



**New Jersey Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NJVOAD)
Full Membership Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 8, 2015 - 10:00 AM
Alliance Center for Independence (629 Amboy Ave, Edison, NJ)**

Attendees

In Person: Catholic Charities (Maria Nikolatos), LSMNJ (Alex Elefante), Team Rubicon (Jon Connors), Episcopal Relief & Development (Keith Adams, Esther Valentin), NJVOAD/NJ 2-1-1 (Kelly Higgs, Linda Hardy, Themba Johnson, Marc Santiago, Bob Berardo, Cynthia Campbell, Sarah Jacob), FEMA (Lori Ross, Julie Blanciak), NJ 2-1-1 (Joe Geleta), NJ Governor's Office of Volunteerism (Judy Lieberman), Alliance Center for Independence (Luke Koppisch), United Methodist Church (Chis Miller), NJ State Police (Bryan Everingham), PSEG (Marion O'Neill), United Way Central Jersey (Candace Crane), Disaster and Risk Assoc. (Joyce Sagi), American Red Cross (Mike Prasad), A Future With (Ellen Korpar), Save the Children (Sarah Thompson), Coast Guard (Yakoff Bendell), Jersey Cares (Marla Higginbotham)

Teleconference: Salvation Army (Brenda Beavers), Hearts and Hands Disaster Recovery (Falon Alo), Americares (Kate Dischino), GSART (Shari Silverman, Christine Seminerio), Heart 9/11 (Kelly Mead), Burlington COAD (Phyllis Worrell), Seer Farms (Laura Pople), United Way (Fran Wise)

Meeting was called to order at 10:05am

Welcome and Introductions

NJVOAD welcomed 3 new member organizations. Jersey Cares was present and shared how they have contributed and can contribute in disaster, recovery and response situations. Jersey Cares helped with homeowners affected by Sandy and they are in their second year of ReadyCorp.

Bryan Everingham – Bryan Everingham introduced himself to the community. He is a Lt. with the State Police and the Preparedness Bureau and has been appointed as the VAL (Voluntary Agency Liaison). This department is trying to

keep the lines of communication open with partner organizations as they understand the value of the relationship between the State Police / OEM and the NJVOAD community.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented.

New Business

UPDATE – Keith Adams (Chair NJVOAD, Episcopal Relief Development) provided the group with a summary of NVOAD meeting held in the fall. NVOAD is trying to define itself as an organization and movement. Keith, Kelly Higgs, and Linda Hardy, met at FEMA Region 2 headquarters with administrators to discuss the many lessons learned with Sandy and future offerings.

Board of Trustees Elections – An election was held to fill various spots on the NJVOAD board. Congratulations to Joe Geleta of NJ 2-1-1 and Anthony Pluchino with St. Vincent dePaul / Catholic Charities who were elected to fill the At-Large seats. Congratulations also to Maria Nikolatos, Chairperson of the Mercer COAD, for being elected to fill the County / Regional Representative position, a newly created position which provides a voice on the Board of Trustees for county and regional VOADs/COADs.

Strategic Plan

Linda Hardy presented the Strategic plan to the group. See the strategic plan attachment for the complete details.

Working Groups/Task Force

As a result of the Creative NJVOAD meeting in October we have identified four key areas where we would like to convene working groups/task forces

- a. Disaster Case Management
- b. Donations & Volunteer Mgmt
- c. Relationship Building & Advocacy
- d. Construction & Rebuilding

PSEG FUNDING IN 2016

NJVOAD obtained its 501(c)(3) last November and applied as an independent organization to obtain its first grant of 25K. Thanks PSEG!

Virtual Volunteer Reception Center for HELPNJNOW.ORG

We will be utilizing a database called VOLGISTICS to act as a virtual volunteer reception center during “gray sky” periods on the HELPNJNOW.ORG site.

2016 CONFERENCE/CONFERENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A save the date was given to all participants for the April 13th conference that will be held at the National Conference Center 399 Monmouth St, East Windsor, NJ 08502.

Member Spotlight: Save the Children, Sarah Thompson

Sarah Thompson from Save the Children gave a presentation on the Prep Rally, Community Preparedness Index, and many other programs and resources they offer. For more information, visit: www.savethechildren.org/getready

Announcements

Catholic Charities is still actively pursuing funding beyond March 2016, they have verbally received funding from SSBG which they expect to extend their funding thru June. CC still has open 500 open and active cases.

13 out of 14 LTRG's will have "sunsetting" by the end of this year. There are still partners involved in recovery. In the southern region of NJ, an unmet needs table was formed to address unmet needs with organizations that still have some resources (this is not an NJVOAD initiative). On 12/14 at 1pm, partners and organizations with resources or funding will be meeting at the Salvation Army in Hazlet to discuss the formation of a northern region unmet needs table group.

Region 2 Update

Both Mike Burns (Regional Administrator) and Jerome Hatfield (Deputy Regional Administrator) of FEMA Region 2, are engaged and supportive of the volunteer sector of the community. FEMA region 2 will continue to have meetings with partners so that they can continue to engage and support this community. FEMA region 2 plans to have a meeting/training in April. Currently FEMA offers courses on volunteer and donations management and has a budget this year to offer this course to NJ partners. They are also developing a new training on "COOP" (Continuity of Operations Planning) and would like to offer this training.

Joyce Sagi discussed the NIEHS grant being rejected in NJ and felt that the rejection of the grant was cause for examining how grants are accepted and applied for.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on March 2 at 10am in South Jersey.