

Ohio Long Term Recovery Committee

March 28, 2012

Chair Report – Pastor Jim Dinkel

Pam Broughton will be the acting Secretary until a Secretary is identified.

Fiduciary Agent – The United Way is willing to partner with the LTRC, but is not able to be the fiscal officer. Mary Woodrow has set up an account through the Ohio VOAD.

Vice Chair Report – Beth Nevel

Clermont County Economic Development (Annette Decatur) has realigned funds from Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Neighborhood Stabilization funds to assist with private owner rehabilitation, home repairs, demolition (including barns and outbuildings), and debris removal. Annette is willing to meet with the Village of Moscow to review the types of assistance.

Brown County Economic Development (Kelly Coleman) has Community Housing Improvement Program (CHIP) funds to replace water heaters, windows, and doors.

We have been unable to reach Adams County EMA to get an update on what government assistance is available.

Spiritual and Emotional Care (SEC) – Pastor Ron Mathews

Clermont County Mental Health and Recovery Board have been providing counseling services 5 days a week for the last few weeks. They are transitioning to 2 days a week. They are shifting from paid staff to volunteers.

Referrals are coming from Case Manager, the SEC will follow up. An individual or family can make a specific request, via phone 513-752-5265 or RMathews@friendshipcincy.org. The SEC has trained volunteers that can provide support.

Pastor Mathews and Pastor Dinkel are scheduled to meet with the Church of Scientology to discuss recovery coordination/assistance. The Church of Scientology is not currently a member of VOAD. SEC is provided by VOAD agencies.

Village of Moscow – Sandra Ashba

The Village is understaffed and is in need of volunteers to work with residents and help them through the process. Bev Hurlburt will schedule a meeting with Sandra and Susan to discuss options. Bev is willing to be in Moscow for a 4 hour window to provide information. Bev will coordinate with Sandra and Annette Decatur (CDBG/CHIP) to identify a late afternoon/early evening time.

The Village has an issue with debris removal of uninsured private property. The Village is looking for a company to volunteer to assist with construction and demolition debris clean up. The Village is trying to prevent setting a precedent that they will haul away C/D debris. They will need backhoes, dump trucks, dumpsters, and volunteers to load the debris. The debris is starting to have an odor. Volunteers will need to wear N95 respirator/masks and gloves.

Other debris piles (outside of Village) that need to be picked up: Multiple piles on S.R. 756; would require a front end loader and a dump truck.

Community and Economic Development can defer Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to demolition projects. It is an agreement between the homeowner and the Clermont County – CDBG.

Volunteer Management

The LTRC is still without a Volunteer Management Coordinator. Two individuals from Friendship Lutheran Church volunteered. They have been tasked with doing an assessment. Jocelyn Roper of United Methodist Church is checking on some potential leads. There is another potential volunteer through St. Vincent de Paul, Kathy Swartz of Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Bev is currently maintaining a list of volunteers and volunteer needs. She will pass it off as soon as a Volunteer Coordinator is identified.

Case Management

Individuals and families need to go through the Small Business Administration and State of Ohio Individual Assistance process. The LTRC needs to be careful not to provide support prior to the notification on SBA and Individual Assistance, because it could potentially hurt the assistance the individual/family receives from those programs. The application period for SBA is open until May 14th. Ohio Individual Assistance will be open until all SBA cases are closed. Residents should be receiving a letter with what they are eligible for on or before Friday. With Ohio Individual Assistance, the resident should get a check within 3-4 days. SBA is similar to getting a mortgage and could take 45 days to process.

Confidentiality agreements have been signed for 5 new cases. All applied for SBA and State Individual Assistance. One case was denied by both. The other 4 are waiting for letters to come back.

Waiting for acceptance/rejection letters before the LTRC can act. If the LTRC steps in, the individual/family could potentially have to repay the state (if they receive Individual Assistance). Encourage residents to keep all receipts for work as part of their personal recovery plan. In the event of a future disaster, residents could be asked to provide how they spent funds, as a determination of their eligibility.

Community Development Block Grants – residents would need to apply and be approved prior to doing the work.

Case management will go on until all unmet needs are met. Every disaster is different, but tornados generally last 6 -7 months.

How do we know contractors are certified? Contractors should register with the Ohio Attorney General's Office. EMA to get a list of approved contractors and will distribute it to Bev and the Village Administrator. If a resident chooses to use a non-registered contractor, they may lose eligibility. The LTRC will follow all Village, Township, State, and Federal Laws. Residents are free to choose their own contractors at their own expense. The philosophy is safe, secure, and sanitary.

The LTRC is encouraging all renters to get renters insurance. If residents are looking at getting insurance, the insurance company will want to see receipts to prove what the resident has put into the property.

Residents that have more than 50% of damage will have to meet the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) standards. In the Village that means they will have to elevate. Insurance will generally only cover replacement. Elevation will be at the expense of the owner. Issue has arisen with a property on the other side of U.S. 52 where the resident will have to elevate, but the home is very old and is not capable of being elevated. There is a specialty company that can elevate old homes, but it is very expensive.

Financial Donations

The Batavia Rotary Club would like to make a cash donation. They are being referred to the Park National Bank. Fundraisers are still going on so more money will be coming soon. Southwest Ohio Realtors doing a fundraiser.

Recommendation is to pool all financial donations into one account. Roy Nelson is the Treasurer of VOAD. An Account will be set up in Clermont County through the Park National Bank under the name of 2012 Victims of Tornado. The LTRC needs to identify a Treasurer.

Volunteers Needed

- Masonic Lodge for feeding volunteers during Spring Break
- Debris clean up in the Village of Moscow
- Donation Center needs warehouse workers – sorting and building kits

Other items

St. Vincent de Paul and Catholic Charities have partnered and negotiated a deal with Lee and Jack's Appliance Store to provide new stoves, refrigerators, washers, and dryers using a voucher system up to \$20,000.

Village of Moscow is working on Tree Planting initiatives with the Cincinnati Zoo and Museum Center and Farmers' Insurance. Soil and Water has a seedling program in the spring around Earth Day (April 20th). Established trees will be planted in the fall.

Clermont County EMA will be establishing a Long Term Recovery Committee webpage off of the County's website. Look for more information next week.