



NJVOAD

New Jersey Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster
Cooperation - Communication - Coordination - Collaboration

NJVOAD Membership Meeting

Wednesday, 9/14 from 10am - 12noon

The United Way of Central Jersey

32 Ford Ave., Milltown, NJ

I. Call to Order (Keith)

Keith called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

II. Welcome & Introductions (Keith)

On the Phone: Elaine O'Neill (Southern Baptist Disaster Relief); Kelly Mead (Heart 9/11); Phyllis Worrell (Burlington COAD); Syreeta Garborini (Dept. Human Services); Lauren Vatie (Team Rubicon); Anthony Pluchino (SVDP); Jen Smith (Save the Children); Lisa Galonardo (UWNNJ/Somerset COAD); David Rauer (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance); Maria Nikolatos (Catholic Charities); Gina Plotino (NJ 211); John Romano (Disaster Central)

In Person: Dennis Dura (NJDCF); Josh Matorin (NJOEM); Jack Harris (Monmouth COAD); Pat Guempel (United Way of Hunterdon Co.); Mike Gill (Adventist Community Services – Disaster Response); Candace Crane (UWCJ); Keith Adams (Episcopal Church, Diocese of NJ/NJVOAD); Joe Geleta (NJDHS); Betty Israel (Salvation Army); Cathy McCann (Community Food Bank of NJ); Chris Miller (Greater NJ Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church); Ellen Korpar (A Future With Hope); Linda Hardy (NJVOAD); Kelly Higgs (NJVOAD); Steve Nagel (Middlesex COAD); Lori Ross (FEMA); John Hammer (Rotary); Brian Dean (Jersey Cares)

a. New Member Organizations: Adventist Community Services (Mike Gill)

ACS is new to NJVOAD, but has been around for a long time. They specialize in training for warehouses, with 120 people trained for warehousing during Sandy. Ran warehouse in Robbinsville during Sandy. Also started donations operations mgmt. (mobile distributions) during Sandy. Two of their trainers, Calvin Lester and Joe Luste will be regular reps for NJVOAD. After Sandy, they settled back into training and operating a food pantry in Mercer Co. (Lawrenceville) that serves about 400 families/mo.

III. Minutes (Keith)

Maria Nikolatos approved the minutes; Cathy McCann seconded.

None opposed. Two abstained (Mike Gill & Pat Guempel). Minutes approved.

IV. Financial Report (Kelly)

Reviewed report completed by Your Part Time Controller. Summary of finances through July 2016. Only handling a \$25,000 grant from PSEG. Spent approx. \$5,000 by end of July. RWJF grant given for staff and training purposes, funded through 2017, still being managed from NJ211.

No questions.

V. Staff Report (Kelly)

Overviewed report (covered last 3 mos.). There's been a focus on VOAD/COAD strengthening - area that needs the most attention, and has most potential for partner support. Presence of a VOAD/COAD in all 21 counties, with some more attention in Camden and Salem (Kelly) and Union and Essex (Linda). Focus to make sure VOAD/COAD feel supported with the end of the VISTA project. Helping to support logistics and training ideas for groups (e.g. FEMA COOP training being held 3 times in state this Fall).

Hunterdon and Hudson Co. will also be provided extra support as they're getting (re-)established.

VI. Chairperson Report (Keith)

Keith is chairing a NVOAD State Task Force, as part of NVOAD strategic plan, which has a focus on defining membership status, needs and expectations from state and territories, and what services are desired from NVOAD as an organization. Problem needing to be addressed is a lack of representation from most states and territories at NVOAD in-person meetings. Surveying states and territories to collect info. and hope to have actionable set of recommendations by next National Conference.

Regional Coalition talks 1/mo. (NYC and Long Island) to plan how to collaborate effectively. Also, been having bi-monthly mtg. w/ FEMA R2.

VII. Committee Reports

Conference Planning (Kelly) – Starting months earlier than previously. Looking for theme and speaker. Potential free location at DCF. Good opportunity for future, when we may not have budget for conference, to cut back on registration fees. Potential networking event at nearby restaurant after conference. Date of conference likely first week in April. Committee mtg. this Friday to pick a date. Open for committee members; 1 call/mo. ask.

Nominating Committee (Cathy) – Jack Harris and Cathy McCann are on the committee. Met w/ Kelly Sept. 1st to discuss open positions: Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Keith (Chair) and Brenda (Secretary) put in for reelection. Vice-chair position open. Seeking nominations for Vice-chair, but all 3 positions are open. Elections will be in Dec. Email Cathy (cmccann@cfnj.org) w/ nominations. Convening 10/5 for next mtg. New terms start in Jan. Must be full member to be nominated.

VIII. New Business

Disaster Protocols (Linda) – Reviewed drafted Disaster Protocols. Purpose is to have clear and transparent guidelines for activation during disaster times. Open to feedback (please email lindah@nj211.org). Protocols will be posted to website once final approval received from Board. Keith added that the protocols are mostly guidance for the Chair and Board - best practices, framework (not specific steps) so all will know procedures.

Business Plan (Kelly) – Presented to Board at end of July. Focus on budget and planning. Looking to sustain efforts done during Sandy through fundraising and potential investors from philanthropic partners.

