

Baldwin County Volunteer Agencies Active in Disaster
Post Hurricane Ivan Meeting October 15, 2004
Held in Foley at SBUW Office, 10 a.m.

Brenda Lee, Chair, called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone. She invited members to introduce themselves and provide a thumbnail sketch of assistance and resources available and to identify unmet service and resource gaps.

Linda Chappell, Christian Service Center, Open Mon – Fri, 9am – noon.

Have tons of clients and gave out lots of food, and money for utilities and rents. Linda reports that the Center has seen 83 clients between September 20 and October 14, spending \$9,281.27. CSC provided food for 146 individuals. Provides emergency aid (rent, utilities, medical, food), and information and referral services (I&R) for low-income people in Pleasure Island. Have tarps available. Has an abundance of baby food and formula to give away. CSC reports receiving a number of referrals from FEMA and Red Cross.

Pam Meredith, Ecumenical Ministries, representing Foley and Fairhope offices. Is geographically bound to greater Foley (Magnolia Springs, Bon Secour, Lillian, Elberta) and greater Fairhope (Daphne, Spanish Fort) Otherwise, services are like those of CSS. Provides emergency aid, I&R, and special Christmas Sharing Program for children and elderly. EMI no longer has tarps. Has Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy program. Can help with rent, utilities, medical, and food. Pam reports a fair estimate of about \$15,000 spent thus far in hurricane emergency relief. She received hundreds of school packs for children and personal hygiene kits from Church World Service. Please call for appointment (943-3445 or 928-3630), can work in emergencies.

Mary Ann Halliday, Director, North Baldwin Ecumenical Association (NBEA) 251-937-8005, Bay Minette at housing authority office. Open Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9am – noon. Provides emergency aid (food, rent, utilities, I&R, medical, etc.), I&R, clothes, vouchers for other items. NBEA is the only resource available in North Baldwin for social services.

Tyson Reed, Island Church Recovery Team, First Baptist Church, Gulf Shores.

251-968-7367 office, 228-0343 cell, reed_music@yahoo.com

Serves disaster needs on Island. Have chainsaw crews, skilled construction workers, and yard crews, tarps. Call office Mon – Fri, 8-5. Need more volunteers. Has some furniture, appliances, etc and needs more. Will take vouchers for furniture from agencies. Food is given from the Christian Life Center; bedding/furniture/other furnishings have been given to the Bargain Center. Clients may receive voucher to obtain things from the Bargain Center.

Susan Jenson, VOLAG/FEMA, reported that registration is continuing and totals some 22,707 families in Baldwin County. Thus far, 105 families have already received the maximum FEMA grant. The estimated financial need by these families tops \$1.5M. (\$1,581.531). This figure represents the value of unmet needs in Baldwin County and is a long-term recovery issue. DRC's remain open in Gulf Shores and Loxley. FEMA hired 30 people to conduct client interviews in hopes of expediting the process. Upon FEMA referral, the Red Cross will issue transient accommodations to hurricane homeless. FEMA reimburses Red Cross these costs. Application deadline for FEMA and SBA is November 14, 2004. Problem getting through to FEMA? AGENCIES can call Susan 251/415-2282 or email her at susan.jensen@dhs.gov. Agencies must have a signed release before Susan can release confidential client info. Get form from Susan.

Jamie Dake and Tyler Fisher, Americorp Volunteers from St. Louis, are here assisting FEMA with identifying and responding to unmet needs. Tyler is charged with matching agencies and clients. Call him at 251-415-2384. Jamie spoke about tarps. Agencies may call Ray Elsberry at 334-467-5174 (cell) to request tarps. No deliveries can be made. Ray is working out of a Home Depot warehouse in Mobile. "Tarping Day" will offer one transitioning factor from short-term to long-term recovery for hurricane victims in Baldwin, Escambia and Mobile counties. Volunteer teams of four to include one with chainsaw experience and one with extension ladder/roofing experience. Training will take place at Lowe's (which one?) on 10/21 and 10/22 at (what time?). A form was distributed for clients to request aid with installing tarps or identifying any other unmet need. Agencies are asked to pass this info on to clients. Actual tarping days will October 23 and 24. To register for help or volunteer to help for tarping, call Volunteer Mobile at 877-824-9826. Jamie has a list of building supplies that will be needed in long-term recovery so that committee can recruit specific donations.

