

**Baldwin County Alabama VOAD
Long Term Recovery Team
December 3, 2004 Meeting Notes**

Chairwoman Brenda Lee (United Way) called the meeting to order. Others present:
Michael Allegri (Baldwin County State Legislative Delegation)
Edith Belder (The Salvation Army)
Janice Boudreau (Community Service Guide – Baldwin County United)
Diane Clewell (American Red Cross)
Pepper Evanson (FEMA)
Sam Farley (Community Action Agency)
Mary Ann Halliday (North Baldwin Ecumenical Association)
Kay Herrin (Christian Service Center)
Harry Kellogg (FEMA)
Albert Lipscomb (Baldwin County Commission, District 4)
Pam Merideth (Ecumenical Ministries)
Tyson Reed (Island Church Recovery Team)
Barbara Regali (FEMA)
Judy Sullivan (Volunteer)
Frank Trione (Project Rebound)
Verlee Young (United Way)

Brenda invited question/answer time from Agency representatives:

- ❖ Edith Belder – Salvation Army is returning calls to folks who leave a message at 251-943-3883. Edith also requested everybody to clarify to hurricane survivors: Salvation Army can only provide a portion of rent of utilities monies, not 100%; other portions must first be obtained from another resource (a church, another agency). Asks to become secondary resource, i.e. to receive referrals from existing agencies on rent and utilities.
 - Action item on United Way web page: remove Salvation Army from the aid list.
 - Action item at FEMA center: refer first to Christian Service Center, 251-968-5256, Monday through Friday 9am to 12pm.
 - Salvation Army has requests right now for 2x-, 3x-, and 4x-sized clothing. Please help get this word out to those offering to send clothing.
- ❖ Diane Clewell – American Red Cross at the agency level is assisting only those Hurricane Ivan survivors who already have a case-file opened. If someone has not yet registered for Ivan assistance, they must call 1-866-GETINFO, American Red Cross's national number and the Red Cross will open a case-file by phone.
 - American Red Cross has a contact to relay to other agencies. This contact wants to donate mix-matched furniture, such as recliners or sofa-sections. Red Cross cannot be the lead agency on furniture donations, but will definitely see that this help is accepted by channeling it into other local agencies.

Brenda Lee asked agencies to address Christmas operations:

All agencies please advise Brenda of your operating hours, especially when your agencies are opened/closed, to be posted on website. The impact on United Way agencies this season is noticeable. Besides local residents needing help, some out-of-town workers seek Christmas assistance.

- ❖ Frank Trione – Project Rebound said that stress “over not having Christmas” is a common theme being relayed by the survivors to the outreach workers. Outreach workers are employing every aspect of their crisis counseling training door-to-door; those who show signs of needing professional services are being referred to mental health system.
- ❖ Pam Merideth – Ecumenical Ministries have their Christmas-needs addressed by a number of churches. Sign-up list is now closed, since churches needed specifics in order to meet specific needs. General help is still available. Catholic Social Services is helping to distribute flow of donations that continue to come in: food, clothing, and any toys that aren’t earmarked/designated. Their distribution day to families on the sign-up list is Thursday, December 16, noon to 5pm. They will close at noon on Friday, December 17th. Telephone monitoring will occur while the office is closed, and critical needs—such as medicines—will be addressed.
- ❖ Mary Ann Halliday – North Baldwin Ecumenical Services is referring to R.S.V.P.’s operation called “White Christmas” 251-937-6764. She is seeing a high increase this holiday season from folks seeking Christmas assistance.
- ❖ Lay Herrin – Christian Service Center is helping Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, Fort Morgan families to sign-up for their operation called “Christmas Cheer” 251-968-5256. Agency has sponsoring churches; clients return with an agency post-card to pick-up designated gifts. CSS will be open Christmas week, except Friday December 24th.
- ❖ Sam Farley – Community Action Agency has a similar operation. The agency fills-out a post-card listing specifics. The client knows when to come back to receive food/gifts. He will call Brenda back with dates/hours that CAA will be open/closed.

Long Term Recovery Team scope and workload

The long-term recovery team might be addressing Hurricane Ivan’s workload for as much as two years. Therefore, our officers will work meticulously at the front-end to organize fiscal responsibility, accountability, flow of information and casework. Today, elect 4 officers who will establish by-laws, do staffing, and coordinate training between now and the committee’s next meeting.

- ❖ The website was updated November 19th to include the mission statement created in the November 12th VOAD meeting. See the Hurricane Ivan homepage “click here for Long Term Recovery Information.” Next update to website: include “Alabama” in our own VOAD Long Term Recovery postings. Right now a “google search” of VOAD + Baldwin County lands on Louisiana and Florida affiliates. UMCOR case-management training at Loxley Civic Center occurred November 19th; 21 from Baldwin County churches and agencies attended.

