



Emergency Network of Los Angeles
Board Meeting Minutes
March 13th, 2014, 9 – 11 am
Faithful Central Bible Church

Attendance

Voting Board

Mary Stewart (LSS-SW), Chuck Gillies (Salvation Army), Brandy Welch (American Red Cross), Jackie Russell (Faithful Central Bible Church), Ron Lopez (Catholic Charities)*, Dave Cochrane (Southern Baptists)

NonVoting Board

Leslie Luke (OEM)

General Members, Guests, Staff

Kevin Sargent (Adventist Community Services), Charlene Sargent (Seventh Day Adventists), Amanda Charles (Community Partners), Cynthia Freeman (Community Partners), Heather Morgan (Didi Hirsch)

*by phone

1. Call to Order, Introductions, and Meeting Goals – Brandy Welch

2. Special Presentation – Charlene Sargent

- a. Adventist Community Services: Disaster Relief. Charlene presented information about Seventh Day Adventist's capabilities to receive, sort, warehouse and distribute donated goods during disaster. Charlene is likely the contact should there be a large event in SoCal.

3. Understanding ENLA as a network

- a. Learning discussion on making a decision about ENLA's network and committee structure
- b. Board tasks in a cooperating network
 - i. Communicating VOAD priorities – guide membership
 - ii. Keep mission clear – show value of ENLA
 - iii. Member recruitment and engagement
 - iv. Relationship-building activities
 - v. Sitting at other tables, e.g. EOC – represent ENLA
 - vi. Increase value in membership meetings
 - vii. Hold relationships with government partners

Cooperation, Communication, Coordination, Collaboration

Emergency Network of Los Angeles – the Los Angeles County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster)

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- viii. Push out information and requests to membership
- ix. Compile and share information received from membership with government partners
- x. Maintain and operate key systems (preparedness, response and recovery)
- xi. Training and tools (directly or through referrals)
- c. Executive Committee tasks in a cooperating network
 - i. Governance
 - ii. Managing staff and volunteers
 - iii. Finances
 - iv. (Executive committee could be elected without having functional titles – for example, the Chair and Vice Chair + two other people could be the Exec Cmte, if we give over financial functions to a contractor and go without a secretary)
- d. Committees – relationship with board needs to be very close. Committees need to report to the board, in person or in writing; or there could be a board liaison who either attends committee meetings or calls the committee chair to catch up.
- e. What are consequences if there is no report, no one comes to the board meeting, and there is no board member to act as liaison? Someone needs to then make a phone call to find out what's going on; use the support of the VOAD as a carrot for maintaining a relationship with the board.
 - i. Administrative committees
 - 1. Executive
 - 2. Development/fundraising
 - ii. Functional committees
 - 1. Disaster communications
 - 2. Animal Care
 - 3. Mass Care
 - iii. Task forces
 - 1. Time limited projects, projects that committees aren't interested in
 - 2. Specific, time-based goals
 - 3. There is a product
- f. If ENLA decides it wants to and can raise the money for a Network Director, it could then look more like a Coordinating Network. That ND would be empowered to do things on his/her own, committing the network to things and raising money. CP has talked to other VOADs about this, and it's pretty hard to do.

4. LACCDR Year Five funding and activities

- a. Aizita Magaña met with Alix and Cullen about year five activities.

Then ENLA staff and officers met with CP about it, and CP met with Aizita. The next meeting will likely be with CP and ENLA's Executive Committee to talk to Stella and Aizita about how ENLA could fit in to the last year of the LACCDR project.

DPH is having a hard time working with ENLA as such a small entity, and they are trying to make sure that if they fund ENLA for one more year, they need to make sure that the proposed activities align with the LACCDR project goals. It's likely that ENLA funding will be less, but CP will help to make the case for ENLA activities that align with DPH goals so that we might be funded one more time.

5. Government Partner Reports

- a. **LA County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)** – Leslie Luke

- i. New deputy director at OEM. OEM is talking to some ENLA member organizations individually, but wants to make sure that all agreements and efforts are coordinated so that everyone is aware of all the relationships.

Leslie came from San Diego, and worked with Charlene and Kevin after the wildfires down there to coordinate donations that came into the county. He is now talking to Seventh Day Adventists to arrange warehousing support after an event, and to the Salvation Army for donations management. He is talking to the American Red Cross and the ENLA Mass Care committee to create a feeding task force to coordinate feeding across the county. This could help focus efforts of private sector feeding partners (Sysco, etc) with nonprofit feeding partners (Southern Baptists, etc) across the operational area, so that they do not have to be coordinated individually in each of the 88 cities.

He is participating in a faith-based effort to coordinate faith-based organizations throughout the county in their own EOC to get their activities funneled through one point of contact; ENLA could help with relationships and disaster plan training. Jannah Scott is working with him on this, along with ENLA and the American Red Cross shelter partner program. American Red Cross will be evaluating potential shelter partner capacities, and provide both in-person and online training, but they are starting to be concerned about the expectations of a large number of shelter partners. In the greater LA area, more than about five or six shelters at one time will be the maximum that ARC can support; they will have to call in national assistance after that. So they want shelter partners to know this, and prepare for other ways they can respond and help with recovery in case there is a catastrophic event and ARC can't open a shelter in their location for a while, or at all.

He will be using a FEMAcorps team to go into high schools to provide individual and family preparedness training. He's also putting together a coalition along with another FEMAcorps team for fourth graders; this coalition will include Fire, ARC, DPH to provide preparedness modules.

b. **FEMA** – Charles Craig

- i. Regional Administrator for Region 9 has moved on, and Karen is now the acting regional administrator. The person in charge of recovery is now different, and there is now a mass care coordinator. FEMA continues to support the region as a whole in the drought situation. There will be a VAL call on March 18th to talk about disaster temporary housing. April 2 will be Charles' next forum call to talk about the NDRF and the new policy that was just released on donated resources; this is a federal policy that will benefit local organizations that have a cost share associated with their disaster activities. He will send emails to Cullen, who will send to the membership.

Charles is going to put on a webinar for ENLA re: ICS and other disaster systems and information gathering processes. Emails will be going out soon.

6. **Other business**

- a. Didi Hirsch is now one of five nationwide locations hosting the disaster distress hotline. Heather will put together a one-sheet for us to distribute, and Cullen will coordinate with her about presenting at a general member meeting.

7. **Upcoming Meetings**

- a. March General Membership Meeting 03-20-14, 1p-3p, Salvation Army Tabernacle (960 E. Walnut, Pasadena CA 91106)
- b. April meeting 04-10-14, 9a-11a, Faithful Central Bible Church