



Shawnee County Community Organizations Active in Disasters Meeting Minutes 5/12/11

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 Steve Christenberry, the Chair of the SNCO-COAD at 1:00. He thanked everyone for coming, and had them introduce themselves to the group.

ATTENDANCE

Those attending were: Steve Christenberry – Family Service and Guidance Center and the SNCO-COAD Chair; Tom Baumgartner – United Way of the Greater Topeka and the SNCO-COAD Vice-Chair; Carolyn Buono - Animal Assisted Crisis Response and the SNCO-COAD Secretary; G. R. Laughlin – Community Resource Council; Susanne Gilmore– Kansas Capital Area Chapter of the American Red Cross; Randi Stahl – ESF-6 Coordinator of Shawnee Country Emergency Management; Mike Foster – The Topeka Rescue Mission, Jerry Parrish – Harvesters; April Maddox – Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging; Kim Dieckmann – SRS; Denise Fasse – Let’s Help; Rachel Vega-Retana – City of Topeka – HND; Jennifer Zellers – Shawnee County Health Agency and Tim Hall – The Salvation Army.

PROGRAM: Psychological First Aid

Steve introduced the team of presenters from the University of Kansas which was headed by Eric Vernberg, PhD, ABPP - Professor, Child Psychology Program. The team also included two graduate research assistants in a dissemination project for Psychological First Aid, Erin Hambrick, MA and Sonja Schwartz, MA, plus Steve himself – MS, LMLP – Director of Clinical Services at Family Service and Guidance Center, Topeka. The team shared information from the “Psychological First Aid Field Operations Guide” which is sponsored and developed by the National Child Traumatic Stress Network and the National Center for PTSD, and the topic included the Rationale for Psychological First Aid, Core Actions of PFA Field Operations Guide, and Learning Resources for PFA.

Eric began with background information which included the basic standards of PFA principles and techniques, common stress reactions in adults and children, who PFA is for, when it is intended to be delivered, and what research and experience has led us to know how to respond following disasters. He ended his section with the Five Early Intervention Principles

which were: Promote Sense of Safety, Promote Calming, Promote Connectedness, Promote Self-Efficacy and Promote Hope.

Steve and Erin then shared as little as time allowed on the eight PFA Field Operations Guide Core Actions: Contact and Engagement, Safety and Comfort, Stabilization, Information Gathering, Practical Assistance, Connection with Social Supports, Information on Coping and Linkage with Collaborative Services.

Questions, comments and input were entertained throughout the presentation. Two copies of the Field Operations Guide were made available for those in attendance to look at, and some handouts from the Guide were distributed. Eric said the guide itself if available free from NCTSN.ORG or NCPTSD.VA.GOV. And he added that online training is available from <http://learn.nctsn.org>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Committee – Steve had available the minutes of the last Planning Committee Meeting from April 14th which has previously been e-mailed out. At that meeting Randi, the ESF 6 Coordinator for Shawnee County Emergency Management, gave an overview of the focus of ESF 6 and then led the group in a brainstorming session to identify disaster response areas, with the primary areas of focus being Feeding, Clothing and Sheltering and the secondary focus areas of Childcare and Volunteer and Donations Management.

Since that meeting, G. R. of the CRC and Randi met to incorporate ideas from that meeting into the ESF 6 Annex to the Shawnee County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). They also met with and presented to the Emergency Aid Council (EAC) on these planning efforts, and the need for an active COAD in our community. Randi said that support and interest was expressed and several requested being appraised of COAD Activities.

Randi added that she will begin to contact the various agencies within Shawnee Country that she and G. R. have earmarked and get their input into the annex. The COAD Planning Committee will be continuing to assess the role of the COAD within ESF 6 and then plan to suggest changes to the language of the EOP in order to include the COAD and its mission. The next meeting will be on June 9th at 1PM at the Family Service and Guidance Center. A reminder will be sent out a week prior, and all interested parties are invited.

Training Committee – Tom said that the Training Committee met on April 21st in order to establish a baseline for the training that will be made available. It is difficult to do this at this point as the planning will drive the training needs. G.R. is going to put the COAD activities on the CRC Website, including training opportunities.

There has been a lot of sharing via e-mail about training that is currently going on that is sponsored by other organization – some in conjunction with workshops and seminars and the like. Some of our members who have attended such events will report on them at a future meeting.

As follow up to the last committee meeting, leads are being tracked down about possible training out there that can be imported. Carolyn is trying to find out more about The Eagles Wing

Foundation and the training they can provide, plus how grants could be obtained to cover the cost of bringing in the trainers. She added that FEMA Region VII contacts will be able to put on some training on sheltering for special needs populations. Carolyn also said that the K. C. Metro VOAD is anxious to have our members attend their exercise of the Volunteer Reception Center Plan on June 25th and observe its operation from the inside as mock volunteers being processed through the center. Jennifer said that the Medical Reserve Corps in Kansas City will not be able to put on training for us as was hoped.

Tom closed by saying that we need to let possible volunteers in our community know that it would be far better for them to become affiliated volunteers now and go through the training required by the agency of our choice, than wait until there is a disaster and have to rush through some training for an agency needing volunteers. The next meeting will be on June 16th at 3PM at the United Way of Greater Topeka. A reminder will be sent out a week prior, and all interested parties are invited.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A copy of the minutes from the 3/3/11 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. Steve asked if there were any other corrections or additions. There being no corrections, Tom moved that the minutes be approved. G. R. seconded the motion and it passed by acclamation.

UPCOMING MEETING LOCATION AND DATE

The next meeting will be in 2 months, is scheduled for July 14th 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

Steve then declared the meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Buono
SNCO-COAD Secretary