

# Kalamazoo County VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) January 17, 2008 Meeting Minutes

## ***Purpose of VOAD:***

*The purpose of KCVOAD shall be to bring together voluntary organizations active in disaster services in order to foster more effective support to the people of Kalamazoo in times of disaster through: Communication, Cooperation, Coordination, Education, Convening mechanisms and Legislation. KCVOAD seeks to ensure the availability of needed services and to encourage uniform, impartial provision of these services.*

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 by Jim Gorka.

Organizations Represented: **Gryphon Place** – Phyllis Hemmer; **Kalamazoo County Emergency Management** - Jim Gorka; **Volunteer Center of Greater Kalamazoo** - Judy Huth; **Senior Services, Inc.** - Don Ryan; **Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes** - Randy Schmitt; **Adventist Community Services** - Lee Ann Heinert; **KCMHSAS** -Robert Butkiewicz; **Family & Children Services** – Alan Brown; **MIVOAD/Adventist Community Services** – Royce Snyman

## **Presentations**

### **MIVOAD**

Royce Snyman from MIVOAD (Michigan Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters) discussed this year's goals, intended to improve how we all work together. They will be working to raise awareness of VOAD and its members by making presentations to the MI State Police and various counties. Most calls to MIVOAD come primarily from EOC's, regional VOADs and member agencies. MIVOAD should be notified whenever KCVOAD is activated. Jim Gorka asked Royce if he could provide a matrix to define what each organization does with priorities defined for service response. Royce will check with Region 2 (Detroit/Tri-County) to see if they have any planning templates to facilitate cooperation and communication between members, especially prior to an emergency.

### **Adventist Community Services Disaster Response**

Lee Ann Heinert presented a history of Adventist Disaster Response. One of their greatest strengths is that they know how to manage and distribute donated goods. They also have a mobile kitchen and a chain saw team available. Their staff is trained to manage warehouses and they also have a Mobile Communications team. They have ten core volunteers in Kalamazoo County and 50-100 trained volunteers in Michigan.

## **Other business**

- Jim Gorka and Judy Whitehurst presented information on KCVOAD to Community Mental Health Directors to raise awareness.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20.

## **Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 24 from 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. at the Office of Emergency Management. **(Post meeting note: Date and location changed to July 10 at Greater Kalamazoo United Way-Boardroom).**

Presentations will include:

- Coordinating spontaneous volunteers in the event of a larger-scale disaster - Judy Whitehurst ([jwhitehurst@Gryphon.org](mailto:jwhitehurst@Gryphon.org)) and Judy Huth ([jhuth@volunteerkalamazoo.org](mailto:jhuth@volunteerkalamazoo.org)).
- Setting KCVOAD goals for upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Huth - Secretary