



## OPERATION WEATHER SURVIVAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, August 15, 2006 – 2:30 p.m.  
St. Louis Society for the Blind Building  
8770 Manchester Road

### Attendees:

Kay Archer – United Way of Greater St. Louis  
Lisa Beatty – Mid-East Area Agency on Aging  
Julie Burkemper – St. Charles County Department of Health  
Robert Hardy III – St. Louis Fire Department - EMS  
Linda Hiette – St. Louis County Department of Health  
Brandi Koziatsek – Mid-East Area Agency on Aging  
Rich Krueger – Community Action Agency of St. Louis County  
Molly Martin – Ameren  
Donna Riat May – Society of St. Vincent de Paul  
Julie Ostropolsky – Bi-Lingual International  
Charles Pratt – St. Louis City Health Department  
Ellen Sherman – St. Louis County Office of Family & Community Services  
Bill Siedhoff – St. Louis City Division of Human Services  
Denise Strehlow – St. Louis County Division of Human Services  
David Sykora – St. Louis Area Agency on Aging  
Becky White – American Red Cross

Meeting called to order by Molly Martin at 2:35 p.m. Introductions made around the room.

### **Heat Response Recap**

Group discussed the recent Heat/Power Outage Disaster Response. Kay and Bill focused on what went well, areas for improvement and lessons learned.

- In St. Louis City, the Mayor's Office requested that the heads of the City Agencies responsible for the health and welfare of City Residents, (ie: Division of Health, Division of Human Services, City Emergency

- Management, St. Louis Fire/EMS, St. Louis Area Agency on Aging) communicate with each other and those other agencies engaged in the response to the disaster (Red Cross, The Salvation Army, United Way, OWS Hotline). Communication was on-going with all the players participated in daily conference calls to discuss current and planned action steps, identification of emerging needs, and planning to address those needs, etc. This process worked very well.
- Red Cross Activities included: operating 4 shelters; canteening for the lines of people waiting to apply for food stamp replacement; provided fluids and mobile cooling; volunteers in the food distribution effort.
  - City EMS in City EOC and available 24/7
  - City Health Department reported 5 heat related deaths
  - St. Louis County's response was complicated by the sheer make up of St. Louis County (decentralized municipalities/government bodies/emergency responders). County Government formed an EOC but inadvertently neglected to include those agencies responsible for health and human services and other, non-governmental agencies available to assist with the disaster. Because of this, St. Louis County appeared to have a less organized and comprehensive effort and communication was difficult.
  - Challenges: insuring better communication, not only for those responding to the disaster but also for those in the disaster. Insuring that there is a clear knowledge of ALL resources available to respond to a disaster.
    - Identifying emerging cooling sites
    - Identifying other agencies/organizations with resources (disaster expertise; volunteers; material goods, etc.) (i.e.: Americorps; Compassion Alliance; SEMA)
  - Action steps: Begin the process to formalize a strong C.O.A.D. for the St. Louis Metropolitan Region. (C.O.A.D. = Community Organizations Active in Disasters)

Kay noted that the Long Term Disaster Recovery Committee, which formed as a result of Hurricane Katrina last summer, had addressed formalizing a C.O.A.D. as an action item. As a result, a meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 PM at the United Way. Participation encouraged by OWS Member Agencies.

### **Energy Reports**

Both St. Louis City and County reported that ECIP funding was still available. "County Cares" also has funding for residents of unincorporated St. Louis County for help with cooling costs.

### **Other**

Carrier donated AC units to be distributed by Cool Down St. Louis.

**Next Meeting Date:**

September 19, 2006  
2:30 p.m.—St. Louis Society for the Blind Building  
8770 Manchester Rd.

Meeting adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Debbie Fagin  
Director – Information and Referral Services  
United Way of Greater St. Louis  
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(thanks to Kay Archer for supplying notes from the meeting)