



Southern Tier/Finger Lakes Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

Meeting Notes

November 5, 2015

Present: Carol Wood (IHS – 211HL), Gary Roller (Lutheran Disaster Response), Shelbi DuBord (Broome County COAD), Karen Travis (Steuben County Public Health), Joyce Hyatt (Chemung County Medical Reserve Corps), Maleaha Smith (IHS, Corporate & Volunteer Engagement), Sue Larson (RSVP – Catholic Charities Schuyler/Yates), Dick Evans (RSVP – Catholic Charities Schuyler/Yates), Tim Marshall (Steuben County EMO), Lynda Lowin (Catholic Charities Steuben)

Exercises & Training

The 18 county WRECK-IT Exercise organized by SEMO Region 5 continues, with multiple components including a communications component, activation of the Steuben County EOC and other activities in the future. It has involved a wide range of agencies and large number of individuals over many months. For more information, contact Tim Marshall.

Shelbi DuBord gave a brief overview of the Broome County COAD's Volunteer Reception Center drill and highlighted some of the details about how work assignments were designed, how the drill was staffed (by COAD members), and the physical set up of the facility. She identified recovers.org as a free website for organizing disaster relief; pre-registration by organizations is advised. Carol mentioned aidmatrix.org and the work order tool (believed to now be crisiscleanup.org) that served well following Hurricane Sandy. In BCCOAD's case, they are working with the volunteer administrators' association (VAST) to develop ability to manage spontaneous volunteers. Carol Wood described the IHS corporate & volunteer engagement initiative and partnership with United Way of the Southern Tier, which is building on the volunteer center/training efforts that have taken place over the past several years.

Carol provided a handout from Niagara University on an EM Disability Awareness Training that is being offered there in December. The group thought it would be worth trying to bring the presenter to our area for a similar training. Tim Marshall will follow up.

Carol & Gary Roller gave a brief overview of the Disaster Volunteer exercise they participated in some months ago (February 2015). ST/FL VOAD members were invited. They followed the Disaster Volunteer Management Plan developed the previous year and supplemented it with an Accident Report Form based on the exercise.

Additional training opportunities may be considered, including FEMA's volunteer/donations management and others.



Planning & Organizing

Shelbi DuBord also provided a description of, and circulated, the very comprehensive Volunteer & Donations Management Annex (Broome County CEMP). Some details are still being formalized/developed including handling of material donations. Discussion continued around “lead agency” for the volunteer reception center, liability & insurance, and related topics.

Carol relayed information about 2-1-1 New York’s Disaster Planning process now that 2-1-1 is available across the entire state.

Some ideas around ST/FL VOAD operations were floated throughout the meeting, as noted. Carol will distribute a more complete list of agencies on the mailing list.

Gary Roller, also a member of NY VOAD, described its efforts to gain strength. They have compiled a Directory of members and associated services, and have been holding monthly meetings by conference call. Gary will request additional information from a member of the board.

Over the course of the meeting, it was suggested that the following organizations/individuals be invited to participate: Dawn Bush (Chemung Public Health), Arbor Housing (Joyce Hyatt will contact and Carol and Tim offered to assist), CVAC (Carol will contact), ProAction (Lynda will contact), EOP, VAMC-Bath. A fiscal agent for monetary donations may need to be identified since United Way of the Southern Tier is no longer a member.

Captains Wanda and Francisco Rivera of Corning Salvation Army are the disaster response representatives for SA, but were not able to attend this meeting.

Next Meetings

Carol will poll the full mailing list to find the best option for regular quarterly meetings, and future agenda will include opportunities for member agencies to give a short presentation about the services they offer and their potential role in disaster recovery. The subcommittee structure will not be re-started at present.

For ST/FL VOAD purpose & objectives: www.ihonet.org (Services tab)
NY VOAD: nyvoad.communityos.org

ST/FL VOAD Mailing List – Agencies

AARL

Alfred State College, Civic Engagement
American Red Cross, Finger Lakes Chapter
Broome County COAD
CCE Extension Disaster Education Network
Catholic Charities Chemung
Chemung County Chief Information Officer
Chemung County Fire & Emergency Management
Chemung County Medical Reserve Corps
Chemung County Public Health
Chemung County Department of Social Services
Citizen Corps Program Manager, DHSES

CLARA

Elmira College Disaster Management

FEMA

FEMA VAL

FEMA VAL Region 2 NY/NJ

Food Bank of the Southern Tier

IHS

Legal Assistance of Western New York
Lutheran Disaster Response Leadership Team
Lutheran Disaster Services

Medical Reserve Corps

NY VOAD

Rochester Region VOAD

RSVP Catholic Charities of Schuyler & Yates

Salvation Army - Elmira

Salvation Army - Steuben

Schuyler DOH, MRC

Schuyler DSS

Schuyler EOC

Catholic Charities Steuben

Steuben County Citizen Corps

Steuben County Emergency Management Services

Steuben County RSVP

Steuben DOH

Steuben DSS

United Church of Christ

United Way of Broome County

United Way of the Southern Tier (information only)

Upper New York Conference UMC

Yates Administrator

Yates County Chamber of Commerce

Yates County DOH

Yates County DSS

Yates OFA

Institute for Human Services
NYS VOAD
Keuka Housing Council

Needs updating:
NY DHSES – not accepting emails
S2AY - Chemung Public Health – staff changes