

Volusia Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD)
Steering Committee Meeting Summary – 10 October, 2017

The meeting was brought to order at 10:00 AM by Frank Bruno, Chairman.

Members in attendance:

Brandon, Andrea	Brandon, Gerald	Bruno, Frank
Greenberg, Warren	Heald, David	
Howell, Charlie	Lewandowski, Frank	Parkhurst, Ray
White, Pat		

Guests in attendance:

Clark, Ingrid	Dominguez, Jason	Gwartney, Brad
Santiago, Emma	Sievert, Chris	

- After introductions of those in attendance, Mr. Bruno reviewed the various events which occurred during Hurricane Irma:
 - The system now in existence worked well.
 - Calls were transferred to Crisis Clean-up.
 - Our COAD is still under the county's ESF 15 but not Finance as it was last year. Now it is Donations and Community Services under Donna DeMarsh Butler.
 - There was a meeting at the United Way on Saturday, 23 September to discuss what various organizations could and would do when the storm strikes.

- Mr. Bruno next called on Pat White who is with the Volusia County Emergency Services, to discuss storm-related issues at the county level:
 - There are 183 cases still open on the Crisis Clean-up list. 250 cases have been closed.
 - AmeriCorps will be training college students to help.
 - The county is now preparing for the influx of people from Puerto Rico which is directly resulting from the storm damages.

- Mr. Bruno concluded these summaries by saying:
 - We had learned a great deal from Hurricane Matthew last year, and the many changes that have been implemented resulted in a much smoother approach which enabled the public to be helped more quickly and efficiently.
 - We sent over truckloads of donations to DeLand and helped to stock up the various food pantries and shelters.
 - Mrs. White's abilities to help in many situations was noted by Jerry Brandon, Vice-Chairman, as well as by several other people.

- Mr. Bruno explained some background on the group called AmeriCorps saying that it is similar to the Peace Corps with younger people who are trained and who serve the public where they are needed. He then introduced Ingrid Clark who is one of the leaders of the AmeriCorps group which is serving in Volusia and Flagler Counties at this time.
- Ms. Clark went on to detail what this group has been doing since their arrival:
 - Twelve (12) members of AmeriCorps are here now.
 - Some will soon be sent to another job site and will be replaced by members of a group called National Community Civilian Corps (NCCC).
 - There are approximately 100 members of AmeriCorps in Florida state-wide.
 - Mrs. White asked Ms. Clark if it would be helpful to reach out to Ken Skolinsky who is with the Florida VOAD and Volunteer Florida out of Tallahassee. Ms. Clark said yes and to please keep her informed.
 - AmeriCorps has a practice of not actually closing out an account when they are done on the chance that more work is needed from another different group.
 - Ms. Clark and her Strike Team are trying to get the 5 local colleges and universities involved in the clean-up effort so they are hosting a volunteer training event this Saturday to teach students how to do tarping for roof repairs. Since they still need a location for this training, they are going to request the use of one of the homes that is listed on the Crisis Clean-up list.

- Mrs. White had other announcements:
 - The Disaster Recovery Center, a mobile site sponsored by the Health Department, will open Sunday.
 - The Blue Roof Program has been here for a short time taking applications at the YMCA. It closed yesterday.
 - SNAP, a program which provides food for people not already on Food Stamps, has opened. It gives out up to a 3 month supply for families.

- Mr. Bruno brought up the fact that the Port Orange Fire Fighter's Union had their members go out into the city to help when they were not on duty. He suggested that he and Mr. Brandon contact other municipalities to see if this can be done elsewhere.

- Mr. Bruno next introduced Chris Sievert, Fire Chief in Deltona, who made several announcements:
 - The Greater Deltona area, which includes Osteen, DeBary, and Orange City, has become very concerned about the influx of people coming to their area from Puerto Rico.
 - The leaders of the community want this program to happen as smoothly and comfortably as possible for all concerned.
 - Because they do not want a duplication of services, they will be holding a meeting at 6:30 P M on 24 October, 2017, in the Deltona City Council Chambers.
 - The two issues involved are disaster recovery from Hurricane Irma, and the dealing with the potentially massive influx of people from Puerto Rico.
 - Many organizations such as VOAD, VIND, and COAD, as well as the office of Representative David Santiago, will be involved. Representative Santiago is co-ordinating things for the West Volusia area.
 - Mr. Sievert called on Emma Santiago, wife of Representative Santiago, to share input on these situations.
 - A website has been established called FLAPUERTORICO.ORG.
 - Schools are already being affected with a number of students entering as their families move to Florida.

- Mr. Sievert said that until now, they were unaware of many of the organizations involved in COAD. The meeting on 24 October will enable all in attendance to know where to turn for specific types of help.
- Mr. Bruno then said that the representatives from all of the organizations within our COAD have been superior in helping the public. He also noted that we are promoting CERTS (Citizen's Emergency Response Teams) organizations throughout the county.
- Ray Parkhurst, who is with the Red Cross, asked Mrs. Santiago if they envisioned having a centralized location such as the Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) which has been set up by the Red Cross at the Orlando Airport. She said yes, and Mr. Sievert added that this is one of the things to be discussed at the meeting.
- Mr. Brandon talked about the First Annual "Daytona Gives" – an event held at the Speedway to give organizations an opportunity to raise money. A minimum of 4 (four) people must work for a 12 (twelve) hour shift for 7 (seven) days. Each person will earn \$8.15 per hour. The money goes directly to the organization.
- David Heald up-dated information on VIND saying that they have had some success in attracting volunteers. They are still lacking money, materials, and supplies. Mr. Brandon suggested contacting Lowe's and Home Depot to have them work with roofing contractors. It would be very good P R for the firms.
- Mr. Parkhurst said that the Red Cross has transitioned from mass care into client assistance, providing financial assistance for people with highly damaged or destroyed homes. Their team has moved from Brevard County to Volusia for about five days and now they are in Flagler County. In this way they are doing direct client assistance. They also have an AmeriCorps team to go out to do damage assessments.
- Mr. Bruno mentioned that Warren Greenberg was working in communications at the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) as a member of ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service).

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- Charlie Howell with Career Source discussed the subject of business recovery after the hurricane. Both he and Mr., Bruno remarked that our COAD needs more business partners integrated within our organization. As of now, we are helping workers to get back on their feet so that they can go back to work if there is a business to go to. We will reach out to businesses themselves to join us.
- Mr. Howell went on to discuss the website recently established by the state named, Florida Virtual Business Emergency Operations Center (FLVBEOC.ORG) which is designed to help businesses recover from disasters. After entering a detailed description of the damage as well as what is needed, and then reviewing what other businesses have listed as their resources, it is possible to select a business which can help to resolve the situation and thus allow the damaged business to re-open. Apparently few people know about this, and Mr. Bruno suggested that we educate people by going to the Chambers of Commerce. Mr. Howell mentioned that a bulletin has been issued by the chambers with this information. Therefore, Mr. Bruno said that we need to promote it on our end.
- Mrs. White discussed the importance of filling out and completing the sheets for volunteer hours. They must be submitted to Community Services. There is no cutoff date at this time.
- Frank Lewandowski moved, seconded by Jerry Brandon, to adopt the minutes of the Steering Committee meeting of 7 September, 2017. Motion passed.
- Mr. Lewandowski also moved, seconded by Mr. Parkhurst, to adopt the minutes of the Response and Recovery meeting for Hurricane Irma held at the United Way on 9 October, 2017. Motion passed.
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 AM.