

# Operation Weather Survival

Minutes for January 14, 2008

Attending: Debbie Fagin, Ellen Sherman, Molly Martin, John Vincenzo, Colleen Beckwith, Sara Davaasambuu, Erin Latham, Linda Hiette, Gloria Thirdkill, Denis Hart, Marie Bonhomme, Rich Krueger, Anneliese Stoever

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Energy reports

Human Development Corporation: Marie reported that HDC has more applications this year. HDC spent \$17,013,776 on almost 95,000 applications. Funding is still available for more applications and applications will be accepted until March 31<sup>st</sup> when the Cold Weather Rule Ends.

AmerenUE: Molly stated that Utilicare funding is moving forward. AmerenUE just released \$179,000 to their agencies in Dollar More funds.

CAASTL: Rich stated that CAASTL is still taking applications. As of Friday they are out of money. They will receive Dollar More money, but that is predicted to be spent in less than a week. Rich emphasized the importance of weatherization. Rich stated that CAASTL has a waiting list of a couple months for weatherization assistance now but there is a short list for during the summer.

Laclede: Gloria stated that January 30<sup>th</sup> Laclede will have a National March on Washington day where people will visit Capitol Hill and ask congress to support LIHEAP and increase funding. Gloria and Molly and Jackie will be going as well as representatives from KC. There is a “Dear Colleague” letter asking Congress to support the release of 586 million in LIHEAP—deadline to sign is tomorrow. Gloria set up meetings for January 30<sup>th</sup> to meet with all of Congress called the Washington Action Day. .

III. Cold Weather Agency Activity

A. Proposed Agency Action Chart: Debbie added Jim Kramper’s wind chill information. Debbie spoke with Karen Wallensack of Housing Resource Center. She is not sure when the overflow shelters are open. Jackie had said in the last meeting that 15 degrees is the temperature.

B. Clarify Health Department Activities

C. Clarify Media Contacts

IV. Getting Ready for the Cold: St. Patrick’s Center is preparing a disaster response plan with HRC. Right now St. Patrick’s Center feeds 2-300 people a lunch time meal each day. When the weather is cold people will be able to stay longer. The agency is looking to see exactly what actions they will take in cold weather and whether they will open up

an area inside during the day. Currently they hand out blankets and coats—winter gear. St. Patrick’s does have a mobile outreach unit that goes into the community at night to encourage people to come in from the cold. Debbie wonders if the City will use some dollars they received to shelter the homeless. OWS discussed the issue of people that refuse to come in from the cold. Molly asked if the sub-prime housing issue is increasing numbers of persons that are homeless. Denis stated that usually those persons have the ability to pay for other housing even if it’s not the housing that is wanted. Rich said there has been a notable increase in the number of homeless vets returning from the war. Rich said that there is also a notable increase in homeless females. St. Patrick’s Center’s actions will be added to the Cold Weather Response.

V. Discussed Heat’s On Program that is done in October through the MCA and the Pipefitters Union (400 homes)—it will be added to the Preparing for the Cold Weather season. Anneliese will reach out to Julie with MCA to find number of persons served and areas served. Gloria will look into Energy Care’s program “Heat is On” where Laclede services heaters and Energy Care pays for the service. Rich suggested partnering with the program to offer weatherization to those people. Debbie will make it mandatory to have staff in September begin asking people if they’ve checked their heating devices and remind folks of weatherization. Debbie said they have 5-6,000 calls a month and they are currently letting each caller know about health resources from SLU. Anneliese said she will have SLAAA do the same and will ask MEAAA to do the same. The agencies will begin asking about cooling in April and May. John suggested asking “When was the last time your ac unit was checked by a certified electrician”? Debbie said if we can find people that need ac assistance early, UW and AmerenUE will be able to assist with funding. John can store up to 300 ac units and they can have 75 ac units “on the bench” being restored. During the last emergency, John partnered with the City Parks Department.

VI. Outreach: Debbie will be the spokesperson for OWS. United Way Communications Department will assist with publications in addition to AmerenUE, Laclede, and SLAAA.

VII. Adjournment

VIII. Announcements: Ellen announced CORP’s tax assistance program that assists seniors and will help homebound seniors if they are 60 and living in the County. TAP will be at St. Patrick’s Center to assist with taxes. SLAAA circuit breaker assistance program has begun.

**Next Meeting Date: February 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:30  
Conference Call :**