

IDAVOAD Meeting Minutes

Date: May 21, 2020

Location: Teleconference

ATTENDEES

- Chris Volmer, IOEM
- Nelson Long, Health District 5
- Kim Empey, Serve Idaho
- Tiffany Neilson, Southern Baptists
- Jeremy Maxand, SILC
- Catherine Rawsthorne, American Red Cross
- Adam Gonzalez, Payette County
- Kim Monson, Health District 2
- Marta Tanikuni, Department of Health and Welfare
- Keith Mallard, FEMA FIT
- Llyssa Plumer, FEMA Region 10 Community Preparedness
- Molly Smith, Health District 3
- Kara Fink, Idaho Office of Refuges
- Ari Denson, American Red Cross Northwest Region
- Francesca Gilbert, FEMA Region 10 VAL
- Donna Cantrel, Seventh Day Adventists
- Major Mike Halverson, Salvation Army
- Lynn Freiburghaus, Team Rubicon
- Mike Riedy, USDA

MINUTES

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

March 2020 Minutes were approved as presented. Draft meeting minutes will be sent out no more than one week following the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The IDAVOAD balance is \$10,622.71. No money has gone out or come in since the last meeting. The report was approved as presented.

Coronavirus/COVID-19 and IDAVOAD

Chris Volmer reported that the IDAVOAD met weekly for two months, and now bi-weekly, since no requests for assistance were coming in. Several VOAD members and agencies have been engaged since the beginning. The EOC is still activated, and ESF#6 is still activated. Chris said how much he appreciates people to be on the coordinating calls and to respond to needs.

Catherine Rawsthorne with ARC highlighted that the ARC is maintaining a strong stance toward social distancing and taking precautions volunteers will take into the field. As guidance changes, the ARC is operating under the same set of guidelines, including social distancing, face masks, etc.

Francesca Gilbert with FEMA reported that a donation of 55-gallon drums of hand sanitizer were available to VOADs. Tiffany reported that it might be difficult for one org to distribute the sanitizer and it expires in 18 months.

Major Halvorson reported they continue to provide food through their pantries, and childcare for essential workers is happening through next week. The shelter in Nampa is serving people through the end of May. He reported there were 150 families who had never used a pantry before.

Molly Smith reported Health Districts 3 and 4 they are working with AmeriCorps (HelpCorps) to train up volunteers to do contact tracing and case monitoring to help with Epidemiology staff. Once they have the capability build, the core group will be called upon once they go beyond their resource level at the health district. She also reported cases have leveled off. They have lots of activities in one county with a food producer, which traced back to one group of people. They anticipate another curve in the fall.

Nelson Long with Health District 5 reported that Twin Falls County is starting to see large numbers regularly now. They are anticipating seeing these taper off. They are communicating with the public to continue to social distance and wash hands. They activated the Medical Reserve Corps early to help with call centers, now they are preparing them to do contact tracing.

Lynn Freiburghaus from Team Rubicon reported they are working with St. Vincent DePaul's food banks. They have had an increase in numbers this last week. They are also working with the Idaho Foodbank and Feeding America program on the large food drive. They're giving 100 lbs of food to families (Nampa, Boise, Twin, Mountain Home, and possibly in Caldwell.) This distribution will happen monthly, supported by a grant.

Kara Fink reported that refugees in Boise and Twin Falls are experiencing similar challenges as everyone else. Central District Health is hiring a refugee liaison to help bridge this gap in the community.

Jeremy Maxand reported that the SILC worked with AAA Region 3 and the Idaho Foodbank to stand up an emergency food box delivery program in 8 counties in southwest Idaho. Also reported putting guidance together on ways to make testing more accessible.

Adam Gonzalez in Payette County said things are opening up locally and they are working with entities to make sure they have the resources to open safely and comply with guidance. The Ham Radio operators assisted with traffic control at an event, and volunteers are making masks.

Mike Riedy with USDA reported that agricultural services have opened up resources to farmers and ranchers who have losses from the pandemic. Folks can apply for assistance through the local farm service agency in each of the counties (FSA offices). A local company was awarded a large contract to provide food boxes through local agencies.

Kim Empey at Serve Idaho reported that they are working with the Health Districts with the AmeriCorps program and are hoping to get list of volunteers at the end of the month with training in June.

Francesca Gilbert reported she doesn't have an update on the crisis counseling grant in Idaho. She will share any information she gets.

Membership Update

Tiffany Neilson reported that not much has been done since March because of COVID and available bandwidth. Moving forward, we'll regroup and push for increased membership. We want more members, not just partners. Ideas for membership should be pushed up to Tiffany Neilson or Chris Volmer and they will reach out and connect.

State Conference

Marta Tanikuni reported the planning committee met recently and discussed the conference in September and whether we should move forward with planning. Marta reached out to Pilgrim Cove to see if they are even hosting events in the fall, and she hasn't heard back from them yet. The other thought was to open it up to the meeting attendees today to gauge what others think. Consensus is to wait until mid-June to see what the data says and the public gatherings and travel guidelines.

Agency Updates

Updates provided under the Coronavirus/COVID-19 Section.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting July 16, 2020, at 12:00 pm.