

On the phone:

Mitch Miller, OES  
Linda Smith, Scientology  
Jim Huey,  
Camille, NVOAD  
Anna Swardenski  
Kelly Rimmel

Introductions and welcome – Rev. Melinda V. McLain  
Minutes approved  
Treasurer's report received  
Executive committee report:

New NorCal VOAD brochure was distributed

New tool kit is still in draft, not available yet:

- Toolkit for starting a county VOAD
- Resources for revitalizing existing VOADS
- Training and resources for longterm recovery committees etc.
- Example by-laws, continuity plans etc.

Copies of revised local VOAD application and MOU agreement were distributed.

Grant funding report: Seeking funds for building state membership, local collaborations and infrastructure for effective internal work. We have proposals in to California State Seismic Commission. We have also been accepted for investment justification with SUASI.

Report on AID Matrix from Greg Smith of CA OES

AID Matrix is a new tradition in donations management being pioneered by California. This donations management program will be able to track donations from the community for any size disaster – even a single house fire and will provide a centralized system for tracking and distributing donations.

Previously, donations from individuals were sent to voluntary agencies and only government agencies could use SEMS/RIMS (the previous systems) and so lots of donations were simply lost and not matched with unmet needs. This actually produced an absence of donations management for many disasters.

What was missing was a viable, energetic donations management program. During the fires, over 1,000 donations poured in per week. Some were small, but some were large, high-value donation. Bags and bags of clothes, furniture and other items were just stacked outside assistance centers and then they were lost in the rain.

FEMA has been very aware of this problem, so they partnered with AID Matrix Foundation to create a user-friendly system for donations management to handle these issues. AID Matrix has applied to join NVOAD as a non-profit member. In particular, AID Matrix has been working with corporations to secure donations for disaster.

Web-based network that is easy to use and it cuts across all levels. Business, government, non-profits, state, federal and local can access the database to match available donations for needs. Over 75 organizations have already signed-up for AID Matrix in California.

Call center will allow folks to donate who do not have internet access – such as those affected by disaster, but still have donations to give. It can be linked to blackberry, PDA or computer to let groups know when a donation is available. Everyone can see the donations in real time, so if it is accepted that is logged immediately.

This allowed for large donations to be received immediately and additional donations then came in because the system allowed them to easily give.

System is free for states and an unlimited numbers of non-profit organizations. Working to get all states signed up. Needs component allows non-profits to post needs so that potential donors can look at needs and make donations that are already identified as needed. Easy to use and all sizes of non-profits can participate. Goal to get everyone signed-up because it may be the smallest organization that can actually deliver donations in areas hard to reach by larger groups.

No difficulties in using both your existing proprietary systems and AID Matrix.

Now has a warehouse component that was used with a warehouse in Miramar during the 2007 So Cal fires. Having the inventory linked to AID Matrix was helpful and would be critical if there were multiple, multiple-agency warehouses.

Transportation portal allowed for shipping donations to move donations around via corporate sponsors. Greg walked the group through the site to show how it works for a non-profit seeking needs.

Can this be used just for disaster? Each donation is marked for disaster only or general humanitarian. If any questions arise, donor intent is respected. System available to users 24/7, 365 days per year, but will move to top of web page in time of disaster.

How does this work with local donation coordination teams? Daily conference calls helped to coordinate AID Matrix with those folks, but not much of this happened when the system first came online during the 2007 fires.

Is there a way to refer a donation you decline to another agency? No, but you could let another agency know. The agency could also post a need request so that admins would know the agency is looking for something. Does the call center operate 24/7? No, the call center only operates in a disaster and is widely-published during the disaster. Greg will pass on the number, though there's no guarantee that the number will stay the same.

Non-profits can limit their interest to particular items and not receive donations except if they match. Is the system first-come, first-served. All alerts are sent simultaneously, but hopefully groupings will further refine getting things that are needed to groups that need those things.

The call center will still remain at state operation center and probably under the direction of call volunteers.

How does this work locally, for example in a apartment house fire? Non-profits would work together to get word out for folks wishing to donate. Then, donations coming in could be sent to the local groups active. Encourage folks to use the website only because call center would not be activated.

Only San Francisco has signed-up so far to use AID Matrix.

How does this interface with 211? If 211's sign-up then it's another resource to direct donations to, not a competing effort.

Elaine Viray - February 26<sup>th</sup>, Governor signed an executive order making Cal Volunteers the lead agency for volunteers and donations management. Still meeting to sort out priorities in the collaboration.

Camille Hinojosa – Primary job is to get state VOADS etc. to participate in donations management etc. She is a new person with NVOAD. More conversation about who will have portals.

Kelly Rimmel – SUASI – the regional planning grant process. Investment justification also included a component on donations management. How many counties have a donations management plan? Most counties do not. Kelly and Anna are working with William Bass to get some planning money to work on this. Regional project to develop templates and/or planning tool for local use. Citizen Preparedness now has a subcommittee to work on donations management.

Anna Schwardski - NorCal VOAD is needed to participate on that subcommittee. SUASI would like to have VOAD on that subcommittee that could also include interested non-profits.

Valerie Mihanovich – Sacramento VOAD has presentation from Greg Smith and their 211 has signed-up with AID Matrix. Appreciated that state is good at saying no to things that are not needed.

John Chavez – AID Matrix really worked well during the So Cal fires during the fires.

County VOAD reports:

Anna – Santa Clara County CADRE did another Together We Do Better conference on preparedness. Continue to do monthly workshops. Will send electronic calendar to Gert for distribution to NorCal VOAD.

Sonoma County is forming a VOAD and there is now a “Prepare Petaluma” group working in the South of the county.

Marin County is forming a VOAD.

Contra Costa County has a collaboration called MAP that could become a VOAD and are establishing mission and goals

Solano County is applying to be a new VOAD.

Del Norte County is also looking to create a local VOAD.

Executive committee was elected unanimously as presented by Rev. Melinda V. McLain

Tzu Chi honored to serve on executive committee.

211 is launching throughout NorCalifornia and Marita has flyers on the new groups.

Helen – Send minutes and everything to Elaine for posting on the website. Email  
Elaine.viray@cv.ca.gov

John Chavez – Thank everyone for help with Fernlee disaster in Nevada. Help was great. FEMA conference line is always available by contacting John. Status of the VAL – haven't had any action on the change. John is enjoying doing the work. In So Cal, there will be a Pasadena office with a VAL for Southern California. FEMA has a disability coordinator trying to involve agencies that work with vulnerable populations. In San Diego, they were able to set-up an inter-tribal council and hope to leverage that into greater participation in VOADS and other settings. Tessa asked if John could help get tribes to participate in our VOAD. Just beginning and using So. Cal as a start. 11 of the 18 tribes in San Diego are participating. As sovereign nations, it needs to be step-by-step to create a common table and adequate trust. John has a map of tribal lands.

Jim Huey on the phone – Address MOU's between agencies for training. Can VOAD become involved in how MOU's are developed so that volunteers can be swapped between agencies.