



## Conference Call Minutes, NJVOAD

Friday, December 18, 2015

10:00 AM

Present: Ben Haygood (Housing Community Development), Keith Adams (ERD), Kelly Mead (Heart 9/11), Meghan Sullivan (Disaster and Terrorism Bureau), Neal Stephens (Disaster and Terrorism Bureau), Anthony Pluchino (Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton), Nikki Dawson (GSART), Dave Wong (American Red Cross), Candace Crane (United Way), TJ Treges (Merit Service Solutions), John Romano (Hope Coalition), Amy Pennenga (Lutheran Social Ministries), Rob Challender (NJ Department of Children of Families,) Themba Johnson (NJVOAD), Anne Goodman (VISTA), Bob Berardo (VISTA), Sarah Jacob (VISTA),

### Updates

**Nikki Dawson** – GSART recently received its 501(c)3 status. GSART is working to build capacity for animal response teams. They are also working with animal emergency working groups to incorporate more trainings

**Candace Crane** – The United Way of Central NJ is working closely with Catholic Charities to continue the progress made for Sandy victims.

**John Romano** - John signed up for Case Management committee and had some ideas that he wanted to share. He would like the committees to be “reimagined and think about, lessons learned, challenges with “Ven Project”, Survivor experiences, government integration and matrix.

Keith Adams responded with the purposes of the committee’s/task groups (4).

1. Have members engaged in the VOAD process
2. Development of points of consensus
3. Take lessons from Sandy and make them “best practices” for the future

**Ben Haygood** – Ben Haygood discussed the housing issues for renters that have been impacted by Sandy. The renting projects as they relate to victims of Hurricane Sandy are for 90 days when the clients come on line. You can contact Ben Haygood directly with questions about housing at [bhaygood@hcdnnj.org](mailto:bhaygood@hcdnnj.org) or 609-815-6820.

**Amy Pennenga** - LSM is continuing to bring in volunteers for 2016. The Camp Evans host site is open next year for at least 9 months. You can book it through the Presbyterian Hotline at 866-732-6121.

**Anthony Pluchino** – DCM thru 3/20/2016 working for additional funding through June 2016.  
Thanks Everyone!

**Keith Adams** – Congratulations to our new NJVOAD board members, Anthony Pluchino, Joe Geleta and Maria Nikolatos. At the most recent membership meeting NJVOAD revealed its strategic plan which we envision will sustain and grow NJVOAD over the next 5 years. Robert Wood Johnson grant money extended through 2017 for NJVOAD.

**Next Call:**

Friday, January 22nd at 10am  
1-800-320-4330 pin#225748