

VOAD Meeting
September 5, 2007
First United Methodist Church
Coffeyville, Kansas
10:00 AM

County wide VOAD Chairman, Phil Adams, called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM and asked Margie Miller, pastor of Crossroads Community of Christ, to open with prayer. There were introductions around the table and 22 persons attended.

Jim Hendrix, Coffeyville Safety Officer agreed to replace Joe Palmer as VOAD Chairman for the Coffeyville area. Joe Palmer is no longer able to serve.

Phil announced the next VOAD meeting is scheduled for September 19 at 10:00 at the Community Access Center in Independence. The LTRO executive committee should have the proposed bylaws and mission statement ready for a vote at that time. The LTRO list was distributed again for additional signatures.

Julie Pofl and Cheryl Brekke presented the program. They announced that 1497 cases have been opened in Montgomery County alone and there is a need for the six southeast Kansas counties which were involved in the flood disaster to be combined into one Long Term Recovery Committee in order to identify available resources and receive the maximum benefit of donations from large industries, churches and charities. There is also a need for a grant to pay a salary for a Case Manager Coordinator since that is expected to be an almost full time job. They will also need money for gas expense for the case workers. They inquired if Kansas Works could fund such a person. It is believed that is outside their guidelines and would not be possible but the people from Kansas Works are going to check into the possibility and get back with Cheryl and Julie. A job description for such a coordinator can be found on page 54 of the LTR Manual.

It appears that there will be about 300 cases that will need long term care and case managers. There is a chance Lutheran Disaster Response will be able to help fund that need for a coordinator for case managers. Rocky Mease will be consulted about that.

Training for case managers will begin September 13th and will take 4 – 6 hours. The place and exact time will be announced at a later time.

The case manager coordinator must be a good listener, good at establishing relationships and be trustworthy. The clients will be discussing their finances and other personal matters. The right case manager coordinator needs to be able to assess mental and physical needs of the client as well. Case managers will need to empower the client to do things toward their own recovery and not have them done for them. They will also need to develop their own recovery action plan. Case managers can take on as many clients as they wish and work as many hours as they wish as long as they follow the cases to their conclusion. 60 – 70% of cases will not need the committee and will direct their own recovery. It is recommended that case workers do not work in their own communities.

That has been shown not to be wise. Case managers are advocates for the clients to insure that they have exhausted all resources available to them.

When the Regional LTRC is developed, each of the six counties should have representatives to attend these meetings. Each client case that is worked will need a signed release of information sheet so that information can be shared as to what assistance each case has received already so that assistance is not duplicated.

The meeting was adjourned by Phil Adams at 11:35.

Margie Miller
VOAD secretary