

**Baldwin County VOAD
Long Term Recovery Team
March 11, 2005
Meeting Notes**

Michele Prockup, Co-Chairman, (United Way) called the meeting to order. Others present included

Edith Belder (The Salvation Army)
Linda Chappelle (Christian Service Center)
Diane Clewell (American Red Cross)
Lawrence Cox (Morning Dove Baptist)
Samuel B. Farley, Jr. (Community Action Agency)
Mary Ann Halliday (North Baldwin Ecumenical)
Martha Hohl (Project Rebound)
Mike Kirk (Kingdom Builders, UMC)
Tyson Reed (Island Church Recovery Team)
Frank Trione (Project Rebound)
Herman Watson (Community Action Agency)
Carla White (North Baldwin United Way)
Verlee Young (Long Term Recovery)

Verlee Young reported that more referrals have come in since last meeting. Project Rebound is helping to answer the telephones in the office and offering crisis counseling to callers. Cases have been divided by need into minor repairs, large repairs, rebuild, debris removal, and tree removal. She is assigning cases to case managers at various agencies. An effort is being made to reach out to clients in the North Baldwin area. Case managers are meeting weekly to discuss cases, and this subgroup will start presenting cases to the Long Term Recovery Team beginning next meeting. All present were encouraged to look for local and regional resources to try to implement full recovery for each client.

Martha Hohl stated that making contact with clients is the first step, and gives them hope that help will be available.

LTRT may be able to tap into an AmeriCorps grant, and may be eligible for five workers in July. Old Mobile Furniture has offered a 30% discount for clients, and Sears have offered appliances at cost. The furniture stored in Bay Minette will not be accessible for two weeks because of maintenance being done at the warehouse.

Frank Trione told members that Project Rebound is moving into the Elberta area, continuing the door to door canvass to locate victims of the Hurricane. The group averages 160 crisis counseling sessions per week. Elderly residents seem to be the most impacted, and stress levels are magnified by other losses which may occur.

LTRT needs to file paperwork to become a 501©3 organization. Some members present offered to contact attorneys they know to inquire about pro bono work for the group. Mary Anne Halliday, Pastor Cox, and Pastor Kirk will bring information to the next meeting.

Homelessness has been exacerbated by the hurricane. Meetings are planned on March 17 in Foley and March 22 in Fairhope to discuss sources for affordable housing and substandard conditions. HUD may be a resource for clients.

Edith Belder said that The Salvation Army received a grant from Operation Blessing and is developing a voucher system for vendors. They will also develop a letter to vendors encouraging careful use of confidential information. She is looking for office space in the Foley area, and has some specific funding to help hurricane clients.

LTRT needs statistical information from each agency to report to the County government and to substantiate grant requests. Funding is needed urgently to hire a construction manager.

Regina Odom will start next week as LTRT Coordinator. She has worked seventeen different disasters with FEMA, starting with Hurricane Frederick. Regina has strengths in organization and administration.

A letter has been written to the Baldwin County Commission to request office space in the newly remodeled building in Robertsdale, or funding for rent in some other space. Group members discussed finding out which agencies will be using the Robertsdale building and perhaps requesting their vacated space as office space for LTRT.

Samuel Farley told members that a representative of the Consumer Credit Counseling agency will be at the April 8 meeting of LTRT. Community Action has a furniture and mattress distribution planned for Friday, March 18. Items are given on a first-come, first-served basis, but each client will be asked to fill out a form.

LTRT goals for March 18 meeting:

(1) Present cases at the meeting.

(2) Have a list of current resources and the parameters for each. Each agency should bring a list of what their agency can bring to the table and what the guidelines (age, etc.) are. (Michele asked that Project Rebound report at the next meeting concerning their activity, needs addressed, and issues outstanding.)

(3) Update progress on 501©3.

(4) Find a resource to determine the true value of damage to mobile homes.

(5) Discuss who may be responsible for keeping a history of LTRT.

(6) Strengthen communication between volunteer coordination and case management supervisor.