



# Central Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

## Meeting Notes June 13, 2019

### Attendees:

Andrea Forte - Central TX Action Response  
Anna Tangredi  
Annie Harton - TARG  
Ben Buotte - Austin Public Health  
Cathy Norman - Church of Scientology  
Charles Baker – Crestview Disaster Ministry  
Christa Walikonis - DRTx  
Christine Brown – Travis Cty OEM  
Christine Reyes-Paiz, Catholic Charities  
Damian Morales - OneStar  
Dan Knauft – American Red Cross  
Denise Blok – Central TX Food Bank  
Ed Sackett – Mission Prebytery

Jiann-Ping Loh – Tzu Chi Foundation  
Jim Street – UMCOR  
Darden Karsten – Central TX Food Bank  
Kye Tavernier – Austin Public Health  
Kyle McKnight – Wilco OEM  
Matt Bisacca – American Red Cross  
Pierre Nguyen – TX Conservation Corps  
Roger Wines – Travis Cty ARES & REACT  
Sara Record – DRTx  
Sheila Lowe – Bastrop Cty LTR  
Shelby Thomas – OneStar  
Tim Dale – ADRN  
Elizabeth Wills – BR3T

Dan Knauft called the meeting to order at 10:04 am.  
Introductions were made around the room.

Minutes from April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were presented for approval.

Motion to approve: Cathy Norman

2<sup>nd</sup>: Roger Wines

Minutes were approved unanimously.

**Damian Morales – 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session Presentation.** Damian presented an overview of bills that were presented at the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session – what passed, what didn't, and summaries of those bills that pertained to disasters and disaster preparedness. A PPT presentation showing bills is included with these minutes. The presentation was also sent to all membership after the meeting.

### Discussion:

- HB3668: Denise Blok: request from Feeding Texas for monies to be set aside for mobile feeding unit. Pre-positioning some supplies (water, etc.) for disasters. Food Banks are more flexible and nimble than state orgs they have used in the past. Ready to respond. TDEM doesn't have the ability to mobilize quickly; this is why they want to pre-position supplies so that Food Banks can get them out immediately while TDEM is getting up and running.
- SB982 – Christa Walikonis said bullet 3 was an amendment because another bill we worked on did not pass, and they added this from that bill.

### **Ad Hoc Committee – Dan Knauft**

At last meeting, we talked about ways we can be more effective in communications. Committee was formed. 9 recommendations came out of the committee.

#### **Pre-Disaster Communication**

Recommendation: Alert VOADs when CTECC moves to partial activation. This would serve as a preparedness notification for VOADs and help organizations to ascertain their readiness.

Recommendation: Once CTECC moves to partial activation encourage VOADs to provide a quantitative number of what services, resources, or personnel their organization could provide.

Recommendation: Continue to maintain the Central Texas VOAD's resource and contact matrix. This would allow all partners to know what assets a VOAD could share during a disaster.

Recommendation: The Central TX VOAD Matrix needs to include contact information for each VOAD logistics lead or the main disaster response contact. This information is critical because the Central TX VOAD EOC Liaison needs to be able to connect the EOC requestor with the representative of the VOAD group that can provide those assets.

#### **Emergency Operations Center Staffing**

Recommendation: Have the staff consist of some CTXVOAD leaders but also members of VOAD organizations. This model could provide better oversight and potentially more staff for the EOC during disasters. These would need to be dedicated staff. Training would need to be provided.

Recommendation: As part of EOC staffing, there needs to be a formal process for requesting VOAD assistance and tracking those requests. This would allow all parties to know what had been requested and the status of those requests.

#### **Communication During a Disaster**

Recommendation: Test the concept of communicating between VOADs during a disaster by creating a Google Drive folder that could contain (1) operational updates that could be shared, (2) Situation Reports, or (3) Incident Action Plans (IAPs).

Purpose of Google Drive is to get updates real-time. Matrix info can also be shown in Google Drive, which gives real-time updates.

Recommendation: Explore using Google Drive to maintain three specific pieces of information that would be accessible to all Central Texas VOAD members:

- 1) The EOC Schedule
- 2) Matrix Information
- 3) Central TX VOAD organization's SitReps, IAPs, and/or operational updates

#### **Discussion:**

Damian thought these suggestions were a good idea.

Cathy: Good guideline for how to proceed.

Annie – Would there be training sessions on how to access? (Yes.)

Andrea Forte – Great idea, especially using Google Drive. I could have used some of the resources this past week with the two tornadoes we had here last week.

Damian: Would these be contingent on CTECC operations? Dan: mostly for Travis and Williamson Counties.

Kyle McKnight: thought this was a great idea. Would promote good collaboration. I would love CTECC to say Williamson County on it, but it hasn't happened yet.

Charles Baker: Experience vs non-experience – we need to always think about training new people. Need to look at having a non-experienced person sitting there with someone who is experienced. Dan said he would formulate an email to send to people in your organization to recruit.

Matt: Great idea - There will be some training involved. Could have a test of the Google Drive system. When would you want to have a drill/session for training? (The sooner, the better, since we never know what will happen.) Matt could bring a disaster services technology folks to help.

Motion was made to approve recommendations: Matt Bisacca

2<sup>nd</sup>: Denise Blok

The recommendations were approved unanimously.

### **Roger Wines – Emergency Communications**

Amateur Radio Presentation.

Field Day – June 22 from Noon to June 30 at Noon – encouraged any and all to come to Field Day to try out ham radio, train, get a license, etc. Will be held at Red Cross.

[rogerwines@arrl.net](mailto:rogerwines@arrl.net) if you want more information.

### **UPDATES:**

**BR3T:** Nothing to report

**TARG:** Annie reported in Dick's absence. Doing some planning right now since it's quiet. Working on smaller issues – getting rain gutters unclogged, etc.

**MARC Workgroup:** Compiled a good report. Trying to set up meetings to present reports. Ben said as soon as they get a solid date, they will send out.

**Case Management:** Jill and Betty have been working on a process. Jill is transitioning to a new position – her previous position is open.

**Communications:** Email Shelby if you have anything that needs to get out. Will set up an informal drill on Google Drive for upcoming communications.

**Donations Management:** Nothing new to report. If you have any questions, open.

**Education & Training:** Earlier this year, we had someone come out from ReDiscovery. Online class – CEUs available – only through end of July. June 7 and 2 classes in July.

Andrea Forte: There is a donations mgmt. course in July at Central Texas COG. July 23-24, 8-5 pm. Located in Central TX Compost building in Belton. Registration is on Preparing Texas.

**Emotional & Spiritual Care:** Cathy shared that Dan Franklin from the Crisis Resiliency Team shared at their last meeting about their trainings. They can tailor their training for any group.

**Long Term Recovery:** No updates

**Membership:** No updates.

**Preparedness/Resilience** – Damian. Focusing on all pieces of legislation that we discussed earlier. Building local resilience. Engaging private sector giving as it related to LTR.

**Volunteer Management:** No updates.

**Announcements:**

- Onion Creek Greenbelt Park will have ribbon cutting on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 am.
- Charles Baker: Reported on Training at Crestview from Texas Baptist Men. Had good cooperation with Red Cross providing materials, as well as practical exercise in housing people, paperwork, etc. Had about 100 new folks. Anyone is welcome the next time.
- Austin Refugee Festival at Zilker Park on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11 – 4 pm. [Austinrefugeefestival.com](http://Austinrefugeefestival.com)

Thanks to Damian for the legislative report. Damian recommended that everyone look at the website he provided to see any other bills that may related specifically to your organization.

Next meeting: August 8

Meeting adjourned: 11:40.