



Conference Call Minutes, NJVOAD
Friday, April 22, 2016
10:00 AM

Present: Kelly Higgs (NJVOAD), Keith Adams (Episcopal Relief & Development), Linda Hardy (VISTA), Anthony Pluchino (Catholic Charities), Arnold Valentin (Catholic Charities), Cynthia Campbell, (VISTA), Themba Johnson (NJVOAD), Lisa Roland (Affordable Housing Alliance), Megan Sullivan, Debbie Loffredo (Disaster and Terrorism Branch, Division of Health and Mental Services), Rachel Ianieri (CHLP), Sarah Jacob (VISTA), Amy Anderson (United Way /Hunterdon County VOAD), Tom Mergola (NJ211), Ben Haygood (Housing and Community Development), Anne Goodman (VISTA)

Faith Based Partners

Catholic Charities – is at status quo with the current program but are in the demobilization phase. They have 4 DCMs currently managing 154 cases remaining in the program through 6/1/2016. Catholic Charities is identifying sections of cases that need to be transferred out. CC is also looking at construction related cases and will be referring to A Future with Hope, St. Bernard's Project or AHA. Any cases that can be transferred out they are looking to partner with organizations that have the capacity to receive these cases.

Episcopal Relief and Development - is in the process of transitioning their program. On track to end in December 2016. Their direct client assistance is almost finished. Will continue to work with partners and clients to complete recovery plans. The Diocese has the resources/ability to cut checks post Dec. 2016 for any commitments (all commitments should have been submitted). . They are continuing to focus on groups and partners to help them close out their cases while also focusing on preparedness.

Government Partners

Disaster and Terrorism Branch – The NJVOAD conference was beneficial especially for networking. They are trying to finalize the protocol for working with addicts after a disaster. Protocol for Methadone dispensing van. Will be presenting at EPA. Will offer trainings for all of their disaster partners.

Non Profit Partners

Affordable Housing Alliance – in the process of moving from the Atlantic Highlands location to the Eatontown location May 1st. They also have a new DCM!

Community Health Law Project – truly enjoyed the conference and is still in Ocean, Monmouth, Atlantic and Cape May. They are still trying to direct people to resources and assisting with legal issues.

Hunterdon County – held their first VOAD meeting in March. They are continuing to make plans and solidifying who is on the VOAD for the county. They have a block party coming up on April 30th to showcase their Community Volunteer Center which would be a place where people who want to volunteer can convene.

NJVOAD Updates

Thank you for the VISTAs, planning Committee and presenters for a great conference. 100% of the people who completed the conference survey said they would come to another conference in the future.

VISTAs are working on a VOAD/COAD and an LTRG guide specific to NJ. VISTAs will be finishing up June 18th.

Sandy LTR Assessments are being compiled right now so that we can accurately measure what the nonprofit community has done to help the communities recover from Sandy. We are still looking for additional data to complete the picture. So far we were able to measure \$160 million in direct assistance/support for Sandy Survivors.

NJVOAD will be at NJEPA conference as both an exhibitor and presenter.

Upcoming trainings are scheduled for **HELPNJNOW** to ensure that VOAD/COAD representatives and NJVOAD members understand the volunteer database including how to find volunteers, how to post volunteer opportunities, to run reports and enter hours that we can track for the FEMA match. If you did not receive an email invite regarding these trainings, please contact Kelly. There will be two trainings in May and 1 webinar on June 1st.

Kelly also reported for NJ Interfaith Disaster Network, previously known as the Interfaith Partnership for Disaster, which has the same mission. They are focusing on outreach to houses of worship throughout NJ to spread the word about preparedness. They are also focusing on getting more members involved and being part of the VOAD/COAD planning. They are planning to promote Ready and Faithful NJ, which will utilize the same resources as Ready Sunday but with a title more inclusive of all faiths.

There is a lot of great work going on in the working groups. If you would like to get involved in the working groups, the dates are included in the newsletter and you can contact Kelly for more information.

Additional Updates

Keith reported that St. Vincent DePaul is looking for a warehouse space in the area of Wildwood to facilitate their house in a box program to help up to 29 families that were affected by winter storm

Jonas. If you know of any people/business that know of warehouse space please contact Irma Colabrese at: ircolabrese@comcast.net

NJVOAD may be receiving national recognition! NJVOAD has been nominated for a National VOAD State and Territory Program of the Year Award and Innovate Project of the Year Award.

Next NJVOAD call is Friday, May 27th

1-800-320-4330 pin#225748