NPM (Kelly) – Sept. is National Preparedness Month. Shared 1pg Personal Preparedness Sheet with members, partners and county/regional VOAD/COADs. Please pass along through your distribution lists and Social Media. Reach out if you didn't get a copy. Keith added that in general we should practice sharing members' posts, when appropriate, to support each other's work.

LTR Assessment (Kelly) – Asked for feedback from nonprofit organizations; got varied responses. Looking to get good picture of impact from nonprofits. Asking for 3 things: number of people served, total funds spent on direct client/survivor support, total budget for the program (if possible). Looking to compare w/ State numbers to show value of nonprofit community (esp. through its flexibility and volunteer force capabilities). Goal to release report by 4-yr anniversary of Sandy. Keith added that it's important to lay out statistics when talking to philanthropic and state partners so they can see the actual results for their (potential) investments. Cathy mentioned that it was difficult to fill out the survey on behalf of organizations that serve other orgs. and not individuals (e.g. CFBNJ; ACS; Jersey Cares. Kelly will brainstorm w/ those who have ideas to figure this out. To add additional ideas, email Kelly (khiggs@njvoad.org).

VOAD/COAD Training & Support (Kelly) – Was already covered during mtg.

Gotham Shield (Joe) – Federal government is doing a large scale exercise in Weehawken, NJ. The exercise scenario will be an improvised nuclear device detonated by the Lincoln Tunnel Helix. The goal is to practice the 5 mission areas: protection, prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery. ESF 6 will play a big role in the exercise. NJOEM will be coordinating w/ FEMA and DOD. Dates of exercise are April 18-28, 2017 – though the response portion of exercise will not start until 3rd day or so. Initial planning mtg. upcoming to get more details, then breakout into roles (i.e. ESF leads) to come up with objectives for planning. Possibly extending dates of exercise to cover recovery portion; may be at NJEPA conference.

Future Meetings (Keith) – Looking to adjust mtgs. to fit current stage of cycle.

Monthly calls – Recovery is ending. Do we want to cont. using for members to share info. and keep in touch monthly, or just stop the calls. Ideas: Use calls to get alike orgs together to talk. / Calls as needed. → Call probably stopping; maybe transitioning to topical call and use as needed. Will send out notices for calls.

Quarterly Mtgs – Business mtg. and trainings at regular mtgs. Ideas: Bring outside orgs. in to present trainings beneficial to our partners (federal govmt., businesses, etc.). Also, explore opportunities for greater sharing and planning among member organizations; seeking to understand and fill gaps.

Days for mtgs. – Do set dates work best or adjusted? Feedback: Best to keep as is; pick four dates and notify group, staying away from Mondays and Fridays.

IX. Old Business

Philanthropic (Kelly) – Kelly met w/ Elizabeth Murphy about getting nonprofits and philanthropic groups together. Convened group for initial planning: Discussed Sandy and future ideas. Interest from group to have an event but it has evolved into a discussion of a true cross-sector collaboration: govt. (DCA, legislature, etc.), not just nonprofit or philanthropic. Want to talk about lessons learned and how to build relationships heading forward. This event would be separate from annual conference. Possible ideas to use LTR Assessment as something to pull people in to discuss. Success will depend on who we can get to commit; without the right mix of people participating, it may not be worth having. More details to come.

Working groups (Kelly) – DCM working group is active: pooling tools and common strategies – e.g. how to handle DCM Program Grants together in future so as not to burden just one org; educational resources and tools to disseminate right after disasters for victims which include general info. to guide them. The group is meeting this month. / Donations & Volunteer Mgmt. working group also active: they've been working w/ State OEM to have NJVOAD added to state plan annex; working w/ Rutgers to have students help with logistics mgmt. They're having a meeting next wk. / Advocacy working group looking to reconvene soon. / Construction & Rebuild working group basically done w/ work.

Strategic Plan update (Linda) – Reviewed strategic plan progress. Everything is on target - either in progress or complete, with exception of financial audit, which can't be completed yet.

X. Announcements

Candace – Middlesex Co. getting at least 2 more rounds of Blue Acres buyouts. New rounds: S. River mtg. next mo. for about 100 homes; Woodbridge close to 100 homes. Most of these buyouts in Middlesex are Sandy affected homes. Only case management left is Catholic Charities-Metuchen, which is closing next mo. Case Mgmt. is a big component to the success of this program to help with everything that comes after homeowners receive their offers. Financial assistance is still available in the county (ear-marked for blue acres), but no case mgmt. They may be partnering w/ someone taking over Catholic Charities' cases when they close; the org. has not worked w/ Blue Acres before though. Any ideas for case mgmt. for next 6 mos.-1 yr., please contact Candace to help w/ process. (Needs: removal of oil tank, soil remediation, appraisals, rental assist, attorney fees.)

Lori (FEMA) – FEMA has been doing Preliminary Damage Assessment Trainings in NY/NJ – Electronic training, know what to look for to get more IA approvals. Also, Disaster Survivor Assistance trainings have been done for FEMA employees (200 so far) to deploy into field.

Joe – Donations & Volunteer Mgmt. training w/ FEMA, 9/27-29 at Ocean Co. OEM; listed on NJOEM Field Training website. 9/22 FEMA R2 webinar on NPM tools. Also, wanted to extend thanks on behalf of himself and Commissioner Connolly to everyone for help w/ Hermine.

Adjournment

Chris Miller moved; Cathy McCann seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:32am.

Next meeting will be on 12/7 at 10am in South Jersey.