

CENTRAL VIRGINIA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ALLIANCE

Mass Care & Human Services Committee



Thursday, January 5, 2017 1:30 pm | RRPDC | 9211 Forest Hill Avenue Suite 200 Richmond VA 23235

Minutes

In attendance:

TaMisha Bascombe, Richmond HD

David Calkins, Henrico HD

Paul Hundley, Richmond DSS, Chair

Jasmin Johnson, Henrico Health District

Kate McHugh, Richmond Health District

James Moss, VDH Central Region

Curt Nellis, Powhatan

Paul Oswell, VDSS

Danielle Progen, VDEM

Kathy Robins, RRPDC

Jim Schillinger, Red Cross

1. **Welcome and introductions.** The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm and welcomed all. He invited everyone to introduce themselves.
2. **Approval of Minutes** from the 12/1/16 meeting. James Moss moved approval of the minutes as presented and Curt Nellis seconded. Motion carried without further discussion. Ms. Robins reminded all that Minutes are posted on the CVEMA Website.
3. **Old Business**
 - **FY15 Shelter Supplies and Equipment Grant updates | Deadline: 3/31/17** Ms. Robins alerted all that Chesterfield has discovered a significant rise in Fly Away Kit prices (now approximately \$2,600/each)
 - **FY16 SHSP Grants:**
 - **Shelter Supplies & Equipment** (\$66,150 | FA: Hanover) Deadline for these grants is 3/31/18. The Chair asked if there were any questions about this grant. Hearing none, he moved on.
 - **Shelter Training** (\$57,775 | FA: Richmond) Deadline: March 31, 2018 The Chair asked if anyone present was on the VMCTF conference call this morning. Several people were. He reported that CVEMA was highlighted on the call by Dawn Brantley, Statewide Sheltering Coordinator, putting a little pressure on the region.
 - Shelter Training Request Form is on the CVEMA website for anyone wishing to schedule training.
 - Please check the CVEMA calendar for potential conflicts before scheduling your training. There will likely be extra demands on instructors during times when school is out. You may want to reach out to neighboring localities to coordinate with them for this training.
 - Richmond and Hanover will be sharing resources the week of Spring Break (April 10 to 14).
 - Richmond and Hanover are working together with VASART to provide a pet sheltering course on the grounds of either Richmond or Hanover site and will be bringing an animal sheltering tent to use for the class/exercise. These classes can accommodate 50 participants so there will likely be opportunity for other localities to participate.
 - Ms. Robins will add a Sign in sheet template for localities to use to track participants (must be submitted for reimbursement.)
 - Chair reported that if anyone else in the room, particularly Health District or MRC folks, has a need for training related to sheltering, please let him know and we will find a way to add.
 - James Moss reported that it would be helpful to add some training in relation to spontaneous volunteers, particularly development/management.

- The Chair asked Jim Schillinger about adding VOAD members. Jim suggested it may be good to include them. The Chair suggested hosting a VOAD Forum so that members can inform localities what skills/resources they bring. Committee is in favor of this.
- Curt Nellis reported that Powhatan has partnered with Amelia and Goochland to bring this training to their staff. Paul Oswell requested that they include Cumberland. They are happy to do so.
- The Chair reminded all that there is funding in this grant for background checks.
- **Virginia Mass Care Task Force (VMCTF) |** Held their second WebEx meeting earlier today. Goal of the task force: To create a comprehensive statewide sheltering strategy that effectively utilizes and integrates state and local resources to enhance and augment sheltering at the local and regional levels. Strategy should be flexible, adaptable, and scalable and maximize resources and capabilities through cooperation, sharing and regionalizing response and recovery where possible and beneficial, and that helps resolve critical needs. There are in the process of creating working groups to address individual elements of the entire picture.
- **EWA Phoenix MOAs | Status update** No new information. If you have no MOA with VDSS in place, you cannot access the system.

