

**ALABAMA STATE–COMMUNITY RECOVERY TASK FORCES**

Health and Social Services

Meeting Notes

November 10, 2011

**ATTENDEES:**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AGENCY &amp; INFORMATION</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>AGENCY &amp; INFORMATION</b>
Rocky Milliman	ADECA	Stephanie Southerland	ADECA
Ken Hollingsworth	ADECA	Corlis Floyd	ADECA
Chris Cunningham	FEMA LTCR	Tom Ellison	Project H.E.L.P., USA MRC
		K.D. Watts	Community Care Network
Via Telephone			
Allen Bowman	USDA-RD	Virginia Morgan	ACES
Acquanetta Knight	Mental Health	Carolyn Bern	ADPH
Esmeralda Pereira	HHS/ASPR		

**AGENDA ITEMS**

Introductions

- Rocky Milliman, Coordinator of the State’s newly created Long Term Community Recovery Office introduced himself and the two other staff members of the LTCR office---Stephanie Southerland , Community Liaison Officer and Corlis Floyd, Office Manager.
- Governor Bentley has committed to two additional state appointed LTCR staff members and Bob Haywood of FEMA will staff the LTCR office with six to eight FEMA liaisons to assist with the implementation phase of the long term community recovery process.
- Future meetings will be held within a 1 hour time frame.

Review of Action Items from October 13, 2011, meeting

Financial Literacy/Impact Alabama

- The Alabama Cooperative Extension Service can assist with financial literacy training once they are made aware of which communities have requested such training.
- LTCR staff will contact the individual communities and work with ACES to set up the training session(s).

VISTA Program Update

- Good program and a great resource! Habitat for Humanity requested contact information for the VISTA program at the last meeting. That information was given to Art Pearce of Habitat who was interested in obtaining some skilled volunteers.

## ALABAMA STATE–COMMUNITY RECOVERY TASK FORCES

### Health and Social Services

#### Meeting Notes

November 10, 2011

#### Project H.E.L.P., USA MRC Update

- Dr. Ellison briefed the task force with respect to MRC's involvement in meeting needs in the affected communities. MRC is divided and hosted by 2 non-profits (Bruno's Center, Birmingham Project H.E.L.P. and by the Community Care Network, Montgomery) and serves 38 counties.
- To date, MRC's input and resources have been used to meet various medical needs and to provide mobile medical units on the ground in the affected areas. All types of medical care has been provided, including treatment for snake bites, chain saw cuts, injuries from stepping on nails, broken legs, etc.
- MRC has approximately 4,000 members and approximately 1,800 were dispatched to provide medical care after the April 27 tornadoes. Approximately 600 members of the MRC are still providing mobile services to date.
- In the past 2 weeks, meetings have been held with Congresswoman Roby's office and other elected officials in Washington concerning legislation that needs to be passed that would help the MRC and the state as a whole in the long term recovery process.
- Providing blanket liability for all pre-certified, pre-credentialed persons is one area where amended legislation is needed. Many more professionals would be willing to assist in times of disaster if they did not have to worry about litigation.

#### Tele Health Grants through HHS

- MRC obtained a grant from Verizon to establish tele health medicine. The equipment is available, but the problem lies in the fact that no broadband service is available in many areas across Alabama.

#### Other Updates

- ADECA has asked the DOL for a 6 months' extension of the \$10,000,000 national disaster grant for public clean-up. We should know soon if the extension is granted.
- Twelve mental health centers are still up and running throughout the state at almost full staff. The Project Rebound staff is providing services for individuals affected by the tornadoes in dealing with sadness, hopelessness, grief, anxiety about the future, etc.
- ARC will sponsor a "Resource Road Show" on December 5 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, at the Capstone Hotel. The content will be tailored to provide useful and relevant information for the communities affected by the tornadoes. Grant writing courses will be offered at the road show. More information is accessible at [www.arc.gov/ardi](http://www.arc.gov/ardi).

#### Transition to Recovery Office

- Provide LTRC office with anyone you know of who has been involved in the planning side of the recovery effort so we can be sure they are kept up-to-date and involved in the implementation side of recovery.
- Communication is the largest hurdle we have to jump in getting information flowing in and out and to and from the communities and citizens affected by the April 27 tornadoes. One of the major focuses of the LTRC office will be to make sure we bridge the gap in communication from the task forces, committees, and FEMA to the mayors, other elected officials and citizens in the ongoing response and recovery process.

## ALABAMA STATE–COMMUNITY RECOVERY TASK FORCES

### Health and Social Services

#### Meeting Notes

November 10, 2011

- If anyone knows of other resources available for individual assistance, please forward the information to the LTCR office so we can share that information with individuals needing assistance as a result of the April 27 tornadoes.

#### Summary of Action Items

- FEMA will release the formal recovery plans for each town, city and county affected by the April 27 tornado outbreak to the LTCR office on or before November 17, 2011.
- Once the plans are reviewed by LTCR staff, they will be forwarded to task force members for review.
- A tentative date for the next meeting is December 8, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.
- Each organization represented on the task force is asked to attend the next meeting and provide details and information as to what their organization can commit to do to assist with the implementation phase of the recovery effort.