



**Sacramento Region
Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disaster**

COOPERATION | COMMUNICATION | COORDINATION | COLLABORATION

VOAD Interfaith subcommittee

Minutes

Sunday May 3, 2020 | 3:00pm

Conference Call

Presiding: Valeri Mihanovich, VOAD Sacramento Region Executive Board member, Vice President VOAD Northern California

Conducting: Jon Fish, Sac Region VOAD Interfaith Co-Chair

Introductions:

Jon Fish, Interfaith Co-chair VOAD Interfaith subcommittee, Full-time LDS Interfaith Service Missionary Northern California

Bruce Anderson, VOAD executive board member; Interfaith

Attendees: 28 participants representing the following Entities:

River City Christian Church, Rocklin/Roseville/Lincoln Interfaith, St John's Lutheran Church, G7 Ministry & Food Pantry, Muslim, Christian Life Deaf Assembly, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints SALAM Center, Bayside Church of South Sac (BOSS Church), This Is Pentecost, Southern Baptist, Seventh Day of Adventist, Brahma Kumaris Meditation, Mercy Faith & Health Partnerships, Habitat for Humanity, Elk Grove Mayor's Provisions Task Force, JustServe.org, Rancho Cordova Interfaith Council, Radiant Life Church, Living in God's Love Ministries, UMCOR-United Methodist Church, Catholic Church, Sacramento CERT, Sacramento Region Citizens Corps Council

Purpose of VOAD Interfaith subcommittee

1. Coordinate, Communicate, Collaborate and Cooperate with the Interfaith Houses of Worship with Government agencies during disasters and recovery.
2. Assess talents, skills and assets that Interfaith entities can assist with during disasters and recovery
3. Refer Government resources of training to the Interfaith community during disasters and recovery

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Karma Hackney: California Operations Emergency Services (CalOES)

Derek Thomas: California Operations Emergency Services (CalOES)

Charles Craig: FEMA

WELCOME:

Jon Fish: Co-Chair Sacramento Region VOAD Interfaith Subcommittee

The speakers identified the critical role of Interfaith during Emergencies, Relief and Recovery efforts.

Key Points:

1. Work within the system, with government, and other non-profit relief agencies (attend VOAD).
2. Three main areas of need: money, manpower, and materials.
3. Avoid “a second disaster” where organizations or Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) work outside the system creating additional risk. Keep informed by attending VOAD mtgs for latest info.
4. All Faiths have specific areas of strength. If OES & FEMA are aware of individual FBOs abilities, the strengths and the needs can be aligned. Example: During a previous disaster, the Buddhist had money resources, but not the volunteers to assist in completing a task needed. CalOES was able to align the money resources with the Baptist volunteer resources.
5. Create a COOP or “reconstitution” plan to prepare to re-open Houses of Worship for PHASE IV

See attached: Charles Craig’s ppt, Karma Hackney speaker notes

QUESTIONS

1. Endrine Ddgungu, President of Sacramento Interfaith Community:
Please provide example or template of a COOP for the Houses of Worship to use as a guideline
2. Bruce Anderson, Exec member Sac Region VOAD Interfaith Lead:
 - a. VOAD GOAL: Can all Interfaith and Houses of Worship, please provide any Disaster Relief entity your Faith-based may be associated with. Examples: Catholic Charities, LDS Charities, Sikh Global Disaster Relief fund, etc
 - b. VOAD GOAL: Can all Interfaith & Houses of Worship, please provide your strengths that you may be able to offer in an Emergency/Disaster & Recovery. Example: Baptist have volunteer force, Sikh’s provide use from their kitchens. Include any availability to house displaced victims, CERT trained members, etc

Adjourn: 3:59pm

Additional attachments include:

FEMA COOP sample

FEMA Reconstitution example for Houses of Worship during COVID-19 in New Jersey & New York

Speaking Notes from Charles Craig with FEMA and Karma Hackney with CalOES provided below

Next Sacramento Regional VOAD Interfaith Mtg: May, 20th, 3pm (email Invite forthcoming)

Speaker: Dr. Olivia Kasirye M.D., Sacramento County Chief Dept of Health

Submit Questions in advance for Dr Kasirye to answer during May 20th meeting to

brown.hollyk@gmail.com

Karma Hackney: CalOES
May 3, VOAD Interfaith Group

Goal of interfaith group

1. Service
2. Meet the Disaster mission—no proselytizing, congregation building, or who gets the credit.
3. Doesn't matter what logos in your shirt or jacket you wear

The mission

1. address unmet needs:
Matching needs and resources (faith-based group(s) with individuals/community
2. matching two resources (Organization A with Organization B in order to help individuals and communities in need).

What are these resources

- a. Materials
- b. Money
- c. Manpower

An Interface committee or task force coordination within VOAD can help in matching not only the individual affected but the needs to help them by partnering the voluntary and interfaith communities.

Example: Partnering money and masks for debris clearance of toxic debris in So Cal Wildfires 2010.

