



**Sacramento Region
Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disaster**

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

General Membership COVID-19

Minutes

Friday, April 3, 2020 | 11:00am

Conference Call

Presiding: Lynn Pesely, Sacramento Region VOAD President, Coordinator, Sacramento Medical Reserve Corps. Meeting facilitated from the Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services. Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Please follow up with an email at SacregionVOAD@gmail.com so we know who is on the call.

Present in EOC facility with Lynn Pesely conference call:

Valeri Mihanovich, Regional Center for Volunteerism – HandsOn Sacramento, Sacramento Region VOAD Coordinator, Sacramento Region Emergency Food & Shelter Program

Holly Brown – JustServe, Volunteer support to Valeri Mihanovich, Lynn Pesely

Dr. Kasiriye, Sacramento County Public Health Officer

Welcome - Thankful and inspired by all the good work the VOAD partners are currently doing as part of the COVID-19 response efforts. Thank you VOAD members for joining this meeting. An official medical update from Dr Kasiriye, the Sac County Public Health Officer at this meeting.

1. County Situation Report from Office of Emergency Services and EOC: Lynn Pesely

381 confirmed positive tested in Sac County, 10 deaths

Drive-thru Testing Center: 350 county members were tested yesterday

2. Cal OES VOLUNTEER AGENCY LIAISON & FEMA PRIVATE NON-PROFIT GRANT

Derek Thomas Cal OES Voluntary Agency Liaison (VAL):

- The state VAL is the key contact in all phases with emergency management for communication with volunteer agencies, VOAD, Community & Faith-Based Orgs, Local, Tribal, State and Federal Government.
- Active both pre & post disaster providing guidance, promotes collaboration & supports various partner agencies involved in the emergency support functions.
- Works closely with agencies involved in Disaster response include: Care & Shelter, Health & Human Services, Dept of Social Services, Volunteers and Donations and CAL Volunteers.
- Assists with collection and dissemination of disaster specific info. For COVID-19 this includes Emergency Response activity with many of the VOADs' and needs within their communities.
- Networking identifying partners that can provide essential services to local communities during disasters.

- Works closely with FEMA. Active participant in National VOAD, NorCal/SoCal VOAD and other local VOADs including Sac County.
- Provides guidance how to set up VOAD & how to immediately develop long-term recovery groups following disaster.

Plans if additional disasters happen or prolonged COVID-19

- Sets up local assistance centers/Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) with social distancing protocols in place
- Assists with voluntary orgs participating where lack of DRCs are in place
- Networking to identify non-profit partners that can provide essential services to local communities for disasters
- Works closely with FEMA, FEMA VALS and National VOADs to support COVID-19 - Private non-profit Grant program reimbursement from FEMA for essential services

Discussion/Questions with Derek Thomas

Sacramento Interfaith Council: Requesting information with resource contacts regarding info from CAL OES, VAL and FEMA. Is there a formal packet of information that can be sent out?

Team RUBICON – Needing resource contacts for Tribal American Indians from Derek Thomas. Tribal needs: overall help, PPE's, Long-term & short-term assistance for 13,000 people

Charles Craig FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaison: Discussed approved Public Assistance for Crisis Counseling Program (CA 4482 1A Category B) FEMA supporting the State: Private non-profits establishes memorandum of agreement that can apply for reimbursements of expenses. The Non-profit has to already have agreement in place (MOU) to identify reimbursable activities. If no agreement – a contract may be drawn up to identify date when the expenses started occurring.

ACTIONS:

Charles Craig: Send Valeri information for Crisis counseling Program

Valeri Mihanovich: Share contacts Derrick Thomas with Team Rubicon

Derek Thomas: Send Native American Indian resource contacts to Charles & to Team Rubicon

Special Report: Dr Kasiriye, Sacramento County Public Health Officer (reporting from the EOC)

Thank you for all the great work that you do. Social distancing is difficult but necessary

- Remind your church/faith members to suspend in-person small home faith gatherings during COVID-19. All groups need to go online.
- Many positive tested for COVID-19 are coming from meeting in someone's home for spiritual support.