- ❖ Joint-counties VOAD-LTRC meeting will be held Wednesday, December 15th, 9:30am, Volunteer Mobile, 1050 Government Street, Suite 201, Mobile, AL 36604. Penny Dendy, Executive Director, 251-433-4456.
- ❖ Case-manager, Verlee Young, will begin in January. Tyson Reed continues to coordinate volunteers and develop resources. His Southern Division is the only division that is meeting right now, as other agency coordinators are inundated by holiday season requests.
- ❖ The Northern, Eastern and Central Divisions need to meet. Past minutes task other Divisions to organize and meet by January 15th.
- ❖ Janice Boudreau, Community Service Guide (251-929-7927) Baldwin County United is a non-profit organization working since the 1980's to network agencies. Janice has been with them since 1992, and will assist in any way to help these other 3 divisions to organize for VOAD. Judy Sullivan will report to Mary Ann Halliday, North Baldwin Ecumenical Ministries and/or to Jennifer Bruijn, Eastern Shore Ecumenical Ministries to volunteer toward the same goal.
- ❖ Applications are still being accepted to hire one coordinator for the Northern, Eastern and Central Divisions. The board will decide in January. Tyson Reed is the Southern Division Coordinator.
- ❖ Government entities still need to join the Long Term Recovery Team. Commissioner Lipscomb stated that Baldwin County EMA Director, Leigh Ryals, will be addressing the Commission in January. Project Rebound and VOAD also need to be on that agenda.
- ❖ Commission Lipscomb also mentioned pending state legislation to address emergency management concerns: more proactive approach and clarifying language. Also, he and others are asking for budget increases for disaster relief in Baldwin County.
- ❖ Harry Kellogg – FEMA relayed to-date number of applications received, dollar amounts of assistance, maximum grants, etc. Discussion ensued about the number of SBA referrals-vs.-SBA applications being processed. Completed-applications category is well below the national average. Misconceptions surround sequence of delivery, loan-vs.-grant wording, wording about insurance. He reviewed Sequence of Delivery: Appendix 1, Long Term Recovery Manual, pages 32-36. Distributed copies of the chart on page 34, since not all present today have a manual.
- ❖ Many among the elderly do not have a ride to the FEMA center. Some were psychologically overwhelmed by reported looting, and therefore were reluctant to leave home to seek assistance from FEMA or other agencies. Pam Meredith and Sam Farley relayed certain clients' inability to fill-out paperwork that was too overwhelming or too complex for them. Harry suggested that agency-advocates/volunteers call FEMA while they are helping Baldwin County residents to complete applications, and to keep the client present during their phone call into FEMA: 1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-6213362); the FEMA fax line is 1-800-827-8112.
- ❖ At several levels SBA will be asked to extend its January 3rd deadline for SBA loan applications. Mr. Lipscomb will see that Governor Riley is immediately contacted about this.

Officer elections followed:

Treasurer – Cassandra Boykin, Community Action Agency;

Motion made by Pam Meredith, 2nd by Tyson Reed, passed unanimously.

Secretary – Michele Prockup, Catholic Social Services;

Motion made by Tyson Reed, 2nd by Pam Meredith, passed unanimously.

Chair – Brenda Lee, South Baldwin United Way;

Motion made by Diane Clewell, 2nd by Pam Meredith, passed unanimously.

Vice Chair – Tyson Reed, Island Church Recovery Team;

Motion made by Diane Clewell, 2nd by Pam Meredith, passed unanimously.

Long Term Recovery Team officers will attend the meeting December 15th in Mobile.

Clean up – Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 18th. Tyson Reed has organized a clean up. Gulf Shores volunteers report to First Baptist Church of Gulf Shores, 2200 West First Street, Gulf Shores: 251-968-7367. Orange Beach volunteers report to Christian Service Center, located at 317 Dolphin Street, Gulf Shores: 251-968-5256 or 5252. Tyson hopes to organize countywide participation the 3rd Saturday of each month. Churches/agencies are needed to host deployment sites for other parts of the county: Eastern Shore, Northern, Central Divisions.

More Volunteer Groups – are arriving in December and in January to make home repairs, clean yards, etc. 12-15 couples will drive their own RV campers here. Tyson is seeking churches or businesses willing to allow 1 or 2 RV campers to park on church/business property during the one-week period this volunteer group comes to town.

Tornado and Fire this past week:

Saturday, November 27th, 6 homes destroyed, at least 25 homes damaged by tornado in Summerdale. See Ryan Dezember, Mobile Register articles, Sunday 11/28/04 and Thursday, 12/02/04:

<http://www.al.com/search/index.ssf?/base/news/110163702551940.xml?mobileregister?nmet>

<http://www.al.com/search/index.ssf?/base/news/1101982781268690.xml?mobileregister?nmet>

The Thursday article mentions SBA help. Red Cross is working these cases locally.

Eagle's Landing in Gulf Shores had a fire this past week. 8 apartment were involved.

The next meeting of the Baldwin County, Alabama, VOAD's Long Term Recovery Team is Friday, January 28, 2005, 10am at South Baldwin United way.

Submitted by: Judy Sullivan

12/03/04