



Maryland Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

Maryland VOAD Quarterly Meeting

March 9th, 2016

Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware Offices
10255 Old Columbia Rd / Columbia, MD 21046

MEETING MINUTES

Attending:

Martha Bacon, Adventist Community Services
George Blevins, Mid-Atlantic Baptist
Network/BCMD
Yvette Bowman, Maryland Department of
Human Resources
Michelle Breeland, Federal Emergency
Management Agency
Carl Brill, Mid-Atlantic Baptist
Network/BCMD
Katie Bryson, Maryland Department of Human
Resources
Laraine Buck, Wicomico County
Kevin Cleary, City of Baltimore OEM
Robin De Young, Brethren Disaster Ministries
Jenn Dorsch, Brethren Disaster Ministries
Chas Eby, Maryland Emergency Management
Agency
Emily Fortman, American Red Cross, Mid-
Atlantic Division
Zanika Ghee, Maryland Food Bank
Burton Goldstein, Hope Animal-Assisted Crisis
Response
Shellie Goldstein, Hope Animal-Assisted Crisis
Response
Rev. David Graves, United Methodist Church,
Baltimore Washington Conference
Hani Hamwi, Islamic Relief USA
Wendi Hayden, American Red Cross, National
Capital Region
Myron Horn, Lions Club, District 22W

Rev. Phil Huber, Lutheran Disaster Response
Fay Mauro, Anne Arundel County Volunteer
Center
Carolyn Melby, Church of Latter Day Saints
Pia Morales, Fort Meade Army Community
Services
Bruce Morgenstern, Anne Arundel County
Volunteer Center
James Morrow, Prince George's County Office
of Emergency Management
Jessica Nusbaum, Maryland Emergency
Management Agency
Pascal Papouras, International Orthodox
Christian Charities
Maurice Powe, American Red Cross
Elizabeth Sebastiao, Meals on Wheels of Central
Maryland
David Shipley, Wicomico County
Pamela Simonson, Volunteer Center of Howard
County
Miriam Soliman, United Muslim Relief
Sharon Tillman, Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
Ellen Udovich, Mid-Atlantic Baptist
Network/BCMD
Ernest Walker, Prince George's County Office
of Emergency Management
Connie Wise, Salvation Army
Chris Young, American Red Cross, Chesapeake
Region

Call to Order: 10:20 AM

Welcome and Introductions: Pascalis Papouras

Chairman's Opening Remarks: Pascalis Papouras

- Chairman Papouras reported on the September 2015 visit of a Chinese Delegation made up of representatives from civil society, academia and government liaisons who were in the U.S. exploring ways to build their civil society's capacity to assist in emergency response. After visiting the National VOAD offices, the Delegation traveled to Crisfield, MD, to observe long term recovery work, and then to Baltimore to meet with Maryland VOAD at Christ Lutheran Church to learn about how American civil society and government work together in disaster response.
- Chairman Papouras also reported on the InfraGard summit held in Washington, DC, in December. InfraGard is a partnership between the FBI and private sector experts interested in protecting US infrastructure against all hazards. The focus of the conference was mitigating catastrophic long-term widespread damage caused by Electromagnetic Pulses (EMP).

Report from Maryland VOAD Secretary: Ellen Udovich

March 2015 Minutes and September 2015 notes approved.

Report from Maryland VOAD Treasurer: Burton Goldstein

2015 annual report and 2016 first quarter report approved.

Election of Maryland VOAD Officers for 2016: Rev. Phil Huber

Chairman: Pascalis Papouras (IOCC)

Vice-Chairman: Burton Goldstein (Hope Animal Assisted Crisis Response)

Treasurer: Chris Young (ARC Chesapeake)

Recording Secretary: Ellen Udovich (BCMD)

Corresponding Secretary: Sharon Tillman (EDM)

Reports from Committees

Long Term Recovery Committee: Phil Huber

- Pastor Huber presented an overview of the Maryland Long Term Recovery Committee from early exploratory conversations (2009) to current operations with paid staff and volunteers in Crisfield (PPT slides attached)
- Some of the significant accomplishments in response to Hurricane Sandy in Somerset County include: repairing over 250 storm damaged homes, building 21 new homes, qualifying 10 clients to receive a new home built by the county, Camp Noah for 200 disaster affected children, mitigation program elevating 14 homes and leveraging resources, funding dollars and influence for long term community change in Somerset County. With the help of MEMA, the long term recovery committee has a goal of rebuilding 10 houses each year for the next 5 years in Crisfield.
- A suggestion was made to present the Long Term Recovery model + Somerset case study to emergency managers/planners in the counties and Baltimore City (24 jurisdictions). Funding would be needed for travel expenses. Recommended,

moved and seconded to take the proposal back to the Long Term Recovery Committee for follow up.