Such groups can supplement government assistance gaps. Examples:

- providing spiritual support and counseling/mental health crisis counseling
- debris removal/assistance in searching for survivor valuables
- case management services

Donations

- Especially “in kind” donations (“stuff”)
Need for early and careful messaging so donations are coordinated to avoid risk of a second disaster (having to deal with collection, warehousing, and distribution of things of items which can often end up ultimately in landfills).
- Timing of donations:when people are in shelters (especially with a fire) there is often no place to store items donated.
- Basic “Sequence of delivery“ in conjunction with state/federal assistance (while avoiding duplication of services/assistances).

Voluntary and faith-based Organizations needed in all phases: at the beginning

before any potential government declaration, during, and especially long term recovery.

Some events will not get a federal declaration and it puts a heavier need and impact on the role of faith-based and voluntary organizations.

Some people may not qualify for government assistance and some may exhaust their programs and have special needs beyond them.

Multiple disasters at once—overlapping

Fires

EQs

Pandemic

Drought

Citrus freeze (affecting the employment in communities such as the Central Valley)

Also:

Disasters can happen else where but have impacts to Sacramento:

-9/11 (had nationwide impacts to businesses, mental health, etc.)

-Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Estimated over 17K self -evacuees and philanthropic efforts brought people here needing housing but with no exit strategy).

-Camp Fire 2018 (survivors came to Sacramento in search of housing in aftermath).

Voluntary Agency Liaisons (VALs):

Doing multiple duties right now.

How can interfaith supplement government help.

State - Derek Thomas

FEMA - Charles Craig

The role of the VALs is so important and are the go-to experts to help guide the faith-based and other voluntary, non-governmental (NGO) entities in the framework of such a committee.

Charles Craig, FEMA

Sacramento Region VOAD Interfaith sub-committee Conference Call May 03, 2020

Hurricane Katrina -Aug 29, 2005. Warning issued to evacuate the coastline. Many people on government assistance waiting for a check on the 1st waited to the last minute to head north.

They went as far as they could until they ran out of gas. People were litter all the way from the coast to the capitol. They were taken in by Houses of Worship (HOW). That was the beginning of Whole Community.

VOAD is collaboration of agencies that have a mission to serve in disasters.

Members of VOAD participate in established functions of emergency management;

- Response
- Recovery
- Mitigation
- Protection
- Preparedness

Your congregation must determine where it would best serve.

Many houses of worship act as anchors for their communities. Not only do people come to worship, but additionally, HOW can provide, social interaction, communications, education, and social service programs like thrift stores, food pantries, day care, financial assistance and immigration services.

PREPAREDNESS

HOW should look at forming interfaith alliances. Each other's best practice, mutual issues, collaborative solutions

HOW should participate in local VOAD. Local jurisdictions expand agencies with which to collaborate. Your resources add to the VOAD's capabilities and capacity. VOADs routinely have local affiliates faith-based members of National VOAD who can bring lots of institutional knowledge for engagement.

Identify the most vulnerable members of you congregation: Senior shut in, Access and Functional Needs (AFN). They may need greater assistance.

HOW should have a COOP (Continuity Of Operations Plan).

1. If you can operate, you are able to do mission.
2. You continue serving your congregation during response and recovery.
3. This will help them move forward with their recovery.
4. If you have cared for your congregation, you may be able to provide for the greater community, which can ease the demand on local government.

RESPONSE

1. During the response phase of a disaster, the focus is on life saving and life sustaining activities. Local government has a statutory responsibility to provide these services. HOW, coordinating with local government can amplify messages to keep their congregation safe.
2. Communication tree to determine status of members of the congregation
3. Shelter – pre-designation by ARC or local jurisdiction (get pre-event training)
4. Feeding support – VOAD
5. POD (Points of Distribution)
6. Chaplain services – if you have certified chaplains or emotional/spiritual care
7. Volunteers
8. Donations -appropriate and coordinated

RECOVERY

1. Participate in steering committees
2. Participate in LTRG
 - a. Emotional/spiritual care
 - b. case managers
 - c. rebuilding
 - d. Camp Noah

Mitigation

1. Facilities - Structural re-enforcement
2. Archiving records

PROTECTION

1. Security focused – equipment: cameras

FEDERAL DECLARATION

1. Stafford Act
2. SOD (Sequence of Delivery) – order in which survivors access assistance to prevent Duplication of benefits (DOB).
3. DOB – statutory requirement that survivors do not double dip. i.e. get assistance from two different agencies for the same loss.

Resources

1. Sacto VOAD
2. NVOAD – Points of consensus
3. Other interfaith
4. State and FEMAS VALs
5. Faith-based offices at levels of government
6. The DHS Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives
 - a. Has 21 components: FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), CBP (Customs and border Protection), TSA (Transportation Security Administration), UGCG (United States Coast Guard), CISA (Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security agency). The Center is located at FEMA HQ in Washington, DC.
 - b. FEMA Regions – the Center works through the ten FEMA regions

We are Region IX – VAL