

Hernando County Community Organizations Active in Disaster COAD Meeting #66 NOTES

Monday, March 27, 2023 @ 9:30AM @ Emergency Management



WELCOME – United Way of Hernando, Angie Walasek
29 participants

Brief Success Highlights

- **Emergency Management, Angel:** Revamping [CERT](#) (Community Emergency Response Team) Program. About to finish 2nd class.
- **Career Source, Christina:** Successful Job Fair over 20 employers, 50 Job Seekers & 3 hires.
- **211, Kip:** 20 Minute Disaster Video available and designed for seniors. Will send out.
- **Early Learning Coalition, Brenda:** Kicked off Start Initiative for Healthy Families with New Moms Initiative. 4th cohort will be taking place.
- **Salvation Army, Pam:** Had the opportunity to speak to and connect with families benefiting from the food pantry. They were able to identify barriers and small, achievable solutions. (a reminder to continue to ask questions)

COUNTY UPDATES

- **Emergency Management – Erin Thomas & Dave DeCarlo:** The “Mock Crash” Operation Prom Promise was very impactful at NCTHS. Continuing focus on Operations Plan, collaborating for active threat trainings, active shooter reunifications and more. EOC Exercise coming up in April. Hurricane Preparedness Week is May 1st-7th; Saturday, June 3rd Hurricane & Safety Expo @ CK8 9am-12pm ***Free for non-profits to have table*** (Vendor form attached) HERicane Summer Camp for girls ages 13-17 starting on July 10th.
- **Department of Health – Lea & Magan:** More information to come on the Community Health Needs Assessment next meeting. Some priority areas include mental health, affordable housing, access to affordable health care, etc. “Sleep Safe” program assisting women up to 32 weeks of pregnancy or under 1 year old infants with provided free portable cribs, breast feeding classes offered. (flyer attached)
- **American Red Cross – Sharon:** Free Ready Rating Program available. Red Cross can install up to 3 free Smoke Detectors that last up to 11 years.
- **211 – Kip:** Hernando Senior Directories were available and distributed. A reminder to take a look at the resources included. All were pulled from the 211 Hernando health & human service database. All COAD Members were previously given the opportunity to update. A digital copy can be found [online](#). Kip also mentioned having access to a DISASTER PREPAREDNESS GUIDE FOR DEMENTIA CAREGIVERS (Directory & Guide attached). www.211tampabay.org

RESOURCES & UPDATES

Supplies

- **United Way, Angie:** More Senior Guides are available, along with toiletry bags, and children’s books

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- **Emergency Management, Erin:** Surplus of PPE supplies (gowns, masks and face shields) left over about to expire soon.

Emergency Assistance

- **United Way, Angie:** FEMA's EFSP 40 Application is now available to agencies focusing on served meals, other food, mass shelter, other shelter, rent/mortgage assistance, utility assistance. Over \$57,000 was awarded to Hernando. www.UnitedWayHernando.org/EFSP-Phase40 (flyer attached)
- **American Red Cross, Sharon:** Grants for Hurricane Ian/Nicole damages are still available (flyer attached).

Child Care & Schools

- **Early Learning Coalition, Melinda:** ELC has available childcare funding. Feel free to refer your families to ELC 727-233-8291. Webpage for CCR&R intake <https://elcph.org/for-families/>
- **Students & Families in Transition** – 10 Unaccompanied Youth students were helped with Prom Outfits; Hernando High School will be hosting a Poverty Simulation in April. Current count is approximately 900 students within SFT.

Shelters & Housing

- **People Helping People, Kenda:** Conversation around cold weather sheltering and extreme heat options for the homeless took place. Jericho currently serves as this shelter, but there's been a conversation around what it would take for the HELP Center to serve at this capacity for more of the Spring Hill area. A planning meeting to discuss this in detail was proposed by EM for the week of April 17th. A date was not finalized.
- **Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, Amber:** PIT numbers are still being reported. This providers meeting will be this Friday from 9-10am In Bushnell or Zoom. Phones are currently backed up. Available funding for rent and electric still.
- **St. Vincent de Paul CARES, Diana:** Homeless Veterans Program ending May 11th. Lack of available housing is an issue across the state. Discussion around building relationships with landlords and property managers unfolded.
- **Jericho Road Ministries, Bryan:** They've been building a relationship with Drug Court. Happy to report a few graduates successfully went back home with their families. Now there are a few openings at the Men's Shelter (approximately 10 beds or so through transitional program and emergency shelter). Will be attending Citygate Network in Orlando sometime in June. www.citygatenetwork.org Pallet & rapid-response shelter www.palletshelter.com

Employment

- **Career Source, Christina:** Healthcare, Warehouse and CDL Trainings are being offered and paid summer programs. Now have a facilitator to conduct in person workshops. Enrolled 500 clients and have seen over 2,000 in office and over the phone. Approximately 580 calls a

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week. Career Closet and job fair coming up in Brooksville at Jerome Brown Center. Job Fair at PHSC coming up on April 12th. (flyer attached) Unemployment in Florida State is 2.97% whereas Hernando County is 2.6%. As of February 2023 there have been 500 claims for unemployment. CS can provide small highlights for remote work opportunities.

Food & Distribution

- **People Helping People** - Mobile distribution is always held the last Wednesday of the month at 10:30am at the HELP Center on Kass Circle. Partnership through Feeding Tampa Bay. Kendra mentioned having a revised Hernando Food Pantry List.
- **United Way, Angie:** The RIDE UNITED internal partners referral form is still available, but grant funding is coming to an end. This is for residents within 10miles of SVdP's Food Pantry experience food insecurity and lack transportation. Visit <https://forms.gle/DGGxkWxzoDZFt62w9>

Mental Health & Substance Abuse

- **Vincent House, Maddison:** Vocational Skills and On the Job Training will be offered to residents apart of the recovery through work initiative. Breaking ground soon! Goal for new building is \$3,000,000 and are half way there at \$1.5. Section 8 Housing will also be incorporated. They will be holding a luncheon on May 19th.
- **HPH Hospice, Nancy:** The Bereavement Department also offers services for children, as well as camps (just ended). Currently running 2 support groups, one at HCA (see attached flyer). 1 ½ hour bereavement support can be offered on-site.

Volunteerism

- **People Helping People, Kendra:** Could always use more volunteers at the mobile food drive, the last Wednesday of each month from about 9am-12pm.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 24, 2023 @ 9:30am via Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am