

Baldwin County LEPC
Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster
(VOAD) Meeting Notes
September 28, 2006

Chairmen Brenda Lee of South Baldwin United Way welcomed those present and called the meeting to order. Others present included

Gloria Bitto	Baldwin County Commission
Becky Booker	United Way of Alabama
Cassandra Boykin	Community Action Agency
Amy Boylan	Family Service Center
Guy Busby	Mobile Register
Linda Chappelle	Christian Service Center
Diane Clewell	American Red Cross
Renee Cook	Baldwin Co. EMA
James H. Fry	Legal Services Alabama
Dixie Groutt	South Baldwin United Way
Charles A. Hall	Dept. of Human Resources
Volney Hayes	Project Rebound
Deborah Helton	Baldwin Co. Long Term Recovery
Martha Hohl	Baldwin Co. Long Term Recovery
Christy Inabinett	Prodissee Pantry
Mary Jane Johnson	American Red Cross
Hal Knox	Dept. of Human Resources
Michael Larson	Christian Service Center
Kathy Melson	South Baldwin United Way
Pam Meredith	Ecumenical Ministries Foley
Clyde Pressley	United Methodist DRM
Tyson Reed	Project Nehemiah
Deann Servos	Prodissee Pantry
Frank Trione	Project Rebound
Tommy Warren	Lutheran Disaster Recovery
Roy Wulff	Baldwin Co. EMA

Ms. Lee welcomed those present, and introduced Deborah Helton, who is serving as staff for the 211 program, and Dixie Groutt, who is setting up computer programs for 211. Ms. Groutt gave a presentation regarding the 211 program, which will serve as an information and referral system for the entire county. Tapestry will be the computer program to be used for the information. Any call for emergency needs will be referred to 911. Forms have been sent to each agency to gather contact information. Shelter information will be available for the public as the shelters are opened. The program also offers a component for a volunteer system. It is user-friendly and geared to help the social service agencies within the county.

Ms. Booker talked about 211 statewide, stating that the systems will be compatible to provide services in emergency. Presently, eighty percent of the state population is covered by 211. Negotiations are underway with cell phone companies to transfer roaming calls to the appropriate area. Calls to Baldwin or Mobile can be referred to each other or to Montgomery. A statewide database will be used for information, referral, and volunteer information. A challenge is keeping the data updated; every resource is needed, and agencies are encouraged to keep their information as current as possible. Currently, there are fourteen 211 call centers in Alabama.

Ms. Hohl reported eighty-eight open cases for Katrina, and seventy-nine closed. Volunteers of America has loaned a full time case manager. Primary areas for damage seem to be Daphne and Bay Minette. Call volume has been consistent, and LTR staff has been making referrals for emergency needs.

Mr. Trione told members that the Project Rebound office will close tomorrow. The group made initial contacts with community members, referring many to local agencies. The program began on October 25, 2004, following Hurricane Ivan, and was extended for Hurricane Katrina response. Contacts following Hurricane Katrina numbered 29,828.

Mr. Fry spoke concerning services offered by Legal Services Alabama. He is a resident of Gulf Shores, and now serves as regional director of South Alabama activities, covering twelve counties. Mr. Fry is also disaster director for the entire state for Legal Services.

Ms. Booker offered information concerning the Social Services Block Grant funding available through DHR. She told members that the Bush-Clinton monies have been expended for this area, including payment for a mobile shower unit to be received next month, and funding for several agencies. The Governor's Fund may be tapped to remedy some housing issues, but the SSBG funds are available up to \$30,000 per client for housing repairs. Applications may be submitted on the Katrina Aid Today paperwork, and must be entered in the Coordinated Assistance Network (common software to avoid duplication).

Ms. Lee reminded members that a nominating committee must be formed for election of officers in January, 2007.

Members will be sent notice of the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.