

**Baldwin County  
Long Term Recovery Team  
February 24, 2005  
Meeting Notes**

Michele Prockup, Co-Chairman, (Catholic Social Services) called the meeting to order. Others present included

Edith Belder (The Salvation Army)  
Diane Clewell (American Red Cross)  
Enrique Escobar (Iglesia San Pedro)  
Samuel B. Farley, Jr. (Community Action Agency)  
Amelia Fletcher (Island Church Recovery Team)  
Billie Hooper (Project Rebound)  
Sandra Kennedy-Owes (United Methodist Conference)  
Ed Lakeman (Project Rebound)  
Brenda Lee (South Baldwin United Way)  
Albert Lipscomb (Commissioner, Baldwin County)  
Pam Meredith (Ecumenical Ministries)  
Vanessa Moore (Family Service Center)  
James Mullins (Long Term Recovery)  
Barbara Rigali (FEMA)  
Faye Robinson (RSVP)  
Leigh Anne Ryals (Baldwin EMA)  
David A. Saunders (Christian Service Center)  
Kathy Shumate (Alabama Career Center)  
Carla White (North Baldwin United Way)  
Steve Woolley (Alabama Career Center)  
Verlee Young (Long Term Recovery)

Ms. Prockup welcomed those present and reminded members that the group's purpose is to get clients established into a "new normal" and to identify vulnerable populations. Minutes are available each week on the United Way website at [www.SouthBaldwinUnitedWay.org](http://www.SouthBaldwinUnitedWay.org). The number of cases is now over 200, and the resources are not growing as quickly as the needs that are surfacing.

Verlee Young reported that Lutheran Database training was yesterday, and the process clarified many of the issues surrounding case management for Long Term Recovery and the flow of referrals. Emergency assistance will continue to be done by the appropriate agency, and then the caseworker for that agency will screen for unmet needs from Hurricane Ivan and refer the client to Long Term Recovery, if needed. Next staffing need is for a construction manager who can assess needs, layout the process, and list the supplies needed for each case. Long Term Recovery tries to meet needs for construction, cleanup, housing, jobs, and emotional, mental, and spiritual issues. A meeting of casework and referral agencies in North Baldwin is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2, at 10:00 a.m. at the North Baldwin Chamber of Commerce in Bay Minette.

Leigh Anne Ryals reported that the County might have a grant for short-term employment (6-8 months) up to \$11 per hour. She will work with the grants coordinator to see what may be possible.

Commissioner Lipscomb added that money might be available at the state level to be used for Long Term Recovery.

Steve Wooley informed those present that many workers expected to return to their former jobs within a few weeks of the storm, but many businesses have not re-opened as quickly as forecast. Unemployment compensation is generally not enough for families to manage. There are about 400 jobs listed through the Employment Service now. Usually this time of year brings emphasis on service hires

for the tourism industry, but that has not been true this year. Some new retail and manufacturing jobs have been created, but not enough to put everyone back to work. There has been some training offered in construction work, and some jobs doing cleanup through a grant. The grant employees are asked to work seventy hours per week at first in order to get money in their hands as soon as possible.

Kathy Shumate told the group about the Career Link system, which serves both job seekers and employers. The program can help workers to market their skills and present themselves, and anyone can use the resource room, which has computer access to search for openings. Case managers are on hand to offer guidance and workshops. Workers may qualify for additional training according to the past twenty-six weeks of household income, but workers who have lost jobs to layoff or because of the storm are automatically qualified. There are programs for both youth and adults, and some scholarships available to local training providers, such as community colleges. Career Link caseworkers follow up with the customers to ensure that the training is finished, a job is attained in the field of training, and that they pay is higher than their previous wages. There is also an On the Job Training program, which can pay up to fifty percent of the required \$7 per hour wage for new hires for six weeks to six months. On the Job Training can also be applied to train current employees who are being moved to different responsibilities, but the requirements are slightly different. Childcare and transportation are two major issues for workers in Baldwin County.

Ms. Prockup distributed a housing resource list.

Barbara Rigali told those present that FEMA has disbursed 170 travel trailers in Baldwin County. Twenty-three of the families involved have had their housing plan fail and will have to make new plans.

Ms. Ryals stated that over 25,000 residents of Baldwin County live in mobile homes, many of which were damaged by the storm, but State EMA did not recommend trailers for victims.

Edith Belder will gather information about the availability of beds and furniture, and will present it at the next meeting.

Samuel Farley, Jr., will invite a representative of Consumer Credit Counseling to attend the next meeting to discuss what budget counseling may be available for clients.

Project Rebound continues door-to-door visits and telephone crisis counseling.

Bill Stephens was not present to discuss the status of debris removal, but all present agreed that heavy equipment would be needed in addition to the chainsaw crews.

Project Rebound is also advising clients concerning insurance and FEMA linkages. Their purpose is to help people understand the new normal and to reassure clients that they are having normal reactions to abnormal situations.

Miscellaneous discussion followed concerning educating the public that they must be prepared to cope on their own for five to seven days following a storm, until resources such as water, ice, and MRE's can be brought in.

Brenda Lee is compiling a "how to" book for VOAD/LTR as a framework for the next event.

Ms. Rigali reminded members that March 3 is the deadline for FEMA registration. The last DRC in the region, located in Tillman's Corner, will be closed that day as well. There will be a few FEMA workers still in the area to re-certify those clients in travel trailers, but clients will need to call 800-621-FEMA for any other issues.

Warehouse space has been obtained by James Mullins on Highway 98 in Foley. Any agencies that have bulk donations to store should call James at 943-2110. Tarps and water are available there now.