

**Youth and Families Strike Team**  
**Minutes**  
**5-11-09**

**Attendance:**

Rik Jimison, Linda Johnson, Janet Kahn, Barbara Kopp, Laura McIntyre, Lois Natiello, Kim Findley

**Summary:**

Rik Jimison reported that there was a meeting with Parks and Recreation and determined that there are in fact two park sites (Arlington and Newtown Estates) that have not been assigned other responsibilities during a disaster. The sites could be made available post disaster if they are safe to be used, but they would not be staffed or stocked with supplies.

Since Kevin McKenney was not at the meeting, we do not yet know if he was able to make contact with some of the organizations we are trying to obtain information from.

Lois Natiello informed the committee that there had been discussion about facilitating a meeting with other child serving agencies to determine what additional resources there would be available post disaster. It was commented again that it has been difficult to get some of the agencies to respond to inquiries. Those agencies (DCF, JJ, YMCA-Safe Children Coalition, ELC) know that they have a critical role in disaster recovery and therefore have participated in committee and do have disaster plans in place.

This led to a discussion about the fact that these other child serving organizations (Boys and Girls Club, Girl's Inc, Girl Scouts, etc) do not necessarily see themselves as essential to disaster recovery. However they are part of our community and we need to help them understand that the resources that they may have available post disaster are important for families and children.

A decision was made to do a Zoomerang survey that will allow the agencies to more easily send us the information we need for a resource listing. Once the survey is sent, then a follow up brief conference call can be scheduled to confirm the information.

The group brainstormed the questions. Barbara and Rik were going to send the draft of the questions to the committee for feedback and then it could be sent out perhaps by the end of this week.

There was also brief discussion about expanding the mission to include a statement about non-essential support services for families post disaster.

Lois reminded the group that a new chair is needed. She also commented that the committee needs to get clarification on the role of Kevin McKenney of the YMCA and whether he is the contact person for all programs, etc.

The committee meeting then adjourned so that members could join the general COAD meeting.