

Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee Agenda

303 E. Vanderbilt Way
San Bernardino, CA 92415

January 11, 2016

Welcome & Introductions	Mike Jones & Tom Hernandez
Emergency Services	Roundtable
Sheltering	Roundtable
Re-Entry	Roundtable
Open Discussion	Roundtable

Minutes for San Bernardino County Office of Homeless Services Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

January 11, 2016

3:00 – 4:30 PM

County of San Bernardino ▪ DBH Administration
303 E. Vanderbilt Way. ▪ San Bernardino, CA 92415-0026

Minutes Recorded and transcribed by Amy Edwards, Secretary I, Department of Behavioral Health, Office of Homeless Services

OPENING REMARKS	PRESENTER	ACTION/OUTCOME
Call to Order Welcome and Introductions	Tom Hernandez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendees were welcomed to the meeting and asked to introduce themselves.
DISCUSSION		
General Announcements	Tom Hernandez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have disaster kits available to our first responders, so if you haven't picked yours up please take a box on your way out. Each kit includes a Mylar blanket, rain poncho, emergency whistle, a pair of socks, and the emergency shelter guide. ▪ The Office of Homeless Services has also put together 1500 hygiene kits for the point in time count on January 28, 2016. Those kits are separate from the emergency kits and will be distributed to the city contacts for the point in time count. Each city will get the number of counted homeless from last year and will be handed out by volunteers conducting the count. ▪ Something new this year during the point in time count we will have four bases of operation for vets. If the volunteers encounter a veteran we will transport them to the nearest base of operation where we will get them on the spot sheltering/housing. ▪ The bases will be located in Victorville, Barstow, Ontario, and San Bernardino.
Sheltering	Tom Hernandez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Calvary Chapel has contacted me about opening up for sheltering in the city of Upland. They already have a conditional use permit for their faith based outreach but because the city has specific zoning conditions laid out for emergency shelters. I advised them to contact the city of Upland for specifications on zoning.
	Officer Kirk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ I heard Calvary Chapel wanted to open as well, but they were questioning whether or not their insurance would cover it or not.
	Robin Bishop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The VOAD can partner with you as a large portion of faith based organizations are ran through the VOAD. We have grouped them together and have given them training. Debra Williams has been appointed the counties faith base liaison. ▪ We have a lot of resources that you may not be aware of that can assist you. We may also be able to assist you when talking about insurance and things like that.
	Mike Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I tried to get Mr. Edwards from the Victor Valley Rescue mission to come today but apparently he was unable to make it. In speaking to him regarding the cost and staffing of the fairgrounds he said he is able to run the facility on \$200 a day for capacity (80 people). • They have 80 beds and have been averaging about 72 per night. The cots come from the Red Cross

Transportation		<p>whom they have a contract with. They have a contract with the fairgrounds which is state owned but county operated, and they use their food pantry for snacks like cup of noodles and granola bars and hot chocolate. He has one of his employees there in the morning for a couple of hours and another in the evening when they open up. Throughout the night they use volunteers in 4 hour shifts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His insurance covers him running out of the fairgrounds. • I asked if he was able to provide more than 80 beds and he stated the could but he would have to talk to his employees as they are running low on volunteers and as of now they are not at capacity so he doesn't see a need. If there becomes a need he would reach out to the churches to see if they could assist with volunteers.
	Robin Bishop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have they developed any triggers that activate the shelter opening other than temperature?
	Mike Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of now the only trigger is the temperature reaching 34 degree or below. • I was emailed Sonoma Counties Winter Weather Response Plan issued by the Sonoma County Housing Authority. They go through everything we have been talking about, triggers, and expanding shelters. The plan even identifies what shelters are available and how many beds they have.
	Debra Watkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I called the Salvation Army in San Bernardino that is listed on the cold weather guide to give them a heads up they may be getting more calls than normal and the director told me they are more of a shelter for abused women and was very cautious about wanting to give out any information as to protect the security of the women there. She said for homeless sheltering we should be referring them to the Redlands location.
	Debra Watkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Oswaldo to talk about getting homeless transportation to shelters. He said they don't typically hand out bus passes to the homeless because of the abuse of the passes. In the city of Claremont we have volunteers that go out and warn the homeless when a storm is coming and then hand them a one-time use bus pass and tell them to get to a shelter. • The transit companies aren't spending the funds to print one time passes like they used to so I've come up with a template for a one time bus pass using the same accounting system the transit companies use to track the passes. The drivers can use a hole punch to void them out once used. • One way to pay for these passes and the printing is to ask companies to sponsor; in return we can brand the back of the bus pass with the company's logo. It's called good will advertising.
	Mike Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rotary Club provided the trailer for the Helping Hands food drive. They are always looking for ways to help the homeless. I can reach out to them to see if they would be willing to fund a project like this.
	Tom Hernandez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can break these down by region and market them accordingly. • The only problem I see is the County cannot receive funds, so this would have to be managed by a 501C company or an organization able to do this. So this would have to be done outside this group.