- Remind church/faith members to adhere to social distancing by conducting prayer mtgs online.
- We need to work together to beat this. We're basing our guidelines on what's happening in NY and Washington & from Center of Disease Control. We need to do all that we can do for prevention.
- Seniors are most vulnerable but younger death count coming in.
- Please reach out with phone calls. Develop phone trees for regular contact within your membership

DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS with Dr. Kasiriye

- Senior Centers/Care Homes for Seniors have suspended all visitors
- Discourage all small visits to homes for support. Please use phone or online
- Seniors are beginning to use Facebook LIVE to watch shows with smartphones or iPads.
- Deaf community have communicated through video phones, online and Facebook, they can help Seniors do the same
- SEC Chaplains are deployed if Police officer requests for assistance. Chaplain still adheres to social distancing requirements by not entering homes. Please take the chaplain Hotline training to learn new skills to connect by phones

3. FOOD ACCESS & DISTRIBUTION:

(all agencies providing current services please submit info to resources@211sacramento.org)

SAC Food Bank & Family Services: Sandra Yahya

- Natl guard boxing food for distributions on locations. CA Conservation Corp is integrated & trained to assist for smooth transition enabling Natl guard deployment elsewhere.
- Food for Seniors (Gov Commodities) 2,000 boxes of staple items. Working with paratransit to deliver to their warehouse and Paratransit will distribute out to seniors.
- Work with over 220+ partner agencies (food banks, pantries) due to COVID-19 volunteer impacts; consolidated down to 28-30 operating agencies supporting county needs. Agencies have increased daily distributions & increased hours of distributions.
- Starting Sacramento Food Bank direct distributions. 500 boxes next week going out Hiram High School for staple food items, fruits & vegetables distribution. Projected to grow to 1,000 boxes.
- Submitted all Sac Food Bank food distribution locations with 2-1-1, please refer people in need
- Starting within 2 weeks distributions at Sac Food Bank Tues & Thurs, 2pm-5pm

Roshawn Perry, Dezyne Enterprise (Sponsored by Sac Food Bank)

Distribution at 6489 49th Street, South Sac area

Yesterday: 12noon-3:30pm

Saturday: 1:30-3:30

Drive-thru services, attempting to increase services each week

James, Church of Menagerie

6 days a week (Monday-Saturday)

9am-10am

8815 Elder Creek Road

Feeding up to 1,200 - 1,400 families

Salam Shalom partnership of Loaves and Fishes

April 13th delivering 250-300 food packages to the homeless

4. SENIOR SERVICES

(all agencies providing COVID-19 emergency services please submit info to 2-1-1)

Deaf Services: Deaf seniors in nursing homes experiencing isolation during COVID-19. Needing laptops for social media connections & volunteers to interact with Deaf

PARATRANSIT behalf of YMCA: reaching out to 2,000 seniors by calling every two weeks.

Steve Pavlakis - Salvation Army

Offering food boxes to anyone. Offering home delivery to seniors at home.

5. EMOTIONAL/SPIRITUAL CARE & MENTAL HEALTH

(Agencies & Faith orgs providing COVID-19 emergency services please submit info to 2-1-1)

Senior Chaplain Mindi Russell, Law Enforcement Chaplaincy Sac

24-hour Hotline for COVID-19 (916) 857-1801 (activated Ground Zero, Camp Fires, etc.)

posted on 2-1-1 and social media

available to all community w/ emotional, mental, spiritual distress experiencing trauma from Covid-19 isolation, etc.

- 1 hour Training for Hotline Volunteer Chaplains: All faiths invited to participate to help fill in shifts on the Hotline. Trained Hotline "Constitutional" Chaplains do not represent their house of worship on the Hotline. Religious neutrality helping all. Secular purpose.
- 2 COVID-19 Training sessions conducted with more scheduled: 60 people trained. 4, 6, or 12 hour Hotline shifts to fill. <https://www.sacchaplains.com> for Training.
- Receiving at 5-20 calls per day (916) 857-1801

Steve Pavlakis - Salvation Army: (844) 458-HOPE, (844) 458-4673

Hotline for anyone scared & dealing with uncertainty

Staffed by trained personnel and Volunteers

(844) 458-HOPE, (844) 458-4673

Across the nation

6am-6pm Pacific T

Dawn Dwyer – CA Southern Baptist Disaster Relief: (888) 219-7729, (888) C19-PRAY

8am-8pm LIVE hotline

Tammy Hayes, Local Program Manager - Child Life Disaster Relief, Available to assist with resources for working with children in disasters: <https://cldisasterrelief.org/resources-2-covid19/>