Geoff Bell represented Mobile Salvation Army. 251-438-1625 reported for Edith Belder. Baldwin Salvation Army, (251) 943-3880, fax 943-4169 is operating out the Church of Christ at 59 and Birch in Foley. SA can help with rent, food cards, utilities, and some furniture. Appointments and referrals requested. All assistance depends on need and is determined on a case-by-case basis. She does ask that applicants contact FEMA first.

Debra Fields, volunteer represented the Community Action Agency, Daphne (251) 626-2646, headquarter office has clothes, food, water, money for electricity bills, rent, clothes, and most any emergency need. They can help with deposits. Must make appointments. Serves rural and city poor in five counties. They have tarps. Utility assistance is crisis utilities, must be 60 or older or have a child 5 or under to be eligible.

Michele J. Prockup, Director, Catholic Social Services on Highway 59 in Robertsdale serves people throughout the County with emergency aid (rent, utilities, medical, food, transportation, Thrift Shop vouchers to "shop for free", etc.), special projects (school supplies, Christmas for elderly and for children to age 16, Ozanam Pharmacy), permanent housing for the disabled homeless, disaster aid (food, bottled water, blankets, personal hygiene items, cleaning stuff, baby diapers and paraphernalia, paper products, etc.), information and referral, networking and advocacy. Open Monday - Friday, prefers appointments; will take emergencies to work in. Client hours are 9-1130am and 1-230pm, office open 830-12 and 1-430. Has bi-lingual, Spanish/English case manager. CSS currently has no tarps but will get more if need be. General announcement - Red Cross Family Service Center still open in Foley (Hwy 20) and manager is Mike Maroney.

Report on Unmet Needs, Long-term Recovery meeting, held October 14 at the Loxley Civic Center. Tim Johnson, Church World Services, facilitated discussion of some 25 representatives who came from the faith community, community agencies and county commission. Tim explained the process for formation and the length of time involved (six months to two years). A representative of this committee will sit on the BCVOAD as a liaison, conduit. VOAD is a network of voluntary agencies already involved in disaster relief and recovery. As a body, the VOAD is not a service agency, operating programs for direct aid. The unmet needs committee will serve this function. This committee, tentatively named THE BALDWIN COUNTY RECOVERY TEAM, needs to establish By-Laws, Mission Statement, and policy and procedures for governance. (Tim has templates, easily tailored). He identified six committees necessary for administration. They are:

1. Executive Committee (Overall management)
2. Finance/Fundraising (Financial oversight, CPA, Receiving and Distributing Funds)
3. Program Needs (Needs assessment, disaster case management, gaps)
4. Public Relations (One contact place for work of Team)
5. Personnel (Could hire people from funds raised)
6. Volunteer Coordination (To coordinate groups of volunteers or individuals)

The group decided that we need another meeting and brainstormed whom to invite. Sherry Weaver conducted this part of the meeting. Volunteers will be asked to sign up for committees and included:

- faith community (need more pastor input)
- business (Chamber of Commerce has contact info)
- community agencies (CAA, EMI, CSS, CSC, Habitat, NBEA, etc.)
- civic groups (Lions, Civitans, Rotary, Kiwanis, Optimist)
- county and city government (county commission, mayor's association, law enforcement)
- schools (BC Board of Education)
- Limited English Proficient people
- Media

The group needs people who are nonprofit managers, CPA's, public relations, business management, building trades, medical. Each constituent group will be asked to look for volunteer who will devote their time and talent to administering the Team.

Next Meeting - October 28, 2004, 7 pm, Loxley Civic Center.

Brenda Lee, South Baldwin United Way and BCVOAD chair, 943-2110, Thanked everyone for coming. Asked if we'd like to meet every two weeks as membership is declining. Group agreed.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is Friday, October 29, 10 am at SBUW office.
Submitted by:
Michele J. Prockup
October 15, 2004