



OPERATION WEATHER SURVIVAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 20, 2006 – 2:30 p.m.
St. Louis Society for the Blind Building
8770 Manchester Road

Attendees:

Kristy Baumgart – St. Charles County Department of Health
Valda Croskey – St. Louis City Department of Health
Debbie Fagin – United Way of Greater St. Louis
Cassandra Griffin – United Way of Greater St. Louis
Linda Hiette – St. Louis County Department of Health
Jackie Hutchinson – Human Development Corporation
Molly Martin – Ameren
Joan Murphy – Jefferson County Health Department
Sandra Nalger – Bi-Lingual Inst. Asst. Services
Charles Pratt – St. Louis City Department of Health
Linda Renaud – The Salvation Army
Anneliese Stoeber – St. Louis Area Agency on Aging
John Vincenzo – Home Services, Inc.

Meeting called to order by vice-chair, John Vincenzo at 2:40 p.m.
Introductions made around the room. Valda Croskey welcomed as the new
St. Louis City Department of Health representative.

Energy Reports

Jackie Hutchinson, HDC, reported that “winter money” was still available and applications would be accepted thru the end of June. An extra \$1 mil. added to the LIHEAP grant for help with electric or gas bills. \$600 maximum benefit.

AmerenUE’s Dollar More program added \$1 mil. for a summer “Clean Slate Program” targeting the elderly and disabled. Information on the “Clean Slate Program” will be forwarded to everyone by Debbie.

Weatherization monies available in both the city and county. County energy audits can be worth up to \$3,000 per household.

Window AC units available through HDC and Home Services for qualifying elderly or disabled City residents. These are new AC units purchased with funds provided by AmerenUE and are “loaned” to qualifying households. Along with the AC unit and installation those qualifying also receive a “stipend” from Ameren of \$150 to help pay for electricity needed to run the units. Jackie noted that Energy Care also had AC units available which are not part of the OWS program.

Jackie stressed that getting the correct information on the OWS AC Program and OWS Energy Assistance Program out to Neighborhood Stabilization Outreach (NSO’s), case managers, clergy, etc. is critical.

Cassandra Griffin, with the United Way of Greater St. Louis, attended the meeting as a first step in engaging the Clergy Coalition. With some 125 churches, they could be key to getting the word out in neighborhoods. Some thoughts included:

- ⇒ Getting information out during church services
- ⇒ Listing helpful information in the bulletin
- ⇒ Assigning 1 or 2 representatives from the coalition to regularly attend the OWS meetings bringing back information to the remaining members
- ⇒ Mobilizing “grassroots” outreach to members of their congregations who are elderly, disabled or housebound

Cassandra agreed to address our desires with the coalition and attempt to get OWS on their agenda for an upcoming meeting.

Valda reported that there had been one heat related death in the city already which occurred on May 30th.

Jim Kramper joined the meeting via cell phone. The official outlook for the St. Louis area was “iffy” as the city was right on the edge of the line for “higher than normal” temperatures. Valda noted that the city has “real time” feeds for temperature and heat indexes. She agreed to check on how to share this information with the National Weather Service. The Weather Service official temp. is reported from Lambert and may differ as much as 5 degrees from the actual temp. picked up by the city equipment.

Sub-Committee Reports

- Hot Weather – John reported that Home Services, Inc. had inspected 63 air conditioning units. As of 6/5 3 installs were completed and another 3 appointments were set. John noted that installation was slow because he only has 1 crew this year. 100+ units will be available this summer.

- Cold Weather – nothing to report.
- Public Relations – Molly reported that she and Jim would be in contact with Kent Erhardt (KMOV - Channel 4) to insure that he had updated information to air.

Group discussed other ways to get the word out:

- Proactive letter to news department heads
- Radio (Gospel Radio stations)
- Press releases from the Health Departments
- St. Louis American
- Churches
- Web Site links to OWS info.: United Way, City/County Health Departments, Ameren, Laclede, etc.

Training/education available to the following groups so that they can help spread the word:

- Visiting Nurse Association
- NSO's
- St. Louis City and County Home Delivered Meals Program
- United Way's St. Louis Cares Volunteer Program
- Clergy Coalition

Hot Weather Preparation

Debbie provided the following and asked for feedback:

- 2006 Cooling Sites
- Hot Weather Contact Flow Chart – draft of new chart for review – still need some important contact information
- OWS Referral Sheet used by UW Information & Referral

Next Meeting Date:

July 18, 2006
2:30 p.m.—St. Louis Society for the Blind Building
8770 Manchester Rd.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Debbie Fagin
Director – Information and Referral Services
United Way of Greater St. Louis

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