Website Committee: Chris Young

- The new Maryland VOAD website is up and running. Member organizations were encouraged to check/update/add their information to the site. Send organization information as well as any general content you would like posted to Chris Young.

Presentation: Fort Meade Army Family Center/Army Community Services: Pia Morales

- During emergency operations, the garrison stands up the Army Family Center as a “one stop shop” for military families on and off the post. All normal community services in addition to IT, counselors, nurse, housing, etc. all relocate to the family center so families do not have to run around looking for needed services.
- The garrison has a volunteer coordinator who could potentially help direct volunteers to VOAD organizations as needed during an emergency response.

Reports from Maryland VOAD Partners

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA Region 3): Michelle Breeland

- Ms. Breeland is developing a donations management support guide
- Ms. Breeland was recently approached by Eastern Shore emergency managers asking about VOAD. She met with 10 counties and presented what VOAD was, how to get involved, how to develop Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COADs), and encouraged them to take the next step of reaching out to local community organizations and faith communities to begin conversations pre-emergency.

Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA): Chas Eby

- MEMA’s new executive director, Russell Strickland, wants to increase agency involvement with VOAD and has already had a meeting with VOAD officers.
- Maryland Association of Emergency Managers is holding its annual meeting in Ocean City May 31--June 3. VOAD is invited; he will send information.
- A Federal declaration was made for the January blizzard. See Mr. Eby’s earlier email to VOAD regarding eligibility for reimbursement if your organization provided services related to the blizzard.
- Jessica Nusbaum reported she is developing a pilot project with stakeholders who serve the homeless population in Carroll County that she hopes to expand statewide.
- A special viewing of the new MEMA emergency awareness video featuring local partners was a big hit. Words cannot describe it—you have to see it for yourself.

Maryland Department of Human Resources: Yvette Bowman & Katie Bryson

- DHR is reorganizing; Bethany Brown is acting director.
- DHR conducts mandatory training in shelter operations for all local social services employees.
- Approximately \$700,000 of the \$1.1 million 2013 block grant (Hurricane Sandy) for the Eastern Shore and Garrett County has been spent to date.

Maryland County Reports

- Wicomico County: David Shipley
 - County holds pre-hurricane planning meetings every year including stakeholders carrying primary responsibility for utilities, medical, dialysis, hospitals, etc. so that the group can identify gaps and everyone knows each other by name and personal contact information. County also holds meetings with the 7 organizations that are involved with emergency shelter operations such as Board of Education, ARC, Humane Society, DSS, Homeless Alliance.
 - Deputy Director has been selected to attend the National Hurricane Center meeting this year.
- Prince George's County: Ernest Walker
 - First Aid/CPR/AED training has been a high priority for the county, with 11 classes conducted since 2015. Under new guidelines, all teachers will be required to have first aid training. Six schools currently have a Homeland Security program which includes CERT and First Aid training for participating students.
 - James Morrow runs the County CERT program, which has 4 active teams and several new teams forming.

City of Baltimore, Office of Emergency Management: Kevin Cleary

- Over the Fall 2015, the City Police Department went through 20 days of ICS training. As upcoming trials related to Freddy Gray's death approach the jury deliberation stage, the EOC will be activated.
- CERT continues to hold monthly meetings; an open house is scheduled for April 28th at Pimlico.
- During Winter Storm Jonas, the National Guard provided trucks and Humvees to help with 911, dialysis and chemotherapy patients, critical care, etc.
- In response to civil unrest following Freddy Gray's death, the Mayor declared the city's food access network to be "critical infrastructure" and set up a feeding task force. Through the work of task force partners, 10,000 meals were served during Jonas, utilizing recreation centers, schools, etc. as feeding centers.

Reports from Maryland VOAD Organizations

Maryland Food Bank: Zanika Ghee

- The Maryland Food Bank is currently serving 193 churches and kitchens in Central Maryland and over 40 in Western Maryland. The Food Bank also has a regional branch in Salisbury.

Meals on Wheels of Central Maryland: Elizabeth Sebastian

- In addition to meal delivery, Meals on Wheels also provides a variety of related supportive services such as case management, assistance with grocery shopping, pet food, etc. During the civil unrest in Baltimore last spring, Meals on Wheels distributed food and during Winter Storm Jonas distributed emergency food kits.

