



# Cuyahoga County Community Organizations Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

## COAD Connect #13 May 31, 2018

### 1. Administration

- a. *As of today, no one has expressed interest in becoming COAD's president.*
- b. A general meeting will be held to elect the new President. All voting members should attend. Date/time/place are to be determined.

### 2. Preparedness Committee

- a. Several functions have been added to the Preparedness Committee.
  - Funding: Not actively pursuing funding opportunities but should be alert for possibilities.
  - Equipping: This currently pertains to Volunteer Registration Centers but is a generic function.
  - Facilities: This is also a generic function and can pertain to Volunteer Registration Centers and pet shelters.
- b. *Training & Exercises*
  - Tom Vencl of Geauga County Disaster Services is working with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to determine if their workshops will serve the training needs of our FBO Subcommittee. *Sharon Nicastro and Serena Steele will be meeting with UMCOR also.* In the meantime, Sharon Nicastro is still working on the original plan for COAD's workshops.
  - *OH-197 Planning for Individuals with Access and Functional Needs in Disaster was held at Mayfield Heights Fire Department on May 16-17. More than 20 people attended.*
  - COAD is participating in the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) exercise on August 14-15 at Burke Lakefront Airport. NDMS is a federal process to evacuate disaster survivors to cities where they receive medical care that is unavailable in the disaster-affected area. Cleveland is an evacuation city because of its wealth of medical facilities. COAD will be testing its Volunteer Registration Center plan. We will need 130 volunteers to act as patients and to perform NDMS tasks. Serena Steele will be managing this project. Stand by for more information.
  - Serena Steele attended the National VOAD conference in Providence, Rhode Island, from May 18 to May 21. She will report on the sessions that she attended as follows:
    - Are We There Yet?: The Road to Addressing Social Vulnerabilities in Disaster Recovery
    - Legal Assistance for Disaster Survivors
    - The Collaborations We Make and the Partnerships We Create



## Cuyahoga County Community Organizations Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

- Viewing Disasters through Children’s Eyes: No little Disaster Scenario
- Giving Think Panel: Panel of agencies describing their experience with managing donations and monetary gifts from the public
- Lessons Learned from the October 1<sup>st</sup> Festival Shooting in Las Vegas.
- Navigating the Flood of Donations
- Partnerships in Preparedness
- Volunteer Management & Disaster Behavioral Health in the Wake of Evacuation from Puerto Rico & the US Virgin Islands
- Captain’s Log: Oh What I Learned from Irma and Maria
- Ready Community: A New Approach to Preparedness

### 2. Mass Care Committee

- a. Nothing pending

### 3. Emergency Assistance Committee

- a. *Evacuation and Re-entry*

- Waiting for an instructor to become available in 2018 for the *Evacuation and Re-entry Planning* course.

- b. *Repatriation*

- Waiting for the State and Cleveland to complete their repatriation plan, so Cuyahoga County can develop a consistent plan, and COAD can determine its role.

- c. *Functional Needs Subcommittee*

- Nothing pending. The Subcommittee is focusing on sharing information on functional needs issues as it becomes available.

- d. *Animals Subcommittee*

- The Animals Subcommittee is meeting on Friday, June 8, 2018, 10:00a-12:00p, at the Independence Public Library. The Subcommittee will begin writing an operations guide for emergency pet shelters. All are welcome.
- As yet there has been no response to our request for volunteer veterinarians to work with the Animal Decontamination Group.
- The Animals Subcommittee will continue to identify organizations to fill roles and responsibilities that were identified in the Animals in Disaster Plan. The Subcommittee will



COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

need to develop its public awareness campaign, which will inform the public about pet preparedness and sheltering.

- The City of Cleveland is also developing a pet sheltering guide.

e. *Faith-Based Organizations Subcommittee*

- FBO Objectives:
  - Prepare congregants for disasters.
  - Plan for the continued operation of the organization.
  - Enhance security at houses of worship.
  - Extend everyday ministries to disaster situations within the congregation and in the community.
  - Network and coordinate with other FBOs, community organizations, and local government.
  - Connect with the national/state/regional disaster response group within the faith.
  - Learn emergency management principles and operate within the emergency management system.
  - Receive planning guidelines, training, resources, and technical assistance.
- Workshops are being created to address emergency management principles, the planning process, personal preparedness, continuity of operations, organizational security, and disaster ministry. Tom Vencl of Geauga County Disaster Services, Sharon Nicastro, and Serena Steele are determining if workshops available from UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) will meet our needs.
- Rather than trying to mobilize all FBOs in Cuyahoga County at one time, which is proving to be problematic, a plan is being considered to work with FBOs city-by-city.

f. *Volunteers Subcommittee*

- The Subcommittee objectives will be to
  - Network organizations that can provide volunteers or will need volunteers for a disaster response;
  - Integrate voluntary organizations into the county emergency management system;
  - Plan for the operation of a Volunteer Registration Center;
  - Credential volunteers according to FEMA guidelines; and
  - Provide training.
- The Volunteers Subcommittee has not officially launched, but research is in progress and volunteers will be recruited for the NDMS exercise (see Preparedness Committee, Training and Exercises above).



COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

#### **4. Human Services Committee**

- a. Planning for a long-term recovery group will need to begin in 2018. This will be an extensive project that will require the collaboration of many organizations. There are four models long-term recovery groups from least formal to most formal: (1) Unmet Needs Committee; (2) Long-Term Recovery Committee; (3) Long-Term Recovery Organization; and (4) Community Coalition for Recovery. We will focus on the first two models because they are the one most likely to be needed in our area. We will be examining the roles of governmental and non-governmental organizations and integrating them into a case management system. We will be following the FEMA and VOAD models.
- b. Sharon Nicastro and Serena Steele met with representatives of Cuyahoga County's social service agencies to explain the disaster recovery process and enlist their aid in creating COAD's recovery plan. No commitments were made.
- c. Serena Steele has assumed management of this project and will be assisted by Mike Arthur of the American Red Cross in Cleveland.