



Southern Tier/Finger Lakes VOAD
Meeting Notes
January 9, 2014

Those present:

- Elliott Blauvelt, Chemung County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (by phone)
- Kathy Burns, Steuben County Office for Aging/RSVP
- Judy Coleman, American Red Cross
- Michael DeVries, NY State Police/Office of Emergency Management
- Shelbi DuBord, United Way of Broome County (by phone)
- Phill Ginter, United Way of Broome County
- Patsy Glista, Lutheran Disaster Response
- Kristin Card Griffin, Chemung County Emergency Management (by phone)
- Barbara Hubbell, United Way of the Southern Tier
- Joyce Hyatt, Chemung County Medical Reserve Corps
- Sue Ann Kirkum, Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc.
- Joann Kowalski, Elmira College
- Lynda Lowin, Catholic Charities of Steuben
- Tess McKinley, Institute for Human Services
- Tim Marshall, Steuben County Emergency Management
- Deb Palumbos, Rochester Region VOAD (by phone)
- Gary Roller, Lutheran Disaster Response
- Karen Travis, Steuben County Public Health
- Carol Wood, Institute for Human Services

Carol opened the meeting and participants introduced themselves.

Patsy Glista and Gary Roller presented information on the services offered in recovery from disasters by the Lutheran Disaster Response, followed by Q&A. Their handout is available at http://www.ihsnet.org/Files/files/lutheran_disaster_response-presentation_101_updated_11_1_13.pdf.

Key points (with apologies for condensing a very full hour of information):

- Members of NVOAD and NYVOAD
- Informal organization, very small administrative/coordination group – 39 disaster response coordinators nationally
- LutheranCare, Clinton NY, is fiduciary & can handle disaster-related donations for LDR
- Rely on people in the congregations to adopt disaster response in their missions and to deploy
- Can offer various services during a disaster depending on the individual parish's existing portfolio: child care, meals, food pantry, spiritual/emotional care, nursing, construction & volunteer management and/or reception center
- Financial resources may also be made available from the national level (Federally declared)
- Works with designated case management team, unmet needs table on incidents requiring long term presence
- Training for congregations & their leaders, disaster planning, preparedness, other topics (materials available)
- May or may not have housing services available, depends on the congregation & facilities

Additional information & resources available at <http://www.elca.org/Resources/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>



They do not pre-register volunteers, but issue a call for assistance through their newsletters. Based on their experience with other regional VOADs, they encouraged us to connect with leaders/members of other faith-based groups: Methodists, Presbyterians – difficult to do but try to get them involved.

Joann Kowalski gave a brief description of the disaster management degree and certificate programs at Elmira College and the group also discussed the Governor's State of the State address (1/8/14) and the references to disaster volunteers, disaster management and related points. Transcript: <http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/01092014-transcript-2014-sos>.

Information was presented on 2-1-1 HELPLINE's Give Help volunteer clearinghouse and resource center, as well as the supplemental funding provided through the Regional Volunteer Centers. An overview is available at: http://www.ihonet.org/Files/files/disaster_volunteer_project_2013-14.pdf. Through discussion, we identified numerous state and federal initiatives to recruit & register volunteers (i.e. Citizen Corps), multiple disaster volunteer plans in various public agencies, little information or resolution of the liability question, and related issues. Steuben County is providing support to IHS in order to formalize policies and procedures for our VOAD and information will be sent out as that progresses over the coming months. We will also investigate the Tioga County "continuum" exercise of identifying available services & material resources, defining roles and identifying gaps. The Disaster Volunteer funding will enable 2-1-1 HELPLINE to collect and organize information about disaster voluntary agencies and the services they generally provide, contact information, etc. The State Regional Volunteer Centers have submitted a proposal for AmeriCorps support to place a member at each volunteer center; notification expected in March.

We also agreed that it's important to not limit discussion/consideration to natural disasters but to take an "all-hazards" approach and to consider small-scale incidents as well as those classified as Federal disasters.

Outreach to additional constituencies: Economic Development Council members, businesses, college representatives, government officials.

Please send corrections or missing information to Carol.

Specific follow up: connection with Economic Development Council & Tioga County planning exercise, in addition to funded project activities.

The next regular ST/FL VOAD meeting will be held in early April 2014, agenda items and program ideas to Carol Wood.

ST/FL VOAD materials & resources available at www.ihonet.org (Services, ST-FL VOAD).