# NCVOAD Large Logo

# Quarterly Meeting

## April 18, 2017

## Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by president Ann Huffman. Mike Sprayberry, Director of North Carolina Emergency Management, welcomed the attendees. He stated that the state Action Plan, including a request for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), has been sent to the Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The goal is to provide more affordable housing in Wayne, Robeson, Cumberland, and Edgecombe counties. A $929 million request has been sent to Congress and a response is expected by April 28. This will be followed by a request to the NC General Assembly for matching funds—NC Emergency Management is still pushing for more money.

Director Sprayberry is proud to be associated with NC VOAD. He stated that volunteers are essential for recovery. He thanked NC VOAD on behalf of the Governor and General Assembly. Director Sprayberry also announced that he had been retained in his current position by the new governor and by Secretary Hooks. He concluded by stating that he is always available to meet with NC VOAD and NC VOAD is always welcome to use the facility.

## President’s Message

President Ann Huffman welcomed attendees to the meeting and thanked them for “all we do” and for taking time to attend the meeting. She told the attendees that this is a true recovery and asked them to continue in their efforts.

Ann also announced that the biweekly general conference calls are suspended. The weekly long-term recovery calls on Thursdays at 11 am Eastern will continue.

Ann encouraged attendees to look to making people whole and stated that it was good to get them back home. She urged attendees to provide tools to help survivors and give them tools to bless their lives together, to make the recovery whole.

## Minutes

John Robinson moved, Jere Snyder seconded approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. They were approved unanimously.

## Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer’s Report is attached. John Robinson moved, Daniel Altenau seconded accepting the Treasurer’s Report. It was approved unanimously.

## Old Business

Larry Marks reported that a bylaws update concerning broadening the categories of admissible IRS-exempt organizations was still under study, awaiting attorney response.

## New Business

Plaques were distributed as follows to agencies for their early response-phase work:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints | Crisis Cleanup Telephone Support |
| Crisis Cleanup | Crisis Cleanup System |
| North Carolina Baptist Men | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| North Carolina Conference United Methodist Church | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Operation Blessing | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| International Orthodox Christian Charities | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Christ in Action | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| NECHAMA | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Dare County Department of Health and Human Services | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Convoy of Hope | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Samaritan's Purse | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| All Hands Volunteers | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Islamic Circle of North America | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Hope Force International | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| World Renew | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Southeastern District- Lutheran Church Missouri Synod | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Habitat for Humanity | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Mennonite Disaster Services | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Greene County Interfaith Volunteers | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Team Rubicon | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Helping Hands Community Outreach | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Mercy in Action Disaster Resources | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Lenoir-Greene United Way | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Zakat Foundation | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Greene Lamp Head Start | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Western North Carolina Conference-United Methodist Church | Response-Phase Cleanup |
| Church of the Brethren Children's Disaster Services | Response-Phase Cleanup |

Plaques were distributed to those agencies present at the meeting. Ann will take the remaining plaques to the National VOAD meeting in May and distribute them at the plenary session if permitted.

It was pointed out that other agencies had participated in other ways. The following plaques will be ordered.

Billy Graham Rapid Response Team Disaster Crisis Counseling

Local United Ways Individual assistance, referrals

NC United Way 211 Referral Services

Operation BBQ Relief Mass Feeding

New Hope Presbytery Supplies, distribution

The Salvation Army Mass Feeding

Catholic Charities Individual assistance, supplies, referrals, distribution

Robeson County DSS Individual assistance, referrals

Tzu-Chi Individual assistance

## Topics of Interest

**NCEM**

Joe Stanton, Assistant Director of the Individual Assistance Branch, reported that they continue to work on recovery with NC VOAD and FEMA. They are still meeting with Recovery on housing issues. There are 192 families in the TSA program—the number continues to drop as individuals find places to go. They are making this recovery real, a lasting recovery.

Emmett Wainwright, Director of the Individual Assistance Branch, stated that getting people out of TSA and getting case management started were top priorities. There will be 24 case managers by the end of the month.

**NORTH CAROLINA RECOVERY TASK FORCE**

Katie Webster, task force leader, reported that twelve support functions are meeting. The task force is facilitating conversations with other support functions. They are meeting weekly on housing concerns at the JFO.

