

Volusia Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)

General Membership Meeting – 15 March 2017

The meeting was brought to order at 2:04 PM by Frank Bruno - Chair

Members and guests present:

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| Brandon, Jerry | Evelyn, Phyllis | Ungaro, Carmon |
| Brandon, Andrea | Greenberg, Warren | Wealand, Bill |
| Bruno, Frank | Guido, Jordan | White, Pat |
| Carlton, Isaiah | Howell, Charlie | |
| Cisco, Tom | Troxler, David | |

Mr. Frank Bruno opened the meeting at 2:08 PM. Mr. Bruno called for introductions. Minutes of the previous General Membership meeting were distributed and approved.

Pastor Dave Troxler of VIND updated us with some current stats on Hurricane Matthew. The VIND organization exists to assist those who were uninsured or underinsured and have no other resources like family, friends or church to assist them.

The Volusia Interfaith Agencies Networking in Disaster (VIND) was created after the fires of 1998 and tornadoes of 1999. The State of Florida encouraged counties to create a 501(c)3 organization to assist those in needs and they would qualify for grant money through Volunteer Florida. VIND was active after the storms of 2004, Tropical Storm Faye in 2007, Christmas day tornadoes in 2006, Ground Hog Day tornadoes of 2007 and Hurricane Matthew.

In addition to the grant money from Volunteer Florida, several faith groups have also provided funding over the years; the United Church of Christ, the Lutheran Church, the Presbyterian Church, the United Methodist Church and the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Other faith communities who have their own niche of providing long term recovery resources are Mennonites and Christian Reform. Not only do they give money but they give their time to come here and assist in repairing homes.

The VIND organization provides staff that does the case management necessary to define who the people are that need our help and the coordination of volunteers who come from out of town, expecting to be put to work when they get here.

There are also some local agencies who sit at the table when determining unmet needs. VIND also seeks to find places to house these volunteers when they come to Volusia county. We are currently seeking faith communities who would house these volunteers.

When a disaster of major proportion hits us, some federal dollars come to the county through the local workforce development board, now known as CareerSource Flagler Volusia. This grant allows us to hire staff that we need to do the startup jobs and get organized the way we need to be. We can put persons

to work that have lost their job because of the disaster or have been unemployed for 6 months prior to the disaster. Within 6 to 9 months, those paid jobs come to an end. By that time, we need to have arranged for other sources of funding to keep paying them or rely upon volunteers. But this gives us time to get organized and trained to do the long-term work which will last 5 to 10 years.

Volunteers become the key to long term recovery; community agencies, organizations and businesses working together to restore us to a healthy community. Volunteers come to us through the major denominations who sign them up through their own online systems and list their qualifications and abilities. Many of these volunteers are licensed carpenters, plumbers, etc. VIND is then able to match their skills to the cases that are ready to be reconstructed. It is time sensitive work and we do not want to waste their time. There is also required contractor accounts with local suppliers that give us tax exempt, contractor prices, not retail.

With our current staff handling the call backs, it looks like it will be the end of April, before we will have a clear picture of the number of cases to be addressed. Then it will be up to the rebuild coordinators to put estimates to each case before it comes to the unmet needs committee for a review and decision for funding. The media committee is tasked with getting the message out to the community.

Currently VIND has been given a \$5,000 grant from the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and a \$5,000 grant from Diamond Resorts for startup costs. We are applying for another \$5,000 grant through the United Church of Christ. We also been assured that other grants will be coming to us from various sources for building materials.

As you can see, it is a process of all faith based and community agencies working together to maximize resources to help our community get back to where it was before Hurricane Matthew.

Hurricane Matthew stats to date:

17, 532 filed with FEMA

5,126 were over 65

6,524 Failed the income test with SBA

6,794 Received an application from SBA but never filled it out

FEMA has verified loss in Volusia County of over \$8 million

Mr. Bruno is putting together a meeting with Hyatt Brown, Glenn Ritchey and others to brainstorm about getting funding to do the work. We will need Pastor Dave at a meeting with them. We should probably have photos, stories and examples of work to be done. We will need to make a presentation to them.

Ms. White asked what type of work that VIND will do and who handles unmet needs. **Pastor Troxler** answered a single-family home, usually starting with the roof before we can do anything inside. Other needs are referred to various organizations in the county. Current needs are call backs and tarping homes. Actual construction should begin in early fall. All work is done per building codes and inspections.

Mr. Bruno indicated that we need to go back to local and state organizations and make an appeal for funding. Case management seems to be the major need right now. We may need to get a list of VFWs to get veterans involved in helping other veterans with unmet needs due to Hurricane Matthew.

Mr. Carlton asked for a calendar of some sort to help plan for the upcoming long-term recovery activities including any training and tasks.

Mr. Bruno closed the meeting at 3:11 PM.