



# Central Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

## Meeting Notes October 11, 2018

Anna Tangredi, Hosting

Annie Harton, TARG

Betty Learned

Christine Brown, Travis Cty OEM

Cathy Norman, Ch of Scientology Disaster Resp

Christine Reyes-Paiz, Catholic Charities

Dick Perrone, TARG

Jill Smith, City of Austin HHSD

Sheila Lowe,

Shelby Thomas, OneStar

Jiann-Ping Loh, Tzu Chi Foundation

Alan Ford, Pres Ch USA

Robert Vidaurri, ADRN

Matt Bisacca, American Red Cross

Sara Record, DRTx

Karsten Darden, Central Texas Food Bank

Meeting was called to order at 10:13 am.

### **Minutes of August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Anna asked if everyone had reviewed and for any corrections?

Only correction: Sheila Lowe mentioned she was present, but not on the list. Please add.

Motion to approve with correction: Dick Perrone

2<sup>nd</sup>: Chris Reyes-Paiz

In Favor: ALL. No abstentions.

### **New Business:**

Approve Shelby Thomas as communications Chair – website, social media.

Question was asked: Would Shelby be Public Information Officer (PIO) to work with Travis County during a disaster? Betty stated she should be. Anna wasn't sure this had been discussed with her, so we will vote on her as Communications Chair for now and talk with her about the other.

Motion to approve Shelby as Communications Chair: Matt Bisacca. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dick.

In favor: All

Five new standing Committees:

Any objection to any of these committees? No

Motion to approve new standing committees: Chris Reyes-Paiz

2<sup>nd</sup>: Dick Perrone

All in Favor: All. No abstentions.

### **Website/Social Media**

- Shelby is managing social media.
- Thanks to OneStar who paid for us to have this, along with two other url names.
- We don't have a Facebook account, but Anna will contact Shelby to see if we can set one up.
- TARG has a FB page. Please LIKE the page.

- We DO have a Twitter account, as well, since this is the first point of contact for a disaster. Once we move to long term recovery after a disaster, people move to Facebook. Our Twitter name is: **@CenTexVOAD. Please follow.**

### **Emergency Operations Center (EOC)**

Since there are so few people here today, we will bring this up again next time. But we need people to sit in the EOC during a disaster. Travis County uses a hybrid system, so we need training. The person(s) who fill seats for CTXVOAD can be anybody in your organization. 1-2 people on each shift would be good.

### **MARC Workgroup Update:**

- Minutes of past MARC Workgroup meetings were distributed. Meet every two weeks.
- Next meeting is on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, then we will do a tabletop exercise. A tabletop exercise is where everyone sits in a room with certain scenarios/information and we talk about what our organizations will do. There will be “surprise” injects so we will be able to respond on how to handle. Anyone not part of the committee who wants to be at Central Texas Food Bank from 8:30 – 12:30 for the tabletop, please SIGN UP. You will come as an observer. If your organization can provide support of any kind, please let Anna know (this is for first responders, NOT long-term recovery).
- We need short-term case managers to attend this event.
- Matt will talk to coworkers about attending.
- Mr. Loh would like to attend.
- Food Bank will set up room for the table-top.

### **Updates:**

#### Sheila – Bastrop LTR

- At the last meeting we weren't halfway completed with unmet needs. We are completed now with all 2017 Harvey cases.
- The grant from Austin Community Foundation was very helpful and allowed us to finish. The 8 that we took on in the summer – we are halfway through with those. We never know when we will be finished. We recently had two referrals from 2016, so you never know when they will come back with more names. Because of this, we are still working on Harvey and Memorial Day 2016.
- We received funds from the Heart Program to continue case mgmt. and work with families affected by Harvey.
- Have had a couple of community events to emphasize preparedness for the next time. Last two events have been with senior center in Bastrop. Trying to get into the school districts.
- COAD is up and running with MOUs in place with lodging for humans, and boarding for small domestic animals. Looking at transferring the long term recovery MOU with thrift stores so we can help them. We are going into our 2<sup>nd</sup> year. Lots of support from law enforcement and city services – they attend all meetings. All three chambers are involved. Businesses are involved. Will be speaking at the Bastrop Chamber luncheon soon.
- Before we invite regional or national organizations, we are trying to get the community buy-in. Invited CAP COG Homeland Security Task Force – Recovery and Resiliency Committee to attend. First meeting is next week. Sheila will report back.

BR3 – no update. Anna stated they had completed all cases. They are developing a COAD in their community. They will have a night out for New Year's where they have entertainment.

TARG – Dick. No cases active. We are following with City on their buyouts. There is bond money on the November ballot. Looking at raising elevations out of harm's way. Elevation depends on flood predictions. Dick stated they bought out 14 properties at thoroughbred farms/Creekside. Previously, they had purchased the northern section.

Anna: Kudos to TARG. Their input and pushing influenced the buyouts. Betty agreed. (This is for Onion Creek.)

Dick: Code Enforcement – trying to get someone at their next meeting to discuss processes.

#### Matt Bisacca – Communications:

- Discussed survey results – 8 responses: EOC, suggestions on how to help others (MARC), Conferences on disaster-related activities (LTR and professional development).
- Training coming up on Outlook – October 18<sup>th</sup>, 12-1. How to use Outlook. Led by Operations Manager at Red Cross. Will be held at Red Cross Office on Pershing, Building B.
- Attended DOVIA Conference – anyone who oversees nonprofits. Third Wednesday of every month, free meetings. Oct. 17 11:30 – 1, Austin Sunshine Campus, 2225 Andrew Zilker Road. Meetings are free, but costs to be a member.
- Matt will feed all training opportunities to Shelby to put on the website. We will then let everyone know by email link so they can view there.

#### Communications – Shelby:

- We now have three website domains
- **CentralTXVOAD.Org - centraltxvoad.com - CentraltxVOAD.org**
- Been updating the website and updating the membership.
- Will send an email out to CTX VOAD to get org bios.
- Will connect with Matt to put trainings on the website.
- Anna: Maybe once a quarter to a highlight of a member of CTX VOAD. Can we do this? (Yes)
- Shelby will get a FB page and let everyone know so everyone can like.

#### LTR – Dick:

No additional report.

Anna: Will be working with all committees when LTR begins.

#### Emotional and Spiritual Care – Alan Ford

- National VOAD – following their model. Gave an update. If you are interested in this committee, let Alan know.
- Anna: In the past, we have used this committee to walk through a MARC because they are so devastated. This is always a benefit to survivors. This is one role. When you are bringing in people like Americorp, we need someone who can debrief these young people on a daily basis...Day ONE...to help with what they are seeing and experiencing.

#### Cathy Norman – Membership:

- Cathy presented a new potential member: Central Texas Action Response Team. Based in Killeen. Jurisdiction is Bell, Williamson, Milam, and other counties. Andrea Forte is director. Training, CPR, exercises. Light search and rescue, mass care and assistance. Applied for Partner. Told her we were

Travis County, but partnering with Williamson and others. Cathy's proposal is to okay them for Affiliate membership and connect them with Williamson.

- Anna: Suggested we postpone a vote until they can present to us. Want to be sure they can attend meetings.
- Cathy: Propose we put them on a contact list so they are connected.
- Will add them to contact list (Sara) and connect them to Williamson County (Anna). Cathy will ask them to give a presentation in December.

Motion to adjourn: Betty, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris. In favor: All.

**POTLUCK MEETING in December!!! Everyone bring something to share.**