



Conference Call Minutes, NJVOAD

Friday, February 26, 2016

10:00 AM

Present: Chris Miller (United Methodist Church), Kelly Higgs (NJVOAD), Lt. Bryan Everingham (State Police O.E.M), Betty Israel (Salvation Army), Keith Adams (ERD), Linda Hardy (VISTA), Brenda Beavers (Salvation Army), Joe Geleta (NJ211), Brian Dean (Jersey Cares), Ellen Korpar (A Future with Hope), Aronld Valentin (Catholic Charities), Maria Nikolatos (Catholic Charities), Cynthia Campbell, (VISTA), Marc Santiago (VISTA), Amy Pennenga (Lutheran Social Ministries), Rachel Ianieri (Community Health Law Project), Themba Johnson (NJVOAD), Sarah Jacob (VISTA), Ben Haygood (Housing Community Development), Lori Ross (FEMA), Candace Crane (United Way), Cristina Tello (Affordable Housing), Kevin McGee (St. Bernard's Project), Heidi Elon (The Church of LDS & Just Serve), Joyce Sagi (Disaster and Risk Associates), Wendy Chen (Disaster & Terrorism Branch), Mike Gruber (The Church of LDS)

Faith Based Partners

Salvation Army – The current program is funded thru the end of June. Continuing to work through the case management function and trying to close as many cases as possible. Salvation army is getting referrals from programs that are closing. Support groups are continuing. The Statewide Interfaith group is continuing to meet and are focused on reviewing the materials that are currently available for promoting a Preparation Sunday to be used with faith based organizations in preparation/anticipation of the next event.

Future with Hope – Still taking on clients because they have the capacity to do so.

Latter Day Saints – Will have a booth at the NJVOAD Annual conference where Just Serve will be featured.

Catholic Charities – Continues to have funding thru end of June with hopes of an extension. They currently have 360 cases and are still getting calls for assistance. Catholic Charities is at capacity and are redirecting people to other partners and to NJ211. Catholic Charities is continuing their Educational Components through workshops that are free to homeowners who are interesting in rebuild. Have completed 2 workshops in the Monmouth County area. They go through the 8 steps during the workshops including funding, contracts, permits, variances, large tech engineers, insurance and banking, inspections and CO's. They are still offering resiliency training to schools and communities. C.C. is continuing their mental health assistance for those affected by Sandy as well as an Adult Group that they are currently housing in Ocean with hopes to start one up in Monmouth.

Lutheran Social Ministries – Continuing to bring in volunteers from around the country to work. Working with work partners to match them work and housing. Placing a great deal of people at Camp Evans. RAP (rental assistance) is ending for a number of clients.

Non Profit and VOAD Partners

Jersey Cares – is excited to be a part of NJVOAD and excited to be a part of the NJVOAD work groups.

Community Health Law Project – is still helping with Disaster Assistance. CHLP has a great deal of people contacting them mainly with contractor issues and issues with State Programs. CHLP is starting a Foreclosure Assistance Program with a non disability requirement, is up to 250% of poverty and to help with small issues related to foreclosures like short sales, reverse mortgage etc. Covering Ocean, Burlington, Gloucester, Camden, Salem, Cumberland, Atlantic, Union and Essex. If you have clients that have foreclosure issues, they can call 856-858-9500 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

St. Bernard's Project - funded thru 2016. Open Enrollment for AmeriCorps members starting in April and another enrollment in September. They have construction capacity in the spring and the summer.

Housing and Community Development – continues to give priority to Sandy impacted persons on several different properties and developments statewide. Additionally, Housing and Community Development have a lead initiative. If anyone has a person or family who would be willing to speak to the press about being affected by lead, call Ben at 609-815-6820.

United Way Middlesex – working in Middlesex County and providing ongoing funding to support Case Management through Catholic Charities of Metuchen.

Affordable Housing - Planning next series of workshops that are open to all. They do have capacity to take on clients in need of housing counseling. If a client has foreclosure needs, they can help people mainly from Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

Disaster and Risk Management – continuing to work with partners.

Statewide Partners

FEMA – Priority is to move to the World Trade Center Site. Trainings are coming up, next one coming up on March 3rd.

Disaster & Terrorism Branch - Still involved in community trainings. Check out their website for more information and training dates at www.njdrcc.org

State Police Office of Emergency Management - Public Assistance Component to the request for Disaster Assistance is still pending. No Individual Assistance. SBA has been declared for 7 counties including Atlantic, Burlington, Cape May, Camden, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Ocean. Optimistic that the public assistance declaration will be coming shortly.

NJ211 continues to post on the 211 website regarding JONAS to help people impacted by the storm. Joe is transitioning to Department of Human Services as Director of Emergency Management effective March 7th.

JONAS Update

Sarah Jacob (VISTA) – Tri County COAD set up a MARC. NJVOAD helped to stand up Crisis Cleanup. Tri County COAD will be having a Hotwash for the MARC and response efforts at their April meeting. At present, No new money coming in down there. Some of the partners have some new money.

NJVOAD Updates

Conference planning is moving forward and registration should be launching by the end of next week. NJVOAD will be inviting members to exhibit at tables at the conference. Formal invites will be emailed out.

Question of the Week is on the NJVOAD Facebook Page

We are exploring a new NJVOAD logo

Working groups are ongoing throughout the state. Conversations ongoing on regarding ideas on how we can move dialogue from conception to execution/solution.

Trying to bring FEMA trainings to NJ and will hopefully begin with COOP training in April or May.

Next NJVOAD call is March 18th (please note the change of date).

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