Hand-outs for Families specific COVID-19 w/ general speaking points

Meditation Center: Meditations Classes on ZOOM Conf call. Many groups are calling in and accessing meditations, Exercises, visualization support and inspirational messages. Featured on the Interfaith Council, Facebook. *Will submit info to SacRegionVoad@gmail.com*

6. FAITH-BASED

Bruce Anderson – Exec VOAD member opening for discussion

Linda Smith - Scientology, Rapid Response, Chaplain Hotlines:

Partnering with VOAD partners volunteering with Blood Donations, volunteering with CERT, utilizing youth for Tech training for Seniors

REQUEST for VOAD to organize an Interfaith/Emotional hotline Sub-committee under the Regional VOAD to coordinate all resources.

7. MASS CARE/HOMELESS

Patricia Davis – American Red Cross

Mass Care Task Force in County working homeless program is under Dept of Human Assistance is not under American Red Cross jurisdiction. Red Cross engaged in:

- Continue response to Home Fires - 4 this week
- Developing protocols to remain safe as well as the client
- Surpassed goals for blood donations
- FDA working with Red Cross to draw blood plasma from recovered COVID-19 patients to develop a possible vaccine
- Working nation-wide advanced planning for possible natural disaster during COVID-19
- Town hall mtgs with Volunteers boosting moral – other Agencies may want to try online mtgs with volunteers to buoy volunteers

Steve Pavlakis – Salvation Army

Providing food boxes and Serving Hot Meals. Many Centers assisting housing for homeless where no options available in shelters.

8. MEDICAL

Lynn Pesely - Coordinator, Sacramento Medical Reserve Corps

Supporting Public health during COVID-19

- Phone triage & assessment, Laboratory couriers, Drive-thru Clinic
- Difference between State CA Health Care Volunteers vs Local Medical Reserve Corps
Governor's State CA Health Corps:
 - Sign up on a registry to be called to for disaster response statewide.
 - Can be deployed throughout the state for longer shifts (could be 12 hr shifts for 2 weeks as a paid position).

Sacramento Medical Reserve Corps

- Trained & available year-round. To fill out an online application go to www.SacMRCfoundation.org or access through Cal Health Care Volunteers website - choose option to register for Medical Reserve Corps and you will be contacted to apply for local County.
- Active locally year-round engaged in multiple local activities with flexible hours fitting to your schedule. No payment for volunteerism.

9. IMMIGRANT SERVICES

Sandra Yahaya – Sac Food Bank & Family Services

Immigration & legal services still open all by phone

Jane Dunnington – Nor Cal Resist

Work with asylum seekers but increased on calls past 2 weeks provided:

- \$30,500 to 89 families in rent aid
- Groceries & diapers– 45 families
- Group of Immigration lawyers called FUEL . Contact FUEL to research information regarding extending visitor permits receiving assistance or extending VISAs.

QUESTION: most new people work in restaurants without transportation. Can our volunteers retrieve food from FOOD BANK and deliver to the immigrants (Sacramento Food Bank can help with this effort.)

