

Kansas Voluntary Organizations Active In Disaster Conference Call – July 10, 2007

Roll Call:

Florence Copolla, UCC, Brenda- Angel Flight; Bob Baer-UMCOR; Bob – CRWCR; Jerry – ARC; Charlie Giffin- KS Rural Family Helpline; Kathy Allen-Shawnee County; Joe Hendrix; Darla Hesse-American Red Cross; Don Hampton-Presbyterian Church (+ three); John Treolo-Seventh Day Adventist; Dee Smith-The Salvation Army; Phil Patterson-FEMA; Bernadette Frerker-FEMA; Max-ARC; Mark Dragovich-ARC, ESF #6; Ben Balentine-Americorps; Brian Walkier-KS Food Bank

American Red Cross: Jerry reports that Red Cross has a service center set up in Coffeyville and they are doing operating shelters and doing casework. Their headquarters for this operation is in Wichita. They have 3 vehicles in the field feeding and 8 mobile field units. So far they have opened 515 cases for the flooding in Kansas which includes Osawatomie. They have done 283 health service contacts; 194 mental health contacts; 1300 overnight stays; 6947 meals and 12,391 snacks. They anticipate 1000 cases total.

The Salvation Army: They have service centers in various counties including Osawatomie and Coffeyville and are supporting several shelter operations in Coffeyville.

Bob Baer reported that today an article in the Wichita Eagle stated the water has receded. Florence from UCC asked if the residents are allowed in the contaminated areas and what assistance the surrounding churches were giving for emotional and spiritual care. There was discussion about the clean of the homes that have been contaminated by the oil spill.

Phil Patterson from FEMA stated that the oil contaminated areas are cordoned off by the state and National Guard. There is no access to the area and homeowners are not allowed in at all. There is presently a class action suit filed against the oil company and FEMA inspectors cannot get in the area so they are in limbo. Florence raised the concern about people trying to power wash to clean and this will not do decontamination. EPA is involved in the issue and Red Cross has a mental health team in the area.

Max who is the Voluntary Agency Liaison for the ARC stated that the ministerial alliance has had a meeting and they are doing a lot of work in the shelters. The center is at the First Baptist Church at 300 W. 8th in Coffeyville. The student pastor is Tim Potts. His cell phone is 620 870-9870 and office is 620 251-3980.

Bernadette suggested that since UCC has had experience in this area Florence could contact the Ministerial Alliance. This may be a buy out situation for those affected houses.

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Mark stated housing is a big issue as there is only one motel in Coffeyville. IA is looking at other resources like the parks for trailers and direct housing program will be implemented.

Max stated they are addressing giving security deposits and a month's rent.

Jerry raised the issue of identifying the key players for a long term recovery committee. Dee commented there was an active COAD in the region and felt it would be good to get the local agencies to a meeting and offer support to get this under way. KSVOAD supported weekly meetings in Greensburg for several weeks until local leadership was identified to continue to address the local issues. This has been very successful and will probably be the situation in southeast KS.

There was discussion about the town meetings that have been held. Mark stated this was for local information and not necessarily a long term recovery effort. Bernadette will make calls and work with the partners and support the state VOAD to convene a meeting.

There was discussion about a lead agency for a Volunteer Reception Center. Samaritan's Purse has offered to do this. Todd Taylor is the contact at 228 342-7170 (cell) AmeriCorps has several teams going to the area and Bernadette suggested these folks could support this effort. Ben Ballentine is the contact at 314 420-4170.

Charlie said that KAHBP has teams out in the field as they did after the Greensburg tornado. There are also 3 or 4 community health centers with staff in the field. They are hiring full time staff. They learned a lesson after Greensburg to hire full time staff sooner. They have crisis counselors in the field from Miami County to the OK border.

The KS Rural Family Helpline will be helping the rural issues. They have had conference calls with the Extension network. They need referrals for those who need personal visits or issues out there concerns agriculture, farm and ranch. The Kansas Family Helpline number is 866 327-6578. Charlie's cell phone number is 785 770-7525.

Mark discussed the LTR committee including contact with realtors to look for properties that have been foreclosed. Mark will put together a list of contacts and get this to Bernadette.

Everyone is to email their contact information to Americorps and they will compile the contact list for the Southeast Region meeting. Email to: acstl.rt@gmail.com

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Phil mentioned that the Robert Dole Veteran's Administration Center has an outreach program that is available to those veterans that were affected by the flooding. Dave Desmer is the contact and he will get this information for the list.

Dee is traveling to the southeast area the next few days and will contact Max and locate a place to host a meeting. This information will be sent out to the group.

Dls 7.10.07