**FEMA**

Faye Stone, FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL) Group Supervisor, reported that there are currently 9 VALS assigned including herself. She distributed a map of FEMA’s view of status of LTRGs responding to Hurricane Matthew (DR-4285) and explained the map legend. FEMA has a Point of Contact for unmet needs for 33 of the 45 declared counties.

Christy Grant stressed the importance of partnering with NC VOAD and gave an inspirational talk. She recognized the inadequacy of the current FEMA reports and provided a sample advanced statistical report covering Robeson County. Christy is reachable through Faye Stone.

**DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT**

Paul Dunn, Lutheran Services of the Carolinas, introduced himself. He has served as an NCEM reservist and now leads the DCM response. The program includes 24 Case Managers, 3 supervisors, and a Program Director. They have engaged experienced people—several have advanced degrees—and are completing employment now. They will be going to all the disaster-affected counties and reaching out. They are developing a process to help.

They plan to meet with the LTRGs. They expect the LTRGs to fill out case management needs on an Excel form to be emailed weekly to LSS.

Chris Cardozo will manage the call center. He’s also a former NCEM reservist. The call center is up and running. LTRGs and others can call in.

Carly Fisher of LSS will be the Resource Manager, providing resources for survivors and staff. She expects to build a database.

United Way agreed to share their resource database with LSS.

**NCEM HUMAN SERVICES**

Abby Cameron, manager of NCEM Human Services, encouraged NC VOAD members to make use of WebEOC. The users worked long days during response phase. WebEOC is used for exercises every month, an opportunity to get familiar with the tool. Any NC VOAD member may get View-Only access to the exercises and disasters.

## Organizational Reports

Organizations were asked to deliver written reports and submit the written copies which are attached and on the website. A few brief notes are included here.

**UNITED WAY**

Laura Marx reported that a web page has been created for online applications for assistance from the NC Disaster Relief Fund, <http://rebuild.nc.gov/>. The initial application period is 4/22-5/20. Agencies may apply for $50K-$100K to distribute funds as needed. The fund is available to 501 (c)(3) organizations. The fund is reimbursement-based. Once approved, agencies submit receipts for reimbursement. The fund currently has $824K available for reimbursement but more can be made available. Note that this fund is designated for direct aid to survivors, not for internal needs like staffing.

**MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICES**

Larry Stoner reported that the group has been working in Princeville and Tarboro since October. They are transitioning from cleanup to rebuilds. They are receiving 12-25 volunteers per week and are scheduled through the second week in May. They would like more information about volunteers and about funding for supplies.

**TWIN-COUNTY LONG-TERM RECOVERY**

Peter Gilliland reported that Twin-County Recovery is “plodding along, getting their act together for Nash-Edgecombe.” Damage is mostly in Princeville.

Christy Grant mentioned the Hazard Mitigation Program. She asked if Joe Stanton could discuss this on a future call or meeting. Joe Stanton replied that he is submitting a plan with the initial numbers. A large number of people have applied. $100 million has been budgeted but much more is needed.

**LUTHERAN SERVICES**

After Paul Dunn’s report, John Robinson asked whether LSS’s mission is to do case management and reach out to the LTRGs or to support the LTRGs. Paul Dunn’s response was to do both. The responsibility is to meet survivors referred by DSS, the LTRGs, and the state helpline and then reach out to resources.

Cliff Harvell expressed concern and noted that their group was accustomed to receiving referrals only from the Long-Term Recovery Groups. Larry Marks expanded upon this, explaining the NC VOAD model most NC LTRGs follow. He observed that because different case managers advocate more or less strongly for their clients, every LTRG has a Case Review Committee (usually called an Unmet Needs Committee) to make sure all clients are served equally. This committee also sets priorities to make sure the neediest survivors are served first. For example, this could include the disabled, over 65, single-parent families, and families with K-12 children who are displaced a great distance from the schools they attend.

Larry noted that if all cases don’t go through the Unmet Needs Committee, the process will be disrupted because priorities cannot be maintained. He also noted that the leveling function (equal service) cannot be guaranteed.

A meeting will be set to discuss how to integrate the LSS case management process with the LTRG process.

## Date/Time of Next Meeting

The next quarterly meeting will be held July 18. A site in eastern NC is preferred. We would like to have a presentation on NC Housing Resources.

## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Marks

Secretary

NC VOAD