

CENTRAL TEXAS VOAD MEETING

June 12, 2014, 10 am

United Way for Greater Austin

Austin, Texas

Present at the meeting were Toni Silver, Katie Braymer, Perla Santillan, Anne Brennan, Daniel Geraci, Janice Butler, George Barnette, Karsten Darden, Kevin Christensen, Cathy Norman, Betty Learned, Joe Hillis, Debbie Hillis, Robbie Anderson, Margery Marshall, Chris Bugbee, Alan Ford, Bob Andrews, Anna Tangredi, Gilbert Bennett, Natasha Rosofsky, and Nikki Krueger.

The group was welcomed by Chair Chris Bugbee. There were introductions by those present.

The minutes of the April meeting were reviewed. There were some corrections offered. On the third page Habitat for Humanity was misspelled, and UMCOR was said to be offering case management services when what they are offering is case manager training. The minutes were approved with these corrections.

UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR:

Chris took over in April and has been doing an assessment of the organization, himself and with the help of the Executive Committee. We have good leadership and active members. Some areas to improve:

- 1) We don't have a great idea who all of our members are. We need to sort that out and reengage inactive members.
- 2) We need an updated disaster plan. We have an old one which we can update. If you are interested in being on this working group let us know. A gap for us in the Central Texas VOAD is we don't know how to respond and when to respond, and don't know how to communicate with the City and tell them how to talk to us.

There was discussion about the disaster plan, about resources and gaps concerning this, about the need to have someone sit at the VOAD chair at the EOC, and other related issues. There were volunteers to assist with the Disaster Plan.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Education:

Anna gave an update on the TDEM Conference and other matters related to TDEM. There were 4000 people at the TDEM Conference in San Antonio. Bexar County put on a demonstration of their command center. TDEM will be getting a huge tent for a mobile command center. This tent comes with a trailer.

TDEM has been kicking around the idea of putting VALs (doing what Anna does) around Texas. These will be volunteer positions but will have reimbursable expenses. These VALs will help the community come together in the event of a disaster and can help with volunteer and donations management. They will have to be affiliated with a volunteer organization, based on an MOU between the organization and the agency.

Upcoming trainings:

TDEM will offer a volunteer reception center training in October if this can be arranged. The 2015 training schedule will be out October 15.

There was discussion of FEMA courses and what is available. There is an upcoming training in Maryland. For info on this contact Alex.Landesco@dps.texas.gov.

Anna can offer "Disaster 101" training.

Membership:

Anita (not present) wants to reach out to organizations and get them back involved.

Communication:

The website is up at www.centraltxvoad.org. It has a twitter piece, which is being handled by Anita. Agenda and minutes will be available on the website once approved.

Long Term Recovery:

TARG is the official recovery group for the Central Texas floods. They are continuing their work. UMCOR did a training on case management. An assessment was done. They have been working on how to bring in support. They need coordinators for volunteers and donations. They do have volunteers arriving from specific groups to do specific work on the calendar over the next few months.

TARG is looking for a data base that the City, County, and TARG can all use for everything. (The City would really like this.) There was discussion about data bases and resources for managing volunteers.

The City is still working out who can rebuild, who can't, who will be bought out, etc.

TARG is meeting weekly on Mondays. The website is www.targetingrecovery.com. The phone is (512)669-6413. The office is at Widen Elementary. They will start an unmet needs table soon and want people with resources to be at the table for that.

World Renew came in and did a damage assessment. They spent 2 ½ weeks on the ground and then ran a walk in center. They left fliers at 100 unoccupied homes. 100 surveys were filled out. There were some in roads in areas that were reluctant to talk.

AGENCY ROLES:

We went around the room and got data from those present about the roles their agencies perform in disaster.

Natasha Rosofsky: /United Way for Greater Austin's 211 Navigation Center: 211 can ramp up in a few hours, bringing in 20 people to handle calls, taking data on whether to, how to, where to evacuate. They are involved in assessment of caller needs. In order for 211 to function they need to be informed of what is available – who, what, where, when. You can call 211 or email in your data on resources. United Way for Greater Austin raises money for disaster services. And has a presence at the EOC. Hands on Central Texas has run a VOC and deployed spontaneous volunteers.

Margery Marshall: Lutheran Social Services Disaster Response: At early stages of disaster will distribute gift cards. Can do case management and intake and function in various scenarios at unmet needs tables.

Gilbert Bennett: Retired Houston Firefighter , Travis County ESD2, Pflugerville Fire Dept. – his goal is to connect volunteers, churches, food bank with Fire Dept. and is reaching out to get volunteers.

Betty Learned: HAND is a non-profit that provides attendant care to elderly and disabled. Most recently provided someone for the resource center at Dove Springs to speak to resources for the elderly.

Anna Tangredi: TDEM. TDEM is responsible for all phases of disaster in Texas. Volunteers and volunteer agencies are now much better understood at TDEM because of the work of Anna Tangredi and Larry Shine.