The Salvation Army: Connie Wise

- The Salvation Army has a new 26,000 square foot warehouse in Baltimore on 29th Street across from Barclay School.

Volunteer Center of Howard County: Pamela Simonson

- The Volunteer Center is undergoing a reduction of staff. They currently have 6,500 registered volunteers ready to serve.

American Red Cross: Chris Young

- The Red Cross has been partnering with Meals on Wheels to go with them into food clients' homes and install smoke detectors. They have also received funding from their national headquarters to conduct a response weekend and response institute May 20-22. A new American Red Cross/FEMA course for shelter training is now available. ARC is partnering with local schools to provide preparedness training for 3-5th graders through the "pillowcase initiative": students make emergency kits out of pillowcases. To date over 4,000 students have been trained. The Chesapeake division has a new response vehicle with 2 serving windows therefore twice the serving capacity of the older vehicles.

Episcopal Diocese of Maryland: Sharon Tillman

- Ms. Tillman has compiled severe weather preparedness materials from FEMA and other sources and posted them on the VOAD website. Other organizations are encouraged to post resources as well.

Mid-Atlantic Baptist Network/BCMD: George Blevins

- During the civil unrest in Baltimore last spring, volunteers operated mobile laundry units for the Maryland National Guard on 5 armory sites at the request of the Red Cross. Although Maryland has only one laundry trailer, response partners in North Carolina, Virginia and Pennsylvania sent their trailers to support the response.

Anne Arundel County Volunteer Center: Bruce Morgenstern

- The Volunteer Center is working with the county emergency management to refresh planning for mobilizing volunteers for disaster response. They are in the process of identifying facilities to stand up a center, train people, etc. Due to budget reduction last year, the county CERT program has received 501(c)3 status allowing them to fundraise.

Islamic Relief USA: Hani Hamwi

- Islamic Relief works nationally to provide services such as assessment, casework, financial assistance and sheltering (in partnership with the Red Cross). Their most recent activation has been mass water distribution in Flint, Michigan. The organization worked with Red Cross to identify groups of more vulnerable people for water distribution; 36,000 bottles of water were distributed to people living in Section 8 public housing in Flint.

Brethren Disaster Ministries: Jenn Dorsch, Robin DeYoung

- The Mid-Atlantic District is housed in New Windsor, MD. Volunteers are currently engaged in rebuilding efforts in Colorado and West Virginia. They are also partnering with UCC for rebuilding projects in South Carolina. BDM Children's Disaster Services sets up emergency child care centers while parents are at the EOC. A training for emergency child care was held in Frederick last year; a similar training will be held this coming October in Northern Virginia. This training is open to other organizations. The annual Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction will be held May 7 at the Westminster Agricultural Center, Shipley Arena (breakfast 7-9, auction begins at 9)

United Muslim Relief: Miriam Soliman

- United Muslim Relief has a new emergency response manager. UMR is becoming involved with long term recovery work. They currently have 30 university chapters around the county.

Lions Club, District 22W: Myron Horn

- Mr. Horn is reaching out to his counterpart on the Eastern Shore to encourage those clubs to become involved with Maryland VOAD, as well as developing local community relationships with potential response partners.

United Methodist Committee on Relief: Rev. David Graves

- Rev. Graves is getting connected with Maryland VOAD. The United Methodist congregations in Maryland have facilities and volunteers if needed in a response.

Hope Animal Assisted Crisis Response: Burton Goldstein

- The human/dog teams do not self-deploy, they are invited in to serve. Each year they participate in a Memorial Day Tragedy Assistance Program for families of veterans who have been killed. The teams recently assisted the Red Cross with a bomb preparedness drill in Baltimore, served children affected by Hurricane Sandy at Camp Noah on the Eastern Shore and at burn camp.

Lutheran Disaster Response: Rev. Phil Huber

- The volunteer camp (Kamp Kairos) is still being used as the Crisfield home elevation project continues. He would be glad to host visits if your group would like to see what is going on Crisfield.

International Orthodox Christian Charities: Pascalis Papouras

- The IOCC recently organized volunteer teams for rebuilding projects in Crisfield and in several other locations nationally. Training with the emergency response network continues and they recently deployed response teams to Detroit and South Carolina. Maryland VOAD received a call through the 2-1-1 Maryland regarding an individual needing food assistance as Winter Storm Jonas approached; Mr. Papouras and Chris Young (ARC) made a door-to-door delivery to the individual's home.

Unfinished and New Business: None

Adjourn: 1:57 pm

**Next Maryland VOAD Quarterly Meeting
June 2016: Date and Venue TBD**