



**New Jersey Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NJVOAD)
Full Membership Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 2 - 10:00 AM
Lutheran Social Ministries
3 Manhattan Drive, Burlington, NJ**

Attendees

In Person: Catholic Charities (Maria Nikolatos), St. Vincent DePaul (Anthony Pluchino), LSMNJ (Alex Elefante, Amy Pennenga), Team Rubicon (Jon Connors, Jacob Perryman), Episcopal Relief & Development (Keith Adams), NJVOAD/NJ 2-1-1 (Kelly Higgs, Themba Johnson, Marc Santiago, Cynthia Campbell), FEMA (Lori Ross, Julie Blanciak), NJ Governor's Office of Volunteerism (Judy Lieberman), United Methodist Church (Chis Miller), Disaster and Risk Assoc. (Joyce Sagi), A Future With Hope (Ellen Korpar), Coast Guard & Jewish War Veterans (Yakoff Bindell), Jersey Cares (Brian Dean), Community Housing and Development (Ben Haygood), Disaster and Terrorism Branch (Debbie Loffredo), United Way (Candace Crane), Affordable Housing Alliance (Christina Tello), St. Bernard's Project (Kevin McGee), , The Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints (Heidi Elson), Southern Baptist (Elaine O'Neil), Salvation Army (Betty Israel), Burlington COAD/Virtua (Phyllis Worrell), St. Bernard Project (Sarah Sievert, Kevin McGee), Monmouth Presbytery (Meredith Mueller), Mercer County (Michele Madiou), Roof 4 Roof (Chuck Anania), NJ Division of Children & Families (Dennis Dura)

Teleconference: World Renew (Gary DenBesten), Salvation Army (Brenda Beavers), Church World Service (Sandra Kennedy Owes), Americares (JP Fisher), Ocean County LTRG (Sue Marticek), NJOEM (Bryan Everingham), Heart 911 (Kelly Mead), Community Food Bank (Cathy McCann), GSART (Shari Silverman), NJ Dept. of Human Services (Joe Geleta)

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am.

Welcome and Introductions:

NJVOAD welcomed 3 new member organizations: St. Bernard Project, Jewish War Veterans and Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief. St. Bernard

Project and Southern Baptists provided a brief overview of their organization and services, as did Roof 4 Roof, a recently admitted Affiliate member.

- St. Bernard Project is engaged in post disaster residential reconstruction. They are active in Ocean and Monmouth counties, NJ, Louisiana and South Carolina.
- Southern Baptist is a nationwide organization. They have mobile feeding units which can feed 10k-35k meals a day. They had 8 mobile kitchens during Sandy. They also do flood recovery, mudslide recovery, muck outs and provide shower trailers.
- Roof 4 Roof is for profit and for progress. They are in the process of getting their 501c3 to help accept and distribute donations they get from vendors. Roof 4 Roof has given over 500 roofs to needy families.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented at 10:13am.

Financial Report

Kelly Higgs presented the NJVOAD financial report. NJVOAD is holding funds in their own bank account and therefore will have their first financial report this year. NJVOAD is working with Your Part Time Controller (YPTC) to establish sound financial practices, policies and procedures. NJVOAD has existing funds from RWJF which will continue to be managed by NJ 2-1-1 as the fiscal sponsor.

Staff Report

Kelly Higgs reviewed the staff report and gave meeting participants highlights of the written report. We have 4 months until VISTA tenure will expire. The VISTAs are feverishly finishing up their work. The VISTAs will be presenting their LTRG guide and VOAD/COAD tool kit at the April 13th conference where Jerome Hatfield will be the keynote speaker.

NJVOAD has been selected to do a presentation at the National VOAD Conference in May. The focus of the presentation will be on the new and innovative ways NJVOAD has utilized VISTAs and maximized other resources to build capacity throughout NJ. NJVOAD has also been selected to present at the NJEPA Conference in May.

NJVOAD continues to meet quarterly with FEMA Region 2.

CONFERENCE UPDATE

There will be 15 different workshops at the conference. Go to : www.njvoad.org for more information.

WINTER STORM JONAS

The Wildwoods were hit the hardest. Tri-County COAD stood up resources in the area including a MARC (multi-agency resource center) which had 10 organizations offering gift cards, information, pet supplies and other resources. This was a one-day event hosted less than a week after the disaster struck.

There were two storm assistance workshops given by the Governor's office, and NJVOAD was successful in having non-profit partners invited in to provide support to community members. This was the first time this has happened and the success will hopefully ensure the opportunity to partner in the future.

NJVOAD facilitated the activation of Crisis Cleanup post-Jonas. Crisis Cleanup is a data resource tool designed by Aaron Titus (LDS Church) to connect construction/clean-up needs that are self-reported by impacted community members to VOAD partners with resources and volunteers to assist in muck-outs, clean-up, tear down, etc. 19 cases were entered by VISTA team members at the above events and Team Rubicon and the United Method Church organized volunteers to meet the needs of the affected community members. A "Hotwash" (after action meeting) was held following the implementation of Crisis Cleanup to discuss the merits and shortcomings of its utilization for a small-scale disaster such as Jonas as well as to work out some efficiencies for future activation.

SBA loans are available for 7 counties affected by JONAS. Public assistance was requested for 17 counties with a declaration pending. There will be no individual assistance.

NJVOAD COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications plan was briefly reviewed and is a direct result of our strategic plan. We will be utilizing Social Media to further NJVOAD's overarching goals.

Will there be a new logo for NJVOAD? We are considering updating/changing the NJVOAD logo to reflect what NJVOAD is now.

OLD BUSINESS

The working groups which evolved out of the Creative NJVOAD conference in October 2015 are ongoing. There are 4 key areas of focus for these working groups: Disaster Case Management, Donations and Volunteers, Relationship Building and Advocacy, and Construction and Rebuilding.

- DCM – meetings have centered around developing tools, resources and relationships to ensure the experience is more survivor focused
- Donations and Volunteers –partnering with the Governor’s Office on Volunteerism to develop a potential pool of trained AmeriCorps volunteers that could be deployed to support immediate response and sheltering needs post-disaster, and meeting with Rutgers Supply Chain Management Department to look at logistical solutions to donations management.
- Relationship Building and Advocacy – dealing with mold remediation, funding and building and maintaining critical relationships to influence policy and programs for future disasters.
- Construction and Rebuilding – the focus of this group is to educate survivors in the first weeks after the storm.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Team Rubicon gave a presentation. The link to the presentation is below.

<https://onedrive.live.com/redir?resid=8679D03B81DE8437!5298&authkey=!ALLU7xAssHYykh0&ithint=file%2cpptx>

The meeting was adjourned at ???

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 16th in North Jersey.