



## Conference Call Minutes, NJVOAD

Friday, May 27 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), Rachel Ianieri (CHLP), Sarah Jacob (VISTA), Amy Anderson (United Way /Hunterdon County VOAD), Ben Haygood (Housing and Community Development), Anne Goodman (VISTA), Lori Ross (FEMA), Wendy Chin (NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services - DTB), Jessica Limbacher (Volunteer Lawyers for Justice), Amy Pennenga (Lutheran Social Ministries), Joe Geleta (NJ DHS OEM), Bryan Everingham, Josh Matorin & Kelly Boyd (OEM)

### Government Partners

**DHS**– Joe Geleta provided an update on DHS OEM’s plan to hold feeding and mass care meetings in June.

**Disaster and Terrorism branch** - Wendy Chin provided an update. They will be holding several trainings in June including: State Police Conference in Trenton on June 28<sup>th</sup> as well a training with Department of Health MRC Infectious Disease Training on June 29<sup>th</sup>. They will also have a Personal Safety for Disaster Mental Health responders in Bergen County. All DRCC training opportunities are accessible via: <http://www.njdisasterresponsecrisiscounselor.org/calendar-initial.php> or <http://www.njdisasterresponsecrisiscounselor.org/calendar-recert.php>

**OEM** – Bryan Everingham provided the following update. The shelter task force members presented at the NJ Emergency Preparedness Conference. They met with over 50 emergency management experts to present their findings. They will also have met with the Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness during their planning group meeting and are meeting with Commissioners on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. They plan to review the challenges and corrective actions to help remedy the concerns related to shelter and mass care. They will also be activating to support with the PGA tournament July 25<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. There will also be some overlap with the DNC July 25-28<sup>th</sup> in Philadelphia where they will have some supportive role. They are also working on an EMAC request for law enforcement assistance for the city of Cleveland July 18-21<sup>st</sup> for the RNC.

Josh Matorin – reported that he was working with Kelly Higgs and Jeff Burns and others to update the Donations Management Annex and would soon be working on the Volunteer Management Annex which is being separated from Donations.

Kelly Boyd – reported that she has been working with FEMA to set up a Core Advisory Group to bring together AFN advocates with emergency managers and planners from around the community.

They have been looking to tie in VOADs/COADs and Kelly Higgs offered to share contact information.

**FEMA** – FEMA Region II is excited to host the State of the Region Event on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 26 Federal Plaza which is open to everyone. Please check the 5/20 NJVOAD newsletter for information and the registration link. Julie Blanciak is now the Individual Assistance Branch Chief for FEMA Region II – congratulations Julie!

### **Non Profit Partners**

**Community Health Law Project** – Rachel Ianieri reported they are still seeing clients and are assisting new clients (5-6/week). She and Jessica Limbacher with VLJ are compiling statistics for the DCA about the problems with RREM that nonprofit partners are still seeing. The information request is in the 5/20 NJVOAD newsletter. If there is anything you would like the DCA to know regarding difficulties and challenges please contact Rachel ([rianieri@chlp.org](mailto:rianieri@chlp.org)) or Jessica ([jlimbacher@vljn.org](mailto:jlimbacher@vljn.org)). The soft deadline for feedback is 6/1/2016.

**Affordable Housing Alliance** – is comfortable in their new Eatontown location. They are having a Homebuyers Information Fair on June 17<sup>th</sup> from 3-7pm for first time buyers. This will be held at the Eatontown Recreation Center. If you have not received an invitation or flyer you may contact Teresa at 732-982-5072.

**Housing and Community Development** – has tons of activities occurring with the Community Development Spotlight Month coming up in June. They are still actively looking for two AmeriCorp Vistas, they are looking for a Healthy Home Specialist and Homelessness Specialist.

### **Faith Based Partners**

**Lutheran Social Ministries** - LSM is continuing to bring in volunteers from around the country and locally. They have a need for volunteer groups in the fall. You can send any volunteer groups to Amy or A Future with Hope. Camp Evans is still housing volunteers thru September. LSM has a host site opening up in Brick so they will be able to house volunteers in that area.

**Catholic Charities** – C.C. was able to secure additional funding for the Sandy DRP which will continue their services through the end of the year. Funding will continue to include the staff that they presently have. 144 cases open and active. 80 cases in Monmouth and 64 in Ocean. If any agencies are closing, please touch base with Arnold and Anthony if any cases need to be transitioned to C.C., they will determine their availability to take on additional cases. Maria Nikolatos will be out of the country for three months so please contact Arnold Valentin (Acting Interim Director) at [avalentin@cctrenton.org](mailto:avalentin@cctrenton.org) or 800-652-2080.

**Episcopal Relief and Development and NJVOAD** – NJVOAD WON THE STATE VOAD OF THE YEAR AWARD!!! Thank you to the past and present boards. Thank you also to the staff, Kelly, Themba and past and present VISTA teams! A big thank you to our member organizations!

“CAN” Legacy will continue through October for existing cases. They have a commitment that they will work on an agency by agency basis to support any organizations beyond that date.

Episcopal Relief program continues through the end of the year but are moving to a close out posture. Individual Assistance has ended. They will continue to work with their nonprofit partners.

### **County Updates**

Hunterdon County – Amy and Maria attended the VOLGISTICs training, and it was very informative.

Ocean County – Sue reported that they are still working on NFIP claims for homeowners. They have been able to get over 2 million dollars back into the homeowners’ pockets. They are still running their unmet needs table once a week. They have been able to secure funding so they will be operating until the end of December.

Ocean County COAD – Sarah Jacobs reported for the COAD that there will be a COAD meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am, tentatively held in Toms River. Please submit your nominations for elections at this meeting. We will vote and approve the bylaws on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Salem County – Marc Santiago reported that they are working on developing bylaws.

Camden County – Marc Santiago reported that they are in the process of setting up their launch for 6/17.

Essex County – Kelly reported that Essex county will be launching on June 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am at the Comfort Suites in Newark.

Union County – having a training on 6/9 at 10am at the OEM EOC office in Westfield.

Passaic County – is having a training, Access and Functional Needs that Kelly Boyd will facilitate on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

If you want to know about meetings and trainings at the county level, please go to the NJVOAD website calendar ([www.njvoad.org](http://www.njvoad.org)). If you want anything to be placed on the calendar, contact Kelly Higgs or Themba Johnson.

### **Additional NJVOAD Updates**

Linda Hardy and Kelly Higgs were able to co-present with Katrina French (Corporation for National Community Service) at the National VOAD Conference on “Leveraging funding and National Service Resources for Disaster Recovery Response and Resiliency”. Many people were interested in how they could replicate what we have done in NJ.

Kelly Higgs also presented at NJEPA conference about the VOAD movement in NJ, highlighting HELPNJNOW.

NJVOAD has been offering VOLGISTIC training which is the volunteer database for HELPNJNOW. Any of our member organizations that work with volunteers and our county VOADs and COADs can attend these trainings. There will be one additional training via webinar on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The webinar will be recorded.

**NJVOAD's quarterly membership meeting will be on June 16<sup>th</sup>** at 10am at Jersey Cares in Livingston, NJ. We have an at large member seat to be filled at this meeting. There will be a conference line available.

**Next NJVOAD call is Friday, June 24th**

**1-800-320-4330 pin#225748**