



## OPERATION WEATHER SURVIVAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007 – 2:30 p.m.  
Conference Call

On the call:

Dr. Douglas Adams – St. Louis County Health Department  
Julia Allen – St. Louis Area Agency on Aging  
Valda Croskey – City of St. Louis Department of Health  
Douglas Dodson – Jefferson County Health Department  
Debbie Fagin – United Way of Greater St. Louis  
Susannah Fuchs – American Lung Association of Missouri  
Chelsie Harmon – Missouri American Water Company  
Jim Kramper – National Weather Service  
Kelly McCurdy – St. Louis Area Agency on Aging  
Cindy Riordan – Citizens Service Bureau – City of St. Louis  
Cameron Satterfield – St. Charles County Department of Community Health  
and the Environment  
Anneliese Stoeber – St. Louis Area Agency on Aging  
Gloria Thirdkill – Laclede Gas Company  
Becky White – American Red Cross

Meeting called to order by Jim Kramper at 2:41 p.m. Jim asked everyone on the call to identify themselves for the minutes.

**Weather Outlook** – Jim reported that the outlook for temperatures over next several days would be warmer than normal (upper 80's to low 90's) but not excessive. (Everyone gave a collective sigh of relief). Normal high would be 80 degrees.

**“Heat Event” Wrap Up** - Everyone

City of St. Louis

Valda noted that we were fortunate in a lot of ways. Unfortunately the two infant deaths ended the season on a sad note.

Kelly and Anneliese indicated that SLAAA was developing “emergency preparedness response plans” for the City’s elderly and most vulnerable.

Cindy Riordan (Citizens Service Bureau – St. Louis City) and Joe Thele (NSO) actively collected information on people visited during the heat wave.

#### St. Louis County

Dr. Adams reported only 2 deaths this year. People who perished were elderly and socially isolated. (Same situation for St. Louis City). Stressed that next summer we should be more proactive in getting the word out to the public to “check on your neighbor”.

#### St. Charles County

Cameron noted that most incidents of heat related illness were caused by people who simply were overdoing it. Overall most people did a pretty good job during the excessive heat.

#### Getting the Word Out

Jim concurred with Dr. Adams that getting the message out was important. One suggestion that came up was working with the school districts. During the hottest days many schools closed early and changed the hours for sports practices.

Susannah with American Lung Association indicated that ALS works with the Clean Air Partnership to send information out to school districts (currently 5 districts participate). Some 10,000 – 12,000 brochures, flyers and other materials are prepared and distributed through American Lung Association each spring (mid May/early June). She felt that they would partner with OWS to get additional information out to the schools.

#### Red Cross

Becky stated that the Red Cross remained busy distributing more water than usual mainly to YWCA’s and HDC.

**Cold Weather** – Jim started the discussion on preparing for the cold weather. Welcome to Chelsie Harmon with Missouri American Water Company. Jim asked Chelsie what expectation she had of OWS. Gloria had suggested that Chelsie join OWS. Missouri American Water provides information and has cold weather packs to help prevent frozen water pipes in

the winter months. She agreed to provide OWS with some samples of the promotional materials that Missouri American Water Company provides.

SLAAA providing similar “tips” for Seniors on preparing for the cold like they do for heat in the summer. Includes information on the “Cold Weather Rule”.

Gloria reported that Laclede Gas Employees, Family & Friends have a volunteer program to “Weatherize” a room in the homes of elderly or disabled people. Gloria requested names from agencies of clients who would benefit from this program. Activity takes place on October 20<sup>th</sup> and the number of households depends on the number of volunteers from Laclede. Generally teams of 3-4 are scheduled to work on two homes on the “weatherization day”.

Question raised for more information about the new “safe haven” homeless center in St. Louis City. The center is known as the Horizon Club and is located at 202 N. 23<sup>rd</sup> St. Services provided include: 24 hour access to showers; bathrooms; laundry; lounge; lockers; beverages; snacks and computer access. Anneliese suggested that OWS request Antoinette Triplett or Bill Siedhoff to come explain more about the facility.

### **Energy Report** – Gloria, Debbie

HDC and CAASL are out of funds until November when the LIHEAP dollars for heating assistance is released by the state. Applications will begin being mailed to seniors in mid-October, followed by disabled then remaining households that applied last heating season. Limited Dollar More funds will be distributed in October.

Gloria reported that Laclede will be hosting training on the use of the Laclede website to check on clients who are disconnected or are in threat. This site can be used to enter on-line pledges to client’s accounts. Training is October 12<sup>th</sup>. More information will be sent to agencies who pledge \$\$.

### **Other Comments**

Valda let everyone know that she had resigned from the City of St. Louis Department of Health. Her last day would be September 28<sup>th</sup>. She has taken a position with Holland America Cruise Lines out of Seattle, Washington. Everyone agreed that Holland America will be healthiest cruise line of them all with Valda overseeing health services. Best wishes, we will miss you!

It’s time to prepare for the cold, the next OWS Meeting will be a “face-to-face” at the Society for the Blind. We will be looking over the Cold Weather Plan.

**Next meeting: October 16, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. St. Louis Society for the Blind.**

Meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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