Open Discussion	Kent Paxton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We need a preemptive strike. Looking through Sonoma County's Winter Weather Plan, they use a term "Code Blue". They have threshold triggers that activate Cold Blue, and then they go into a countywide action that takes place at all shelter locations, increasing beds and providing warming stations. We need a similar plan.
	Gary Madden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are an ad hoc committee of Interagency Council on Homelessness; we can make a recommendation that then can go to the Board of supervisors. OES has an Extreme Weather Plan. It's very detailed and its approved; but it doesn't include this middle area we are talking about. We're talking about adding another step like the "Code Blue" like Sonoma County.
	Mike Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If we put together a winter weather plan and present it to ICH can we then take it to the Board?
	Robin Bishop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If you get a plan, and you get your triggers and you present that, one of the things is you don't have to be reactive and an emergency to have had happened. Even the Feds have put this into place after Katrina. You write a plan, when certain triggers are hit, if you wrote your plan correctly your preemptive plan goes into effect and you become active.
	Kent Paxton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Can you provide us with the criteria, the triggers?
	Robin Bishop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The triggers are developed by you and the County. My best advice is to look at a lot of plans and cherry pick what you need. There are a lot of good plans and by going through them and picking out just what you need for the County, you can develop a good plan. ▪ Don't just think of this as a cold weather plan, think of this as an all hazard plan. Don't call this cold weather plan; don't call this wet weather plan, because what you have done is tunnel yourself. Have this plan so if these triggers are met, the Board can write their response and activate this plan and get some funding. Cindy Serrano has people that can help you with it. ▪ It is critical to work with the County OES and the City Emergency Managers. They are going to have access to information you don't, including information on funding that they can tap into. ▪ Another piece we need to look into, especially when dealing with the homeless is the animal situation. Whether they say therapy dog on them or not, to them they are and they will not part with them. So Pastor Jessica and I are looking into working with veterinarians and a facility we could use that would house animals.
	Tom Hernandez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In San Bernardino County there are no shelters with the exception of one in the high desert that allows pets. So if you have a pet, that pet will have to stay outside the shelter or wonder around because there isn't going to be a place for them.
	Debra Watkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ My organization has started reaching out to veterinarians and other organizations to talk about fostering pets for the homeless, so when we come across a homeless person with a pet we can assure them that their pet will be taken care of by a foster family. By providing this option they are more willing to accept shelter knowing their pet is safe.
	Tom Hernandez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One reason the County does not assume the responsibility of pets is because once the pet has been taken in; it has become the property of, so if the person does not come back for it other issues arise.
	Robin Bishop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think the only way to carry out what you all want to do is to reach out to the Faith Based organizations.

Action Items		<p>Organize Faith Based Committee</p> <p>Gary Madden Pastor Jessica Robin Bishop</p> <p>Debra Watkins</p> <p>Transportation</p> <p>Gary Madden Debra Watkins Oswaldo Mayonet Esteban Ruiz</p> <p>Emergency Preparedness Plan</p> <p>Mike Jones Tom Hernandez Kent Paxton Marc Peren</p>
Adjournment		Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.
Next Meeting		The next meeting will be on February 1, 2016 from 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm at the County of San Bernardino Department of Behavioral Health Administration. 303 E. Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0026

January 11, 2016 ATTENDEES:

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