

Northwest MO COAD Notes, 10/11/12  
Strategic Planning Session

The following items were discussed as potential goals/needs for the regional COAD

- We would like to see a designated disaster coordinator for every congregation with a small core group to plan and further encourage the congregation to plan.
- We need to be able to connect with younger people (20's and 30's) They have not been at the table for this discussion.
- We are seeing the same faces at all of the disaster discussions. We must expand this group and encourage others to join and become involved.
- The focus for congregations needs to be the preparedness and recovery phase of disaster, not response. This needs to be emphasized.
- How can we keep people engaged in the process? Perhaps utilizing small groups that would encourage each other to prepare would be one way. Many churches are now moving to small focus groups. Ready in 3 and other preparedness activities could be implemented as small group projects.
- Encourage people to develop a family plan. This is the first step in preparedness for faith based groups to emphasize with their congregations.
- Build relationships among agencies and with other churches. This way they can better work together during recovery.
- The current case managers training needs to be improved. It is too much information in one session. People have severe information overload and come away feeling inadequate and confused. The dropout rate of case managers in the field is too high. As a result there are very few available. We need more people trained.
- Long term emotional care for disaster survivors is a real need. Many are just now showing signs of depression and stress from 2011 summer/fall disasters. Faith based groups could be helpful in address these needs.
- Yearly or quarterly community meetings could be initiated to include local agencies and faith based groups. The meetings could include displays and workshops to provide information and basic trainings that encourage cooperation and preparedness.
- Regional COAD meetings that include workshops and exhibits could be planned on a quarterly basis. The workshops would move around the region to help make those connections and provide trainings. This would keep people connected during times when it is not necessary to meet on a monthly basis.
- Develop a directory that lists all regional COAD members and their "core capabilities" as they relate to disaster.
- Encourage churches to identify, catalog and match appropriate tasks with the interests of individuals. (planning, physical labor for specific projects, donating money or goods, food preparation, managing volunteers, etc )
- Find effective ways to utilize technology including Dropbox, Facebook, etc. This is a better way to reach the younger group. Find ways to let them participate electronically.