



Central Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

NOTES from April 9 Meeting ~ 10:20 am

Dial-in Information: 978-990-5000

Access Code: 869708

Attendees:

Alan Ford – Pres Church USA

Betty Learned

Cathy Norman – Church of Scientology DR

Charles Baker – Crestview Disaster Ministry

Courtney Goss – TDEM

Damian Morales – OneStar, TexasVOAD

Dan Knauft – Central Texas VOAD Chair

Denise Blok – Central Texas Food Bank

Dacey Efantis – Team Rubicon

Dick Perrone – TARG

Giarra Buckingham – Team Rubicon

Jiann-Ping Loh – Tzu Chi Foundation

Kai – City of Austin Public Health

Karsten Darden – Central Texas Food Bank

Laura Stough – Center on Disability & Dev

Linda McCabe - DRTx

Matt Bisacca – American Red Cross

Robert Vidaurri - ADRN

Sara Record – Volunteer, CTX VOAD Sec'y

Shelby Thomas – OneStar Foundation

St. Vincent – Roz

Taylor Wolter – OneStar Foundation

Meeting was called to order at 10:25.

Roll Call was taken to determine attendees.

Review/approve minutes from last meeting.

Dick Perrone – motion to approve

Notes were accepted as written unanimously.

Nominations for Central TX VOAD positions:

Sara Record explained that we would create a slate of nominees to be voted on at our next meeting. For Membership Chair, Denise Blok has expressed interest.

Denise Blok: I am very willing to serve.

Nominations were sought from the floor” – there were none.

For Chair, Dan Knauft (who has ably served the past two years) has said he would be willing to serve another two-year term.

Dan Knauft: Thanked membership for opportunity to serve the last two years. Feels we have made some progress. Willing to do another 2 years, but if anyone else is interested, great.

Sara asked for other interested parties – there were none.

A slate will be prepared with these two names for our next meeting.

COVID-19 Updates:

City of Austin COVID website: www.austintexas.gov/covid19

One thing they started doing late yesterday afternoon was reporting confirmed cases. They now have numbers of people who have actually recovered – currently 106. Community resources are also included on this website.

Highlight of two organizations presently serving COVID-19 pandemic:

Central Texas Food Bank - Denise Blok: We are doing everything we can to ensure we are providing food to our 21 counties. 30-300% increase in food distribution. In addition to vulnerable populations, we have people who are laid off, etc. We have a little red tape from Dept of Ag of USDA. While we have food, there are rules we have to follow. Not all of those rules have been waived at this time. This is slowing us down. We have switched to a drive-thru model for most areas with Low-touch distribution to maintain social distancing. Creates additional trafficking, food must be shelf-stable. Some areas don't have freezer space. We have a schedule for all food distribution for April – can send out. Lists all counties. If you want to know where food distribution sites are, Call 211 or click on “Find Food Now” on their website. We've only had 20 of 260 agencies that have closed temporarily. We are doing good with volunteers and have plenty of people building emergency food boxes. We are helping people with SNAP applications – phone, face-to-face apts with social distancing in place. Trying to tackle from all sides to ensure people have food they need.

If an organization wants to get involved, they can contact Denise Blok.

ADRN – Robert Vidaurri

Primary operational objective at beginning was to secure PPE and send to Medical Ops Ctr. As of 4/6, we have sent over 587k PPE. Still open to receive more PPE. Recording spontaneous volunteers. There are devices out there for you to capture your volunteer information. Serving Austin Public Health, as well, with non-medical information.

Do you have a stop date for collecting PPE? The CAMOC has asked us to secure 2,000 DIY face masks. We anticipate the collection of these for 2 more weeks.

Texas VOAD – Damian Morales

We are experiencing many of same issues as CTX VOAD. Key issues: food insecurity, lack of volunteers. Many volunteers are struggling with financial donations to sustain operations. Have begun to see beginnings of layoffs of staff. Could impact ability to respond to future events. Courtney Goss is our new State VAL (from TDEM). We are here to support this VOAD, as needed.

Courtney Goss – Continuing to monitor donations through www.texasgov database. We are encouraging everyone to donate local, as possible. This ensures meeting needs as quickly as possible. Reach out if you need any help.

General Discussion:

Matt Bisacca – Red Cross: Still having blood drives in Austin area. Check redcross.org to see if there are available apts. If you have recovered from C-19, you can donate plasma.

DRTx – Linda McCabe

DRTx is open - while our offices are closed to the public we are still providing services. We are still receiving intakes to address individuals' legal concerns via online or by phone. We also have a web page dedicated to COVID-19

resources. <https://www.disabilityrightstx.org/en/category/covid19/>

In addition to our everyday services, we are addressing COVID issues which relate to accessible and equitable emergency services, equitable health care standards, educational opportunities, workplace discrimination, continuity of continuum of care and community integration and prohibition of housing discrimination. As this is an evolving situation, please continue to look at our website for updates.

Damian – OneStar

For those not aware, we have been designated to raise and distribute funds to eligible organizations. We are on the Texas.gov website. In addition to in-kind and financial, they also have a portal for medical volunteers. OneStar supports Texas VOAD and in partnership with united way – texasnonprofits.gov.

Taylor Wolter – OneStar

National Svc Team is working as quickly as possible to adapt program model to C-19 response. Currently, the Conservation Corp is on standby. EqualHeart (www.equalheart.org) out of Lewisville, TX has been bolstered with additional member slots to work with Food Banks across TX the next 8-12 weeks. We will keep you updated as info becomes available.

Charles Baker –

Williamson County COAD has swung into action. Set up communications program through SLACK where various orgs can indicate needs and how people can work together. Several groups are doing cloth masks, i.e.. Also, other materials are being gathered and distributed.

J Loh – Tzu Chi Foundation

Our foundation donated PPE to NY and other states. We ordered more PPE to support police officers in NY and CA. We are asking for donations to buy more PPE to donate to hospitals to support frontlines.

Alan Ford – Emotional and Spiritual Care

We have been discussing recommending orientation/training for VOAD orgs. Anyone who hasn't had training. Have come across a one-hour online program from Univ of MN on

Psychological First Aid. Free and good investment of an hour. Includes self-care and ways to help others. We will send link when committee approves.

Courtney Goss – 512-243-4337 – if anyone wants to talk with her and provide donations.

Next Meeting – June 11th
Will let you know when/where.

Dan Knauft: If you need to contact me personally, text or call me.

Damian: Texas VOAD has been updating website several times each day. Candid.org – Search for other volunteer opportunities.

Charles Baker – would encourage everyone to look at the Matrix spreadsheet we have out for needs/capabilities. This would be helpful.

Dan Knauft: We are communicating via our Google docs link. Please keep updated. Will ask Shelby to resend the link.

Meeting adjourned: 11:00 am.