

County Wide VOAD Meeting
First United Methodist Church
Cherryvale, Kansas
August 22, 2007. 10:00 AM

County VOAD coordinator, Phil Adams, called the meeting to order at 10:00 and thanked pastor, Russell Anderson for hosting the meeting and asked him to ask an invocation. There were brief introductions around the room. About 35-40 people attended the meeting. Phil announced some Resource Sheet corrections. Joe Palmer has agreed to resume being the Coffeyville VOAD coordinator. His telephone number is 918-728-1946. It has been suggested that each community have a safety officer to assure that everyone using safety equipment is using it correctly and safely. The safety officer for Coffeyville is Jim Hendrix and his telephone number is 620-870-0660. VOAD coordinator for Independence is Carrie Bacon. Her number is 620-331-5115 at the Community Access Center. The safety officer for Independence is Cathy Shephard and her telephone number is 620-205-6451.

Phil then presented the first of three presenters: Tom Swartz, who runs the web site for the Community Access Center. He announced that information for that site can be entered by individuals and not necessarily just by himself. To share information, a link can be obtained linking any other site to the CAC site. Or persons may request a log on name and password and enter their own information directly to the CAC site. The site was originally planned to provide information about the community to visitors but because of the flood, the development was accelerated and information is available there now concerning the flood. There is no fee involved in this service.

Phil announced that at this point we have been calling these meeting VOAD meetings but they are in transition to becoming Long Term Disaster Recovery meetings. The minutes of the meetings will still be found on the VOAD website however.

He next introduced Julie Pohl, who discussed the need to begin to develop volunteer case managers. These individuals will be able to work as little or as much as they desire. They will bring cases to the Long Term Recovery Committee to be reviewed. These cases are confidential information and a release will need to be signed in order for cases to be reviewed. Case managers will need to be ready and trained immediately to be ready to begin working with flood victims.

The next speaker was Cheryl Brekke, from FEMA. Cheryl spoke of the need for the case managers to work along with other types of outreach workers and KARE. Cheryl's responsibility includes coordinating the services of the Area Agency on Aging, KARE, The Lutheran Disaster Response Team, and Church World Service, among others. She introduced the Long Term Recovery Manual and will bring more of those to the next meeting. There is also another training manual under CWSERP.ORG from the Church World Service organization. She brought a list showing how many households in each county have applied for assistance. Cheryl's group with FEMA will be able to tell case

workers what kind of assistance each client has received. They will need a Release Of Information form signed to this however.

She explained the Sequence of Delivery form and distributed copies of that form to the group. She explained the sequence this way. The first group a victim of a disaster sees is the volunteer first responder agencies such as The Red Cross and The Salvation Army. Next the victim contacts their insurance agency to check their coverage if they are covered and to what extent they are covered. Next the local government will ask the governor for state assistance and if that is overwhelming to the state, the governor will ask the president to declare it a national disaster. A damage assessment report goes with that request. When the disaster is declared, each disaster within a state will be issued a number. Ours is DR 1711-KS. This team can also work the DR 1699 disaster because it is connected to this one and is still within Kansas. The victim then applies to FEMA for temporary housing assistance, repair assistance or replacement assistance if the property is deemed destroyed. Up to 28,200 is available from this program. At that time, the applicant needs to apply for FEMA Other Needs Assistance for medical, dental, funeral or some other non-SBA dependent items. They also should apply for an SBA loan, to determine if the applicant can qualify for a low interest SBA loan. The applicant must apply for the SBA loan and be denied to be eligible for further assistance. An SBA referral is for SBA items and those applicants who do qualify for a low interest loan. These are real property loans for up to \$200,000 and personal property loans for both renter and owners for up to \$40,000.

For those applicants who do not qualify for a SBA loan, there is Other Needs Assistance for personal property, moving and storage, transportation and group flood policy. Last of all there are unmet needs resources to be found in voluntary agencies if the applicant has received the maximum amount of assistance through FEMA, State and/or SBA's federal disaster assistance programs or if the federal disaster assistance programs do not provide for the need, FEMA may refer the applicant to Voluntary agencies.

The deadline for people in this disaster to apply for FEMA and SBA assistance is September 5th. It is possible to request an extension but that has to go up the chain of command starting with the County Emergency Management office. The request would need to be submitted right away. All persons should apply even if they do not want to receive funds from FEMA. They will get a FEMA number. If they are granted, the applicant does not have to take it but they will be in the system and have a number assigned to them in case they later decide they do need the assistance.

If a victim does not apply for an SBA loan, their case will go no further and no further assistance can be obtained. Those who receive money from the refinery will not be limited from FEMA assistance or SBA assistance unless that refinery money is marked for housing and not for pain and suffering. Benefits cannot be duplicated. Any duplicate benefits will have to be repaid. The maximum benefit from FEMA is \$28,200 and that cannot be a duplicate benefit.

Those flood victims with FEMA numbers who may need legal services may contact 1-800-928-3111 for free legal assistance.

The Direct Housing Program is moving forward slowly. There are 36 temporary housing units in Independence now. Those who qualify may apply for those temporary units and have temporary housing for a maximum of 18 months. Coffeyville still has to finalize their plans for temporary housing.

When choosing case workers, we are cautioned to carefully choose suitable persons to do that work. Persons should be able to keep confidentiality, and be respected in the community. Former or retired school teachers or social workers would be appropriate persons to do that work.

Phil then announced that the next meeting will be September 5th at 10:00 at Coffeyville's First United Methodist Church. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20.