

**Baldwin County Long Term Recovery Team
Meeting Notes
February 3, 2005**

Chairwoman Brenda Lee (United Way) called the meeting to order. Others present included:

Lynn J. Adams (Long Term Recovery)
Darlene Adas (American Red Cross)
Michael Allegri (Legislative Delegation)
Ron Baughman (United Methodist Conference)
Melvin Brackman (Lutheran Disaster Response)
Carol Brandon (Holy Spirit Episcopal Church)
Linda Chappelle (Christian Service Center)
Kelly Childress (Council on Aging)
Diane Clewell (American Red Cross)
David Coggins (Alabama Emergency Management)
Lawrence Cox (Morning Dove Baptist Church)
Stanley Cox (Morning Dove Baptist Church)
Enrique Escobar (Inglesia San Pedro)
Amelia Fletcher (Island Church Recovery Team)
Pat Harris (Baldwin County Council on Aging)
Angela Hastings (Community Action)
Martha Hohl (Project Rebound)
Mike Kirk (Jubilee Shores UMC)
Ed Lakeman (Project Rebound)
Isaac McPherson (Remnant Evangelistic Center)
Deborah Minor (Foley Boys and Girls Club)
James Mullins (American Red Cross)
Clyde Pressley (United Methodist Conference)
Michele Prockup (Catholic Social Services)
Tyson Reed (Island Church Recovery Team)
Barbara Rigali (FEMA)
Judy Simpson (Long Term Recovery)
Frank Trione (Project Rebound)
Troy Vesper (United Methodist Conference)
Letisha Watts (Foley Boys and Girls Club)
Elizabeth Woerner (Inglesia San Pedro)
Eldon Zimmerman (Lutheran Disaster Response)
Verlee Young (Long Term Recovery)

Ms. Lee reminded those present that the Baldwin County Long Term Recovery Team minutes are available each week on the United Way website. She also pointed out that each attendance packet included a form for a list of items needed for each agency, and a form to list donations already received that were used in recovery for clients. The donation form is needed to inventory and record collective totals and to show impact on the community and the cost of recovery. Some agencies have received grants of

financing or inventory from Operation Blessing, Eli-Lilly, United Way, or GulfTel, among others.

Any members who solicit donations for the Long Term Recovery Team should ask that the checks be made out to BCLTRT and forwarded to United Way or Community Action Agency. Donations made to Community Action will be used for client services. Donations to United Way will be available for administrative costs. The Team is working to meet unmet needs following Hurricane Ivan.

Warehouse space is needed as an in-kind donation. Volunteers from national church organizations will be coordinated through LTRT for most effective help to clients.

EMA has tarps available. Water is still available, as well. LTRT paid staff will set up an inventory of what's available for agencies' use. Members were asked to list what items may be needed for clients for maximum recovery.

LTRT has ordered name badges for identification and magnetic vehicle signs for staff. The county building in Robertsdale is not yet available, so presently the staff will be housed at Catholic Social Services in Robertsdale. Staff members are working to get furniture, equipment, and computers donated.

Verlee Young reported that casework staff has made 125 contacts. More are expected as the contact number is more widely distributed. Thirteen home visits have been made, and screening, assessments, and verifications are underway. Weekly meetings are planned with the agencies to present cases and refine the referral process. Workers who have the UMCOR training are needed, and volunteers are needed for the office. Hours are 9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday. Interpreters are needed, as well.

Guy Pressley told members that the Methodist Relief Ministry is falling into place. Sandra Kennedy-Owes has agreed to join the team, which is funded through UMCOR.

Team members discussed where and when volunteers may be used for repair work, and whether plumbing and electrical work requires licensed workers. The Resource Committee will try to get something in writing from the cities and county regarding permissions to have workers come in as volunteers.

Melvin Brackman, representing Lutheran Disaster Response, told members that the local unit is supported by their national organization. They have a large body of knowledge concerning recovery and want to help facilitate establishment and operations of the BCLTRT. A database computer program is available for use by LTRT staff, with modules for case management, resource management and volunteer management. Updates are easy and can be kept up in real time. Forms and reports are integrated. A training session was set up for Wednesday, February 23, beginning at 9am. Those who registered for the training included Carol Brandon, Bridget Brown, Linda Chappelle, Diane Clewell, Lawrence Cox, Enrique Escobar, Amelia Fletcher, Pat Harris (+1), Angela Hastings, Ed Lakeman, Isaac McPherson, Kathy Melson, James Mullins, Michele

Prockup, Letisha Watts, and Verlee Young. Since the class size must be limited, agencies will try to send one or two representatives who can then train other workers. The Client Assistance Network (CAN) will help agencies cooperate to track what an individual client has received. Also construction managers will be in the area soon to help with rebuilding.

A motion was made by Pat Harris, seconded by Linda Chappelle, and passed by voice vote of the group to use the Lutheran database software for LTRT records.

Barbara Rigali of FEMA presented a composite report summary of activity around the area. The maximum grant for all programs per individual is \$25,600, and 37 people in Baldwin County have received that amount. Plans now are that the Gulf Shores center will be closed March 10 or 11. Deadline for registration with FEMA for Hurricane Ivan damage is March 3.

Committees went into brief session, and then reported to the Team as a whole.

Participants in Administration committee included Stanley Cox, Angela Hastings, Deborah Minor, and Letisha Watts, chaired by Carol Brandon. The group plans to research what press releases have been sent, and to whom, then refine the message and follow through with media sources. Human-interest stories are needed. Problems with insurance should be referred to the state Insurance Commissioner. Problems with contractors should be reported to the city where they are licensed. We will work with the District Attorney's office to report any claims of fraud.

Case Management participants included Darlene Adas and Linda Chappelle, chaired by Verlee Young. This group discussed the needs of homeowners versus renters, and the importance of encouraging each client to apply for SBA loans.

Frank Trione, chairman of Emotional, Mental, and Spiritual Committee, met with participants Lawrence Cox and Isaac McPherson. This group will try to network with churches to spread the word that each client should register with FEMA, and to set up crisis counseling sessions in cooperation with Project Rebound.

Tyson Reed chaired the Resource Committee, with Ron Baughman, Enrique Escobar, Amelia Fletcher, Martha Hohl, Mike Kirk, James Mullins, Troy Vesper, and Elizabeth Woerner as participants. This group intends to work on managing volunteers and designating sites for housing for visiting volunteers. A shower unit is being obtained, and funding is needed for two more from the county. Three camps may be needed for housing, as condominiums are being filled with winter visitors.

Next meeting of the LTRT was set for February 10, 2005, 10am, at the United Way office in Foley.