



## OPERATION WEATHER SURVIVAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 18, 2006 – 2:30 p.m.  
St. Louis Society for the Blind Building  
8770 Manchester Road

### Attendees:

Barry Drucker – St. Charles County Department of Health  
Debbie Fagin – United Way of Greater St. Louis  
Molly Martin – Ameren  
Joan Murphy – Jefferson County Health Department  
Linda Renaud – The Salvation Army  
Anneliese Stoeber – St. Louis Area Agency on Aging  
Gloria Thirdkill – Laclede Gas Company  
John Vincenzo – Home Services, Inc.  
Becky White – American Red Cross

Meeting called to order by John Vincenzo at 2:45 p.m. Introductions made around the room. Debbie welcomed as the new United Way support person replacing Heather Dawson.

### **Energy Reports**

Molly reported that Ameren had released more “Dollar More” funds for distribution by the United Way. Summer ECIP begins June 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Sub-Committee Reports**

- Hot Weather – John reported that Home Services, Inc. has 130 air conditioning units for installation. 15 units will be held for the St. Charles County area for installation by their “partner” Ranken Technical College. Likewise, he will hold some units for Jefferson/Franklin County. John asked Joan if she was aware of any progress on “partnering” with Jefferson College for installation. Joan indicated that she would check on the progress.
- Cold Weather – Gloria reported on a “Pilot Program” being offered by Laclede Gas: The Laclede Gas Low-Income Affordability Program, which consists of

the Winter Bill Payment Assistance Program and the Arrearage Repayment Program (ARP). Offered in partnership with local Community Action Agencies. For more information see PDF file attached.

- Public Relations – Molly reported that Ameren has marketing materials which could be “recycled” for public education and distribution by our member agencies.

### **Hot Weather Preparation**

Debbie began discussion on getting prepared for the summer heat.

- Anneliese noted that she was preparing a mailing to sum 2000+ seniors on “preparing for hot weather”. Desired drop in May or June. Asked for “Hot Weather Tip” and other resource materials that could be included. John and Molly will work with Anneliese.
- Cooling Site update – Molly indicated that Ameren would take the lead on identifying returning and/or new sites. Asked that Debbie e-mail the 2005 list.
- Hot Weather Contact Flow Chart – Debbie indicated that the chart needed revisions due to some known changes (Heather and TelAssure no longer on the list, and John being the Media contact). Debbie to make draft of new chart and send to everyone for review.
- Reestablish contact with Kent Ehrhardt (KMOV Channel 4). Molly will contact Jim Kramper to see if Kent will be our weather media personality again this summer.
- Discussion on whether the “cooling site” concept is OWS’ best option to impact the health and safety of those “at risk” during excessive heat.
  - Elderly and disabled are not likely to leave their homes, even if there is transportation
  - There is a certain fear of strangers which presents problems when attempting to check on the safety and well being of those “at risk”.
  - Possible partnering with Neighborhood Stabilization Groups
  - Effort to work with local churches to either be open/check on elderly in their congregations/offer transportation etc. – Debbie will check will Cassandra Griffin who works with the Clergy Coalition to see if there is interest in partnering with OWS (John, Anneliese and Debbie to investigate this potential)
- Outreach and education – discussion on how to educate consumers on ways to conserve heat and/or electricity and how to stay safe. Laclede and Ameren have “tip sheets” and videos. (John & Gloria will research)
  - Possibly run videos while clients are waiting to be seen at Community Action Agencies
  - Posters for agencies
  - Adding links on our web sites to available tips

### **2006 Meeting Schedule**

John asked for feedback on how often OWS should meet. General consensus of group is to meet monthly thru the summer and possible cut back after that with monthly updates e-mailed to members. John would schedule with The St. Louis Society for the Blind to hold meetings at this location on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

Debbie suggested setting up a Yahoo Group for OWS. Similar Yahoo Groups have been set up for St. Louis Long Term Disaster Recovery and The Emergency Funds Network. Member agencies and partners could post information quickly to all over a secure network. Minutes could be posted there and automatic meeting reminders would go out. Debbie agreed to work on getting this Yahoo Group set up.

### **Nomination of OWS Officers**

John noted that it was time to think about new Officers for OWS. Suggestion made to ask Jim Kramper if he would accept the Chair Person Position. (Debbie will call Jim and ask him)

John agreed to remain in office as Vice Chair.

### **Next Meeting Date:**

May 16, 2006  
2:30 p.m.—St. Louis Society for the Blind Building  
8770 Manchester Rd.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Debbie Fagin  
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