4. New Business

- **2017 Objectives.** The Chair asked the group to consider and offer goals and objectives and/or projects for this committee for the coming year.
 - **Jim Schillinger/Red Cross** thanked the committee for the opportunity that this project has offered for the Red Cross. They would love to talk to CERT, MRC, Health Districts, etc. about sheltering. He suggested that we engage in a public education campaign to remind folks of their personal responsibility for preparedness. Particularly tragic are cases of low income renters without renter's insurance or folks who have inherited a house and do not realize that they need to insure it. If we could raise awareness or financial assistance, that would be very beneficial. It seems unlikely that any grants available to us would cover this cost. The Chair reminded the group that in addition to this, the issue of short term housing continues to arise. Explore this as a potential project? Amanda Reidelbach will be a good resource for more information. We may wish to partner with the Public Outreach Committee on the education portion of this.
 - **Curt Nellis/Powhatan** suggested that undertake a gap analysis of sheltering capacity/capabilities, which has not yet been done for this region. Develop a standard for the region, against which to measure our current situation. This would give us a benchmark and gaps to fill for future projects/grants. Study the reality of the necessity for traditional shelters and possible future alternatives. Need to find out what the people in our communities want and expect. 'Power & Shower' model has become a good, cost-effective alternative that is preferable for people whose homes are safe but lack power.
 - **Danielle Progen/VDEM** reported that VDEM may be moving back in the direction of Disaster Recovery Task Force and pointed out that coordination with the VMCTF is crucial, as are identification of transitional housing in advance and addressing the needs of populations with access and functional needs. It is important to know your populations, including college/university students.
 - **David Calkins/Henrico Health District** asked that the committee address some attention to the opioid epidemic, including possibly having shelters stock Narcan for Public Health Nurses in shelter operations. (James Moss reminded the committee that this epidemic has been declared a Public Health Emergency in the Commonwealth. At the regional level, the Public Health Director, PIO, and he will coordinate, possibly creating a regional coalition on this.) Mr. Calkins expressed a need to expand coordination with mental health and social services. Resources are needed after business hours. Mr. Moss added that we should add Community Services Boards to this effort. Mr. Schillinger reported that Red Cross does provide some resources of this type (volunteer) for people in crisis and public sector support and coordination would be very helpful. The Chair asked about Mental Health Crisis Hotlines in localities.
 - **TaMisha Bascombe/Richmond Health District** suggested the development of resource card for members of the community in crisis. Ms. Robins reported on such a card produced by Homeward.

The Chair suggested that we engage groups such as Homeward. Ms. Robins reported that Ms. King-Horne is on this committee's distribution list. Perhaps we could invite her to come and speak to the committee. Ms. Progen has good contacts at HUD especially in the area of homelessness. Committee members should send requests for more information on topics of interest to Ms. Robins.

- **Paul Oswell/VDSS** hopes we can help local departments improve services to citizens and sees this committee as one good way to pursue that goal.
- **Jasmin Johnson/Henrico MRC Coordinator** reported that she tasked directors to develop a training plan for dialysis patients to be prepared for emergencies. The Chair pointed out that there appears to be significant overlap between this committee and the CVEMA Public Outreach Committee and proposed that we hold joint meetings on a quarterly basis. Ms. Johnson reported that Charles City and New Kent have outreach groups and non-profits to assist with housing.
- **James Moss/VDH Central Region** proposed we continue and expand on efforts related to Family Assistance Centers & MCIs, possibly creating a Regional FAC Team. The Chair reminded the group that we have also talked about Points of Distribution and Points of Dispensing and working together on these. Mr. Nellis suggested working with the CVAHIMT on these. He also reported that funding for a gap analysis of our capacity to respond to an MCI and develop a Regional FAC Plan will be a part of the CCTA Grant application.
- Ms. Robins urged all to consider these ideas and the resources that will be required to implement them and how they can be turned into grant applications for funding to move them forward.

5. **Open discussion, comments, announcements**

6. The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 2 pm at the Richmond Regional Planning District Commission.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Robins