



**Maryland Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (MDVOAD)
Quarterly Meeting
Friday, 12 March 2010**

MEETING NOTES

This quarterly meeting of MDVOAD was held at the Maryland Food Bank in Halethorpe, Maryland.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME, Mickey Gomez – Mickey welcomed everyone and briefly summarized the status of the MDVOAD Executive Committee for the current year.

MDVOAD ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS FOR 2010 – Nominations were brought forth from the floor for all positions. The nominations were presented as follows:

Chairperson – Mickey Gomez (Volunteer Center Serving Howard County)
Vice-Chair – Tom Viall (Volunteer Frederick)
Treasurer – Scott Knox
Secretary – Steve Welzant
Past Chair – Kevin Burr

A motion was approved to install these nominees as members of the MDVOAD Executive Committee; this slate of officers will serve until December 2010.

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES FOR DECEMBER AND FEBRUARY BLIZZARDS:

Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) – responded to several barn and chicken house collapses.
American Red Cross (ARC) – sent liaisons to EOCs at state and local levels, preparing mass care-some prepositioning, but never had to open a shelter. ARC (NCR) – some shelters were open and people did come.
Civil Air Patrol (CAP) – performed some searching/recon for stranded vehicles on highways.
Salvation Army – Baltimore City assisted the Salvation Army get food out to the homeless
Volunteer Center Serving Howard County (VCSHC) – recruited volunteer drivers for doctors and nurses.
211MD – remained open, many calls centered on transportation and plowing issues.
Noah's Wish – placed on alert, but never activated.

Many at the meeting thought that a central coordinating point for volunteer transportation may be helpful, however, hospitals are usually tasked with coordinating this on their own. Also, reaching out to snowmobile clubs may help with supporting emergency response in rural areas.

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES FOR HAITI/CHILI EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE:

Department of Human Resources (DHR) – Were on alert for possible repatriation operation after Haiti earthquake, partnered w/ARC.
ARC – events significantly helped with fundraising efforts, recruited some bilingual volunteers. ARC-NCR – handful of Haitian nationals looking for assistance
DHMH – gathered some Volunteer Reserve Corps (VRC) people together to address medical/psych needs.
Lutheran SS/Diakon – refugees/Haitian nationals in the US, were not allowed to go home, assisted them with many immigration issues. Also, dealt with unaccompanied minors/placement issues in foster homes.
Churches of Scientology – reached out to Haitian communities in the area and Haitian churches. Nationally, provided support at hospitals after hours. Worked with Mexican embassy w/distributing food and supplies.
Mercy Medical Airlift/Angel Flight – Many flights provided to ferry volunteers and supplies.

Baptist Convention of MD/DE – working with the Haitian government to provide relief, working with several hundred churches in Haiti, getting things through customs is challenging.
Adventist Community Services – Fundraising...also supported a group of medical professionals. A group that does prosthesis is interested in finding a vehicle to get down there and offer help.
IOCC – not much of a historical presence in Haiti but worked with other groups such as, Act Alliance and Church World Service helped us get things...clean-up kits, tents, medical equip and supplies.
Volunteer Frederick – volunteers wanted to help, coordinated some folks to go to local mall and raise \$ for ARC
HSUS – working with Haitian government to coordinate long-term recovery strategy. Looking at how to address needs in Chile...still early to report progress.
United Methodist/UMCOR – teams on the ground, Volunteers in Mission (VIM) teams are going in soon.
Civil Air Patrol – Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) professionals are available, if needed.

Informational website: www.sdbhc.us.com summarizes info gathered by various states; what help is still needed.

TREASURER’S REPORT, Scott Knox (not present) – The MDVOAD bank account balance, as of March 12, 2010, is \$10,062.31. The primary expense for 2010 will be supporting MDVOAD members who wish to attend the 2010 NVOAD Conference. Other expenses are expected to include meals for MDVOAD meetings. 2010 MDVOAD Membership forms have been posted to the website. Please renew you 2010 MDVOAD membership by sending in your dues to Scott (mailing address is on the website). Someone had mentioned maybe sending out an annual “invoice” to remind members to pay their annual membership fee.