10. COMMUNITY SERVICES/2-1-1 (County Information)

Amount of Calls and Categories for March referrals

4/1/20 – 120

3/31/20 – 174

3/30/20 – 112

3/29/20 - 37

3/28/20 - 47

3/27/20 – 111

3/26/20 - 106

2-1-1 CATEGORIES

General COVID-19/Coronavirus Information: 80

COVID-19 Symptoms Information: 47

High Risk Populations: 27

Transmission: How does COVID-19 Spread: 0

Testing/Treatment: 40

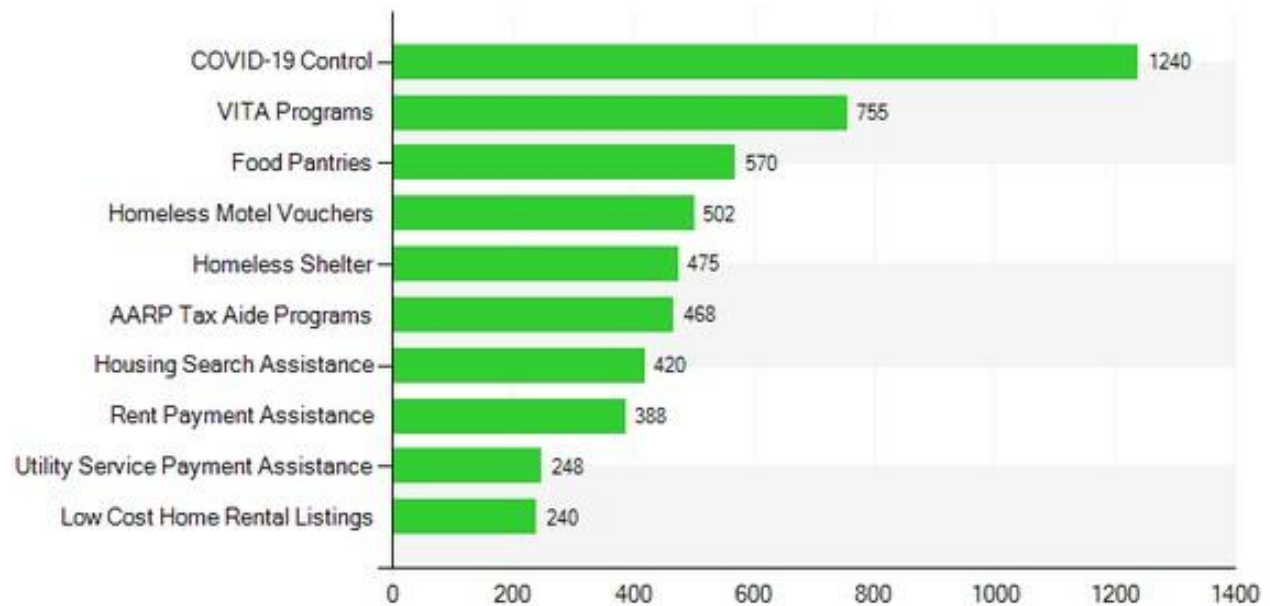
Prevention Recommendations: 9

Mitigation/Quarantine Information: 3

Business/Employer Resources: 34

COVID-19 Related Basic Needs: 149

This is the top calls and referrals for March.



11. ANIMAL WELFARE – no representative

12. VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS

Valeri Mihanovich – HandsOn Sacramento www.handsonsacto.org

The County portal for Volunteer opportunities for COVID-19.

- Submit your COVID-19 Volunteer and DONATION needs to Mika and we'll post to HandsOnSacto.org
- Question: What is the relationship with California Volunteers & local County Volunteer Action Centers:
CaliforniaVolunteers promotes statewide volunteerism. HandsOn Sacramento and other local Volunteer Centers are able to address local needs within the area/county/region. Multiple regional volunteer action centers exist in California, but not every county has

one. The CaliforniaVolunteers website provides links to local Volunteer Action Centers on their website.

Mtg adjourned 12:25 with spiritual words of encouragement – Chaplain Mindi Russell

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES submitted from VOAD Partners

Joan Cardellino with DOVIA Sacramento

Resource for technology support for seniors: [CyberSeniors](#).

NTEN has local tech groups in California to help coach seniors: <https://www.nten.org/>

NEED HELP?

The Center for Counseling and Diagnostic Services is currently offering free virtual counseling services. Counseling sessions may be conducted over the phone or video chat using zoom. Sessions are available to both Sac State students and Sacramento community members. We provide counseling services for adults, couples, family units, and children. Our counselors can help with, but are not limited to anxiety, depression, stress, trauma, and relationships. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call 916-278-6252 (M-F, 8 a.m – 5 p.m.) or email us at ccds@csus.edu You can also visit our website at www.csus.edu/center/counseling-diagnostic-services

Announcements to all:

1. 2-1-1 has all updated locations for Food Bank distributions at various schools and partner agencies.
2. if your organization is providing any emergency response services during COVID-19, Please join the 2-1-1 database and keep information current.
3. An Interfaith sub-committee within VOAD will be formed to help communicate and coordinate information and liaison emergency response tactics. Information for the organizing of this critical sub-committee forthcoming. Agencies & Faith Based orgs providing Call lines/Hotlines to support emotional, spiritual and mental health during COVID-19 will be included within this VOAD sub-committee.

A special note: VOAD is an all-inclusive group of faith, community and government organizations that are serving their communities in times of disaster and emergencies. All are welcome. We always practice the 4 Cs: Cooperation, Communication, Coordination and Collaboration. Our common ground is serving our community. We strive to maintain an all-inclusive atmosphere within all of our valued faith-based organizations and community partners. With that in mind, future meetings will include words of encouragement in lieu of prayer.