

Kansas VOAD/ Montgomery County LTRC meeting
10am 7-17-07

Phil Adams chaired the meeting.
John Collins opened the meeting with prayer.

Community Access Center, Independence

- The Volunteer Reception Center in Independence will be known as the Community Access Center/ Flood Disaster Services
- The center will have telephone and Internet service tomorrow (Thursday 7/26)
- The center will officially open tomorrow (Thursday 7/26), but residents have been using the center since Monday (7/23)
- The center will be a “One-Stop Shop” where residents can access a variety of services and resources, instead of having to go all over town to look for help
- Space is available for agencies wishing to set up a table to service residents, and there is plenty of room available for warehousing goods
- Phil Adams has joined the LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) which meets once a month.

Short-Term Recovery

- Includes filling out forms (work request forms, release of liability forms, etc.), communication, information, services, debris removal
- Communityaccesscenter.com
 - Provided by Four County Mental Health
 - Centralized place to get information on what’s going on in this area
 - Will continue beyond disaster
 - Volunteers can register hours
- AmeriCorps
 - Work on homeowner property needs to get done
 - Residents have left the area
 - In Coffeyville, 200 residents have left, and we can’t get in touch with them
 - What will happen further down the road if we can’t get in touch with residents who have left their flooded houses?
 - We need to track people down and get work orders (i.e., permission to clean their homes)
 - Large groups of volunteers are on standby
 - Forms- AmeriCorps, Samaritan’s Purse, and Southern Baptists have their own forms that homeowners need to fill out before work can begin
 - Forms are available at the “Volunteer” table at the Community Access Center and the Volunteer Reception Center in Coffeyville
- Clarification from Phil: the work order and release of liability forms **MUST** be signed by the homeowner before volunteers can begin work on the home
 - What about renters? Phil understood that it is the homeowner’s responsibility to clean out whatever the renter had left behind
 - Todd from Samaritan’s Purse clarified that permission from the renter **MUST** be obtained before volunteers can begin to clean out renter’s personal property, and

permission from the homeowner MUST be obtained before volunteers begin work on the house itself (sheetrock, windows, etc.)

- Samaritan's Purse
 - Running low on volunteers
 - Similar situation on the Gulf Coast- volunteers are hard to find in July
 - No longer taking work orders

Long Term Recovery

- Rebuilding houses- homeowners must decide if they want to rebuild
- Flood Plain Level: the foundation, not the first floor, must be 12 inches above base flood elevation. This has not been enforced in Montgomery County in the past, but it will be now.
 - Clarification from Dennis Pruitt, Action Council: the building code HAS been enforced in Montgomery County
- Homeowners can go to the EOC to determine if they are in the flood plain or not
 - Will try to get a table at the Community Access Center so that residents won't have to go to EOC
- Volunteers are needed now to do mucking, and later to do rebuilding

Montgomery County Recovery

- When the disaster is over, and all agencies are gone
- Ministerial Alliances
 - It will be beneficial to have a Montgomery County Ministerial Alliance
 - Does Caney have a Ministerial Alliance?
 - Each town will have representation in the Montgomery County Ministerial Alliance
 - Phil and others will work on a plan
 - The Ministerial Alliance will be tied in with agencies that can help
 - For example, a single-family disaster: now, the family's community and church help that family recover. In the future, with a Montgomery County Ministerial Alliance and the whole county can be involved in helping the family
 - Think about it! The plan is still in the "dreaming phase."
 - Will incorporate ministers who are not part of any Ministerial Alliance

Getting Homeowners Involved

- Residents don't want to mess with their flooded homes
- Residents are waiting to see what will happen with the Coffeyville Resources Buyout
 - If Coffeyville Resources buys the property, Coffeyville Resources will be responsible for cleaning it
- In the meantime, what can we do?
 - In a rental property, the renter is responsible to clean out his/her personal property in the rental. If the renter doesn't clean it out, the responsibility eventually becomes the homeowner's.
 - The house needs to be cleaned out before it can be demolished, because the debris has to be sorted per Debris Management and EPA guidelines

- If the homeowner doesn't clean out the house, it eventually becomes the city's responsibility
 - Condemning a house is a long legal process. The homeowner will be assessed on their taxes, and it is also a drain on the city's resources
 - To avoid this, we need to utilize volunteers while we have them, so that the houses can be cleaned out
- Some residents are incapable and/or unmotivated to clean out their flooded homes.
 - Residents should therefore complete work requests to get volunteer assistance in cleaning out their homes
- The LTRC and Ministerial Alliance will have contact with people who need help
 - TV advertisement is needed, to reach people who don't go to church, read the newspaper, etc.
- Who is volunteer help available to?
 - Priority given to not-able bodied people (i.e., people who cannot do the work themselves)
- Volunteer Safety
 - Volunteers are required to use Personal Protective Equipment
 - Homeowners should be encouraged to use Personal Protective Equipment
- A checklist or guidance sheet is needed for homeowners, to explain processes to them, so they will know what they should do
 - Phil will try to have a sheet ready for next week's meeting
 - American Baptist Men voiced similar concerns: homeowners have no intention of cleaning out houses if Coffeyville Resources will purchase land. Information needs to be given to homeowners so that they will understand all their options
 - Homeowners who are not eligible for the Coffeyville Resources Buyout or who choose not to accept buyout are responsible for cleaning out their homes
- How can we contact people who have left the area?
 - Is there a list of people who have left their homes?
 - Many are rental properties
 - The Red Cross and FEMA have records of people who have applied for assistance, but release of confidentiality must be obtained before we can access those records. Also, that information may no longer be valid
 - Is there a map available of the affected areas?
 - Flood maps of North county available at Memorial Hall
- Volunteer Housing
 - How many volunteers can Montgomery County house, feed, etc? What resources are available? Ministerial Alliances will look into it.
 - Samaritan's Purse can house up to 50 volunteers are the Highland Park Baptist Church
- Volunteers Needed at Community Access Center
 - 2 dedicated volunteers are needed. Job description and hours will be available soon
- FEMA
 - Here to help!

NEXT MEETING: 10am, Wednesday August 1st, at the 1st United Methodist Church in Coffeyville, at 10th and Elm, in the Basement of the Fellowship Hall.