SECRETARY’S REPORT, Steve Welzant – As always, please forward suggestions for website improvements to Steve. The MDVOAD Resource Directory is currently being updated for 2010, with the addition of an acronym page. Preliminary discussions have begun on upgrading the website even more.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES:

Volunteer Center Serving Howard County – 4/14/10 – VMC Training for Local Agencies and 3/23/10 – VMC Training for interested volunteers.
Volunteer Frederick – H1N1 response, partnering w/ health dept, and VMC/POD training.
Volunteer Anne Arundel – snow patrol, help local Dept. of Aging with snow shoveling volunteers. Looking to coordinate this better, working with OEM. They have waivers that both worker and recipient sign.
Lions Club – dealing with Sykesville VFC roof collapse, where to go from here.
ACS – lots of training, reaching out to the public, focusing mainly on donations/volunteer management. Large multi-state donations management training in NJ later on this spring.
DHR – reviewing state shelter plan and pets. 3/16 – shelter management training
Noahs Wish – upcoming training in Cheltenham, MD June 19-20, Animal Sheltering, SAR w/ animals, response concepts. www.noahswish.info
Mercy Medical Airlift/Angel Flight – Busy w/ Haiti flight requests, special needs evac and resettlement. New coordination system to organize all missions. Also, very successful in acquiring airline tickets for Haiti evac and resettlement as well as, providing critical transport services for cancer patients and combat veterans.
Churches of Scientology – ongoing training, DCVOAD meeting upcoming – 4/14/10 from 10-12, all are welcome.
211MD – check out 211md.org and review/submit your info.
HSUS – Ongoing operations and training, DART and EAS training upcoming in the area.
MDSART – new director Dr. Sarah Falcum. New symposium on 4/9 at Univ. of Baltimore on Animal Law, free.
DHMH – H1N1 vaccine still available.
ARC – prepping for upcoming hurricane season.
Baltimore Co. OEM – Thanks to all organizations that supported recovery from the Dundalk water main break.
CAP – training on national grid system, maintaining req. of 16 and over for SAR. Upcoming SAR exercises
MEMA – USDA will provide assistance to affected farmers. Didn’t meet the threshold for IA Declaration.
MEMA website (www.mema.state.md.us) has links for many training opportunities. Supported Haiti repatriation.
BACO Citizens Corps – Upcoming neighborhood preparedness training plus VMC training.
GOCI – redo/update of ESF 15. AidMatrix portal, more to come.

United Methodists/UMCOR – trailers pre-loaded to assist in disaster response/recovery. ERT team is more short term right after the event, VIM teams are more long-term. Bi-weekly training offered for all this. FEMA wants UMCOR to incorporate badging system.

Baptist Conv of MD/DE/Southern Baptist – Supplied laundry units, clean-up kits for Dundalk flood. Training upcoming for kitchen ops, food units, laundry/shower units, and communication units. Doctors/nurses being sent to Haiti, helping with debris removal.

Lutheran – House of Worship/Community Center prep for disaster event in March, plus COOP training.

IOCC – partnership with Habitat w/ Humanity on gulf coast.

ARC-NCR – mass care training/special needs/pet sheltering training. Secure storage at Mont. County Airpark. Mont. Co CART recently formed, would love to hear from other CARTs.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- The 2010 NVOAD Annual Conference will be held May 11-13 in Orlando, FL. MDVOAD has some funds available for those who are interested in going.
- MEMA/State Citizens Corps – MEMA planning Donations Management course, maybe 2, planned for Eastern Shore, looking for MDVOAD folks to come and help teach it.
- Name tags or table name tents may be helpful at MDVOAD meetings.
- Add acronym page to MDVOAD Resource Directory
- Emergency Management Institute (EMI) – <http://training.fema.gov/>
- MDVOAD page on Facebook being considered.
- DHR Mass Care/Feeding Discussion – New plan in development to coordinate these ops if needed.

Following the MDVOAD Meeting, several members stayed behind to take a brief tour of the MFB.

NEXT MDVOAD QUARTERLY MEETING:

June 11, 2010, 10 AM to 2 PM, location TBD

If your organization would like to host the next MDVOAD Quarterly Meeting, please contact Mickey Gomez (mickey@volunteerhoward.org).