

Baldwin County Volunteer Agencies Active in Disaster
Post Hurricane Ivan Meeting October 8, 2004
Held in Foley at SBUW Office, 10 a.m.

Brenda Lee, Chair, called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone and spoke about purpose and history of BCVOAD, website, tarp update, housekeeping details. She invited members to introduce themselves and provide a thumbnail sketch of services/resources immediately available and to speak to service/resource gaps identified as unmet needs.

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 (tarps, 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, prefer appointments; will take emergencies to work in. Client hours are 9-1130am and 1-230pm. Has bi-lingual, Spanish/English case manager.

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, special Christmas Sharing Program for children and elderly. Has tarps. Has Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy program. Can help with rent, utilities, medical, food, Prefers people call in for appointments (943-3445 or 928-3630), can work in emergencies.

Edith Belder, Salvation Army, (251) 943-3880, fax 943-4169 is operating out the Church of Christ at 59 and Birch in Foley as her building was demolished by Ivan. Geoff Bell represented Mobile Salvation Army. 251-438-1625. The Salvation Army is working to meet unmet needs by other agencies. Edith prefers appointments. She can help with rent, food cards, utilities, some furniture, all assistance depends on need and is determined on a case-by-case basis. She does ask that applicants contact FEMA first. She is doing a lot of info and referral.

Susan Jenson, VOLAG/FEMA, reported that registration is continuing and totals some 19,692 families in Baldwin County. Thus far, 275 families reported that their homes were destroyed and that they had no insurance. An additional 103 families have already received the maximum FEMA grant of \$5,001 for repair. The estimated financial need by these families tops \$1.5M. Susan explained that is a long-term recovery issue.

The travel trailer program is in place. FEMA selects recipients through priority system.

Homes completely destroyed

Homeowner received maximum amount from FEMA and house is not livable. Housing will be provided for up to 18 months. Participants will not receive living expenses through this time. Each family will participate in a disaster recovery plan designed to get them into housing by that time. FEMA is considering provision of mobile homes using a park model and paying the lot rent. Some homes will be handicapped-accessible.

Renters in condemned apartment complexes are eligible for travel trailers.

Labor for tarps? She suggests we call churches, volunteers. FEMA will supply the materials but not the labor.

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.

FEMA needs case managers to work with unmet needs.

Query – Debris removal and FEMA? Albert Lipscomb, County Commissioner, spoke to issues related to percentage of costs reimbursed by FEMA to municipalities and unincorporated areas and the time window of 72 hours for claiming 100% of costs. The County Commission is pursuing resolution of this potentially devastating financial turn of events.

Sam Farley, Community Action Agency, Daphne (251) 626-2646, headquartered office has tarps, food, water, money for electricity bills, rent, clothes, and most any emergency need. They can help with deposits. Must make appointments. Serves low-income people, countywide. Hurricane Ivan families are eligible for "Safety First" grants to make homes safe (wheelchair ramps, septic tanks, etc.)

April Boone, City of Gulf Shores and City of Orange Beach, 215-968-4600, 251-752-0157, awboone@compassbiz.com.

April coordinates donations and emergency aid for these two cities. She collects and disseminates donations. Needs volunteers to help with flood and debris clean up. Needs funds. Have tons of material donations. Needs volunteers to help distribute goods. Located at Orange Beach Fire Department, 24/7.

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. Reports seeing a lot of new faces among those in needs. Provides emergency aid for low-income people in Pleasure Island.

A. J. Benintende, Gulf Shores United Methodist, 251-967-1313 home, 968-2411 church, abj@gulftel.com. 1900 Gulf Shores Parkway. Has cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, baby stuff. Announced special service on Sunday, October 9, with Dr. Jim Robey from Birmingham who will speak about

disaster recovery, offer counseling between 10-2. Sunday Church is 11 am. At 4P, a paralegal will provide free legal information and tips on disaster paperwork at UMC.

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. Needs more volunteers. Has secured places for 200 volunteers to stay. Team has been cooking for relief workers. Offers counseling (Spanish language also), food, clothes etc. Has some furniture, appliances, etc and needs more. Will take vouchers for furniture from agencies. Is a site for church mission projects. Can use Baldwin Baptist Camps, \$10/person/night for lodging. Is located off Highway 20, out of Foley. Operation Blessing is project out of Dallas for churches and organizations helping in disaster. He received a grant for help on Island. Go to operationblessing.org for more info.

Lynda Hedge, VISTA Volunteer Habitat for Humanity, 943-7958
Needs resources for people. Identified many service gaps.
People who cannot afford mortgage payment now – call your company and ask for forbearance. Most companies have disaster response programs.

Need to encourage low-income and non-poverty folks to call American Red Cross and FEMA to be establish need for help for disaster homeless or near homeless. Lynda wants to help folks who fall between the cracks. She will try to recruit volunteer labor for tarps.

Carol Hunt, Judy Pegg, and Toni Silver all at 703-289-8545, here representing the American Red Cross, Montgomery. Just want to support our efforts. Reminded everyone to call 1- 800- Get Info number to register with Red Cross.

Mary Jane Johnson, Disaster Specialist, American Red Cross, 943-3844, Diane Clewell,, Bay Minette office 937-3801. No more shelters open. No more hot meals served. The Family Service Center is open from 9-6, October 8, 9, and 11 on County Rd. 20 outside Foley. They have clean up kits, diapers, formula, and snacks. Mary Jane reminded us that the Red Cross is not a government agency. Support comes entirely from local communities. Volunteers are needed to ride with national staff to do home visits.

Albert Lipscomb, County Commission, 943-5061 ext 2804, alipscomb@co.bald.al.us
Discussed issue with Food Stamps at Daphne Civic Center. Thousands of applicants applied for emergency food stamps. Hundreds have been turned away due to restrictions by State. The State allowed only one week and one location for this special project. Local helping agencies can expect a deluge.

Brenda Lee, South Baldwin United Way and BCVOAD chair, 943-2110,

Reminder – Unmet Needs, Long-term Recovery meeting on October 14 at 7pm at Loxley Civic Center. Organized by Tim Johnson, Church World Services, the committee may be in place for up to two years, to identify/develop resources and needs for recovery.

Pam Meredith urged agencies to refer eligible clients for regular food stamps.

Agencies are asked to fax disaster-specific “helps” list to South Baldwin United Way as soon as possible.

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is Friday, October 15, 10 am at SBUW office.