asked for feedback on the idea of opening Volunteer Reception Centers prior to an event to sign up as many volunteers as possible before they are needed. It was noted that we would need to ensure that the individuals who volunteer to work in the VRC prior to a disaster are well prepared at home before they start work. It was also mentioned that the registration form will be available on line for those with computers. In that case, public service announcements would need to be issued letting people know about this option.

Training

Pauline suggested that VRC training be set up to exercise some of these new procedures and forms. Curtis noted that a lot of training was done this year but some was repetitive. Inaki suggested that next year those individuals/agencies that do community disaster training meet first to coordinate the message.

It was suggested that the VDST consider training volunteers to work in the PODs in advance of an event. Discussion ensued regarding whether a recruitment drive without a disaster looming on the horizon would be successful.

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Marketing Plan

Discussion ensued regarding the development of a marketing plan for the VDST regardless of whether the COAD follows suit. Jamie will contact Dianne Shipley to find out how to proceed.

Next Meeting

The next bi-monthly meeting of the Volunteer and Donations Strike Team will be held on November 4, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Salvation Army on 10th Street.