

Southern Tier/Finger Lakes Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

Meeting Notes April 21, 2016

Present:

Dave Isbell (NYS OEM), Jonathan Hilsher (ASC), Jamie Marcella (NYS DHSES), Brenda Gausly (NYS DHSES), Niki Turnmyre (Schuyler Public Health, MRC), Lynda Lowin (CC Steuben), Jackie Woollett (IHS), Suzianna Fritz (CC Chemung), Sue Larson (CC Schuyler), Kristin Card (Chemung EMO), Tim Marshall (Steuben EMO), Carol Wood (IHS)

Welcome & Introductions

Disability Awareness Training – Dave Whalen Niagara University

Carol provided information about the cost and logistics for this presentation and the group agreed to continue the discussion. Carol will get the details of what would be covered, and will consult with Tim Marshall and Lynda Lowin regarding possible sources of support for the fees. We thought that trying to schedule for some time in the fall would be possible.

Agency Profile & Services: Catholic Charities

Lynda Lowin provided a very informative overview of Catholic Charities' work and capacity for supporting communities during and following a disaster, both national level resources and services provided locally.

Scale of Response – Shannon Building Fire

The process of responding to the Shannon Building Fire involved County Emergency Management, Red Cross, Steuben DSS and Catholic Charities Steuben. Each county follows their own process for accessing "voluntary" resources such as Catholic Charities, and the response varies based on the scale and scope of the incident. In the case of the Shannon Building, public and private assistance was available.

Discussion also covered "small-scale" situations such as quarantines and isolations as a public health issue.

Follow-up (lead):

- invite Red Cross to give an overview at an upcoming VOAD meeting, and to talk about their hand-off of individuals' needs to other agencies (DSS, e.g.) (Carol Wood)
- begin discussions with relevant organizations about serving as a fiscal agent for larger scale incidents (declared and smaller) where fundraising and distribution of grants may be a need (Carol Wood)
- outline possible scenarios & how VOAD activation can/should take place (Lynda Lowin)

Crisis Track Software





Tim Marshall and Kristin Card gave an overview and short demo of Crisis Track software which is now available as a damage assessment tool (including public works/infrastructure needs as well as private assets). It is cloud-based and accessible via desktop, tablet, phone, and includes GIS and many other functions. It will greatly aid in tracking the costs of staff time, distributing jobs to various teams, for disasters.

Announcements or Other Business

On behalf of Gary Roller, Carol announced that the Lutheran Disaster Response structure has been changed somewhat.

Next meetings – 50 Liberty Street, Bath, NY

July 21, 2016 – 1:00 pm

October 20, 2016 – 1:00 pm

For meeting notes, resources & other documents: www.ihsnet.org (Services, ST-FL VOAD)



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