



Shawnee County Community Organizations Active in Disasters Meeting Minutes 9/8/11

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was held at the American Red Cross building, 1221 SW 17th Street in Topeka, Kansas. The meeting was called to order by G.R. Laughlin, the Acting Chair of the SNCO-COAD at 1:05. He thanked everyone for coming, and had them introduce themselves to the group.

ATTENDANCE

Those community partners attending were: G. R. Laughlin – Community Resource Council; Carolyn Buono - Animal Assisted Crisis Response and the SNCO-COAD Secretary; Renee Aldrich – American Red Cross; Jerry Parrish – Harvesters; Denise Fasse – Let’s Help; Tim Hall – The Salvation Army and James and Ellen Conner – Kaw Valley Baptist Association.

It should be noted that James and Ellen Conner have a different role with the Kansas - Nebraska Convention of the Southern Baptist and their e-mail addresses have changed.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A copy of the minutes from the 7/14/11 meeting had been e-mailed to those who had been in attendance and others who had been identified as interested parties a week prior to the meeting along with the meeting reminder. Copies were also made available to those in attendance at the current meeting. G.R. asked if there were any other corrections or additions. There being no corrections, Denise moved that the minutes be approved. Renee seconded the motion and it passed by acclamation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Planning and Training Committees:

The Planning and Training Committees held a joint meeting on August 11th at Harvesters. The minutes of the Shawnee County COAD Combined Planning Committee Meeting were made available via e-mail and additional copies were provided for those in attendance at the current COAD meeting. Carolyn moved that those minutes be approved and Tim seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Website Update:

G. R. provided those in attendance with copies of slides from a power point presentation he prepared in regards to the Community Resource Council website's capabilities. He reminded everyone that the COAD can be accessed at crcnet.org, under clients at the top, and then choosing Shawnee County – Community Organizations Active in Disaster.

He has added contact information on the COAD leadership, and announcements of scheduled meetings to the minutes from past meetings, the Bylaws, our current Resource Directory and links to some training possibilities. G.R. plans to continue to update the site, and welcomes information that should be included - especially links to training that our member agencies and their respective members would be interested in. It should be noted that the goal is to have the members of the agencies personally prepared for disasters so that they will be able to respond with their agencies to serve the community.

G.R. can be contacted via e-mail at maacAdmin@crcnet.org. He added that the logo is still the old logo, as a revised/replacement one has not been designed and/or accepted yet by the membership.

NOMNATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIR

G.R. asked if there were any nominations for the Vice-Chair position for the election in November. Carolyn said she would like to nominate Tom Baumgartner, the current Vice Chair and will contact him to see if he would be willing to continue to serve. Further she would like to nominate G.R. if for some reason Tom does not desire to continue. G.R. said he would accept the nomination if Tom cannot do so.

PROGRAM:

Carolyn introduced the speaker for the meeting, Renee Aldrich, the Emergency Services Coordinator for the Kansas Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. Renee has 25 years of service to the ARC, beginning in Iowa, and was recently hired to be the assistant to Susanne Gilmore, the Emergency Services Director for the local Chapter.

Renee used a power point presentation that has been put together for orientations of new Disaster Action Team (DAT members on their role as a DAT Volunteer for the American Red Cross in providing the needed food, clothing and shelter to victims of disasters. This year so far there have been 95 local incidents. It is estimated that the cost of care per incident would be from \$400 .00 to 600.00. The expenditure for Reading was \$60,000.00. All of the money for this response comes through donations.

In order to become DAT Responder the volunteers need to attend classes. They are then placed on a team which is on call for a week at a time, beginning on Fridays. The team consists of: a Captain who reports to Renee, and who carries the DAT phone; an experienced DAT team

member who has been on several calls and thus can write up a case; and a trainee. The team members need to have their identification, perhaps an ARC vest, the DAT bag with the forms, blankets, comfort kits, and stuffed animals for the children. Clean up kits and clothing are also available but kept at the center.

Renee clarified what a disaster is. Locally the disasters are usually house fires, including apartment or motel fires, and flooding. They can also be county declared disasters such as ice storms. The DAT team can call for additional help if there are more than 3 families are involved in the disaster.

Renee described the procedures followed by the DAT teams from the time of the call from the fire department's dispatcher, through the wrap up back at the center. Some key points made include the need to check in and check out with the fire department representatives on the scene, and get as much information from them about the extent of damage, and the members of the household that are eligible for assistance. The assistance given depends upon the damage assessment and can include up to three nights in a motel via a voucher type system, a CAC (a debit type card) for some food, clothing, medicine and other health care needs, and a list of referrals to other agencies for items such as furniture and other services. Clients should be encouraged to place their food and ice into coolers to cut down on the replacement cost of those items.

The DAT team leader contacts the center that night or the following day for activation of the CAC, to provide information in regards to the event and request needed follow-up with the clients. The forms are turned into the center, the supplies replenished and gas replaces in any Red Cross vehicle if one was used, when time allows such. It should be noted that normally the canteen services are provided by The Salvation Army when required, but the Red Cross ERV can be pressed into action as well if such an effort presents itself.

A question that comes up is in regards to the pets of the family that has experienced the disaster. The Red Cross does not pay for housing the pets, but at pet friendly motels, the clients can take the pets and pay the appropriate additional costs (pet deposit) for their lodging. An alternative is to call local veterinarians for boarding at the clients' expense, if the client can't make other arrangements.

Renee stressed the importance of having the clients sign the Release of Confidential Information so that there can be follow up communication with the agencies to which referrals were made to, such as The Salvation Army.

At the conclusion of her remarks, Renee showed some additional slides with pictures from Greensburg, described the various forms that are used, and went over some trauma symptoms that can be experienced by the clients and the responders alike. She stressed that at larger disasters where the volunteers are deployed, it is important to have out briefings so that those needs of the responders can be addressed.

UPCOMING MEETING LOCATION AND DATE

The Planning/Training Committee Meeting: The next meeting will be on the second Thursday of October at /the Salvation Army, from 1 to 3pm. A reminder will be sent out a week in advance of the meeting.

The next full COAD Meeting: The next meeting will be in 2 months, is scheduled for November 10th and will be 2 hours in length. It will be held again at the Kansas Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross building, 1221 SW 17th St., Topeka, Kansas. Carolyn will send out a reminder, and the exact topic of the meeting with a draft of the minutes a week prior to the meeting. The exact topic for that meeting is yet to be determined but will be announced in advance, several times.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to discuss, Jerry moved and Denise seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by acclamation and the meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Buono
SNCO-COAD Secretary