Toni Silver/American Red Cross: Toni's job with the Red Cross is liaison to volunteer groups. Red Cross is engaged in mass care, sheltering, feeding, bulk distribution, case work and client services, disaster mental health, disaster assessment, and more recently disaster assistance centers. They have representatives at the SOC.

George Barnett: Methodist Church and Blanco County Volunteers. Blanco County Volunteers has 200 folks in Blanco County on their list that can be called on in disaster. Between disasters they keep busy and engaged doing community service activities, such as building wheel chair ramps for low income families, etc.

Methodist Church: Volunteers have provided clean outs, muck outs etc., as well as emotional and spiritual care. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) has 2 staff in New York and all else are part time volunteers. They provide money for LTR, training, and emotional and spiritual care. Case management training is free on request. There is also a Methodist program in partnership with the 7th Day Adventists. The 7th Day Adventists will come to your disaster in a truck that is a clothing store. They provide used clothing that is cleaned and sized. The Methodist Church collects clothing

and turns it over to them, Now doing this collection during Lent. The warehouse is provided by an Adventist college that requires community service.

Cathy Norman: Churches of Scientology Disaster Response: volunteers are trained in aspects of emotional and spiritual care and stress relief, perform other functions based on need and capacity, including support of other disaster organizations. International organization. National/International responses in region have included Katrina/Rita, Ike, 2013 Oklahoma tornadoes. Working to build up local capacity.

Kevin Christensen: LDS Church: People is their strength and locally they have a good number of volunteers to draw on. They can do muck outs and have cleaning kits to give out. They also trained to do disaster assessment through Red Cross and have done disaster assessments.

Bob Andrews: Austin Baptist Association/Texas Baptist Men: ABA Disaster Response Team is part of Texas Baptist Men. They have shower and Laundromat facilities. They have a chain saw unit. They have a box unit that can bring lots of boxes and packing material into a disaster area so people can box up their belongings. They have mud out units, feeding units (they cook the food,) child care units, blue tarp units. TBM has over 13,000 trained volunteers, part of SBC which has 120,000 volunteers across the country. 20,000 units were provided in Katrina/Rita. Recently Homeland Security called TBM and asked them to assist border patrol with feeding, child care and shower units. There are 500 children a day coming into their facility and they can only handle 100. TBM sent people down as a stop gap until private contractors can take over. They have a 30x50 tent that can be erected fast by volunteers.

Daniel Geraci: ADRN (Austin Disaster Relief Network) has 123 churches in the Austin area and has helped start other groups in other areas. Their goal is to walk with families affected by disaster. They try to reach every door to reach every family. They have crisis intervention teams to help get them out of crisis and ask if they want to be sponsored. They help with immediate needs while the LTR gets it together. They raise funds for disaster, have helped with warehousing, have chaplains, have a call center during time of disaster where they can take 150 calls per hour, they have raised 800 volunteers trained by Red Cross for shelter work, they have done clean up, they have their own Ham Radio unit for communications. They have done lots of training and have trained over 2900 people.

Karsten Darden: Food Bank: They provide water and meals to disaster area, work with the Red Cross, and have a pet food partnership with PAWS. They sent a mobile unit to Dove Springs, and West used their product recovery dept. to collect food. They work with partner agencies to deploy food to disaster areas.

Janice Butler: Bastrop County Recovery Team: This group is working itself out of a job as Bastrop nears the completion of recovery. They do have more properties being re-built in the fall with Christian Aide Ministries. They want to stay engaged and help in

preparedness and help other communities in recovery. They were honored as “outstanding recovery group” in 2013 by Chief Kidd.

Alan Ford: Presbyterian Church USA/Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: This is an International group. They have assessment, emotional and spiritual care, and can offer small emergency grants of a few thousand dollars. PDA operates mainly through the presbytery of South Texas. The Presbytery asks PDA for assistance. The PDA has resources for long term recovery. PDA set up a volunteer housing center in Bastrop, and over 1 ½ years it hosted 1000 volunteers, 100 different organizations, organized 40,000 volunteer hours. PDA provided shower trucks, the volunteer village manager, tools and equipment. PDA can run/support volunteer villages of this type, and can trained people to do all this. Locally, the Presbytery is rebuilding and re-defining what it is doing in disaster.

Joe Hillis: Info Tech DRC: This group helps communities in disaster with information communications technology, available to governments, volunteer groups, etc. They can provide satellite internet backup, computers, printers, laptops, telephones. They provided help in West, Oklahoma, etc. They can accept donations of old computers.

Chris Bugbee: One Star Foundation: They have a team of 30 Americorps members who can deploy to disasters. Americorps has over 2000 across the state that are somewhat trained and can be called on for help. They can direct volunteers.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be August 14, 10 am, location to be determined.

Cathy Norman
Secretary