



## OPERATION WEATHER SURVIVAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 16, 2006 – 2:30 p.m.  
St. Louis Society for the Blind Building  
8770 Manchester Road

### **Attendees:**

Becky White – American Red Cross  
Rich Krueger - CAASTL  
Jackie Hutchinson -HDC  
Fran Bonhomme - HDC  
John Vincenzo – Home Services, Inc.  
Gloria Thirdkill – Laclede Gas Company  
Julie Burkemper - St. Charles County Government  
Charles Pratt - St. Louis City Health Department  
Linda Renaud – The Salvation Army

### **Excused:**

Joan Murphy - Jefferson County Health Department  
Dennis Diehl - Jefferson County Health Department  
Barry Drucker - St. Charles County Health Department

Meeting called to order by John Vincenzo at 2:45 p.m. John gave a brief description of Home Services and the services that they provide to the community. Afterwards he asked for introductions from the attendees.

### **Energy Reports**

- Rich Krueger-CAASTL stated that they are currently out of Energy Assistance money.
- Jackie Hutchinson-HDC stated that Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program-LIHEAP closed on March 31, 2006 and that they had until May 15, 06 to complete all of the applications that were accepted before then. She stated that they are currently out of funds.

Jackie and Rich spoke a little on the press release from the Governor's Office which gives a breakdown of the \$30 million dollars in LIHEAP funding directed to Missouri. The breakdown is as follows:

Weatherization	\$2	Million
Additional Winter Crisis Funding	\$2.5	Million
Additional Summer Crisis Funding	\$4.5	Million
Additional Winter Heating Funding For 06 and 07	\$10	Million
Propane	\$3	Million
<b>Total -</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>Million</b>

--The Weatherization Funding increased the funding from \$6 to \$8 million. The monies will go to Community Action Agencies that already distribute weatherization funding.

--Additional Winter Crisis Funding of \$2.5 million will go to clients who have already received a LIHEAP grant automatically giving them an additional \$150 dollars to be applied to their heating bill. These payments will go directly to the utility.

--The Summer Crisis Funding will start on June 1st. Not sure what method will be used as of yet

--It was pointed out that clients who already have an OWS A/C will be eligible for a grant.

### Sub-Committee Reports

- **Hot Weather**

--John Vincenzo reported that Home Services, Inc. has 130 new air conditioning units for installation. He stated that 15 units will be held for the St. Charles County area for installation by their "partner" Ranken Technical College.

John stated that Sears gave a new A/C for a casement window. It can be provided to an OWS eligible client.

He stated that AmerenUE provided \$40,000 for this year's program and \$11,000 carried over from last year. The funds are to cover things such as manpower and supplies. There have been new OWS A/C units purchased at this time.

--Rich Krueger stated that CAASTL has a project going on that will bring 50 A/C's in through Harrah's. CAASTL has 6 1800 BTU A/C's to be placed.

--Jackie Hutchinson stated that HDC normally budgets to purchase A/C's, but A/C's are purchased as a last resort. HDC prefers to use funding to pay on utility bills.

- Cold Weather – No report.
- Public Relations – No report.

## **Hot Weather Preparation**

### **Discussions held:**

- Now is the time to get the word out about Weatherization - CAASTL is offering classes. The classes involve Energy Conservation in an effort to get people involved in getting weatherization.  
Rich will provide a PDF file and flyers to those who have requested them.
- John Vincenzo stated that perhaps Kent Earhart could be provided with enough information to inform the community of these weatherization tips
- Jackie Hutchinson stated that HDC will use some funding and perhaps partner with AmerenUE's printing department in an effort to update OWS material to display professional artwork i.e. Safe Fan Use.
- Jackie Hutchinson asked for OWS packet material such as brochures, pamphlets, flyers etc. to be sent to HDC for OWS Packet preparation.

### **Outreach efforts:**

- John Vincenzo suggests that we ask churches to pick up and bus people to cooling sites.  
--Possibly partner with the Neighborhood Stabilization Groups-NSO
- Rich Krueger states we should use resources that we already have such as Reverend Nance and other ministers.
- Charles Pratt suggests we be proactive and contact someone who knows where the people are in need of the services ahead of the summer months.
- Jackie Hutchinson pointed out that the above noted efforts are in the current OWS response plan. However, we just need to implement them.

## **2006 Meeting Schedule**

John stated that the OWS meetings have been scheduled to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month here at the St. Louis Society for the Blind through the end of September.

### **John Vincenzo stated the next meeting agenda should include:**

- Identify NSO's
- Speak with Debbie Fagin on the status of the clergy coalition in the OWS outreach efforts.
- Discuss ways to give recognition to AmerenUE for the A/C funding i.e, each A/C is labeled "provided by AmerenUE".
- Discuss a Community Recognition Program that gives plaques to people who provide services to the community via OWS (Gloria Thirdkill nominated the event to be held in the AmerenUE atrium-(smile)).

### **Nomination of OWS Officers**

John agreed to Vice Chair the meetings. It was pointed out that if Jim Kramper does not accept the Chair person position (Debbie Fagin will inform the committee at the next meeting), Jackie Hutchinson nominates Rich Krueger. It should be known that Jackie Hutchinson will accept the position as a last resort.

### **Next Meeting Date:**

June 20, 2006  
2:30 p.m.—St. Louis Society for the Blind Building  
8770 Manchester Rd.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Gloria Thirdkill  
Laclede Gas Company  
720 Olive St.  
314-342-0669