

## MINUTES OF SPIRITUAL & EMOTIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: May 19, 2005

From: Peggy Garcia, Secretary

Place: 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Conference Center, Orlando, FL

Jody opened the meeting by playing a CD from the Pensacola Children Choir's Christmas performance and tribute to those who participated in Disaster Relief.

The minutes from the April 18, 2005 meeting were read and accepted with one minor change and that was to correct the spelling of Charles Kimber's name. Judith Bunker made motion to approve and Jody Hill seconded. Vote was unanimous.

Jody Hill stated that the computer generated version of the Mission Statement was sent to all participants and a copy of the formal resolution was passed to everyone today. She indicated that the FLVOAD voted on and approved the establishment of a Spiritual & Emotional Committee as set forth in the resolution at its meeting during the Governor's Hurricane Conference. Cheryl Ricciardi will add a signature and date block to indicate that it had been formally adopted at that meeting. Howard Bratcher moved to accept the mission statement as written and Carol Lang seconded it. The vote was unanimous.

### Media:

Charles Kimber reported that he and Jody visited the EOC and met with the Public Information Officer, Mike Stone, as instructed at our last committee meeting to discuss the harm of "overplay" by the media during the threat of hurricanes. Mr. Stone was very receptive and indicated that he and Craig Fugate have been talking to the media about this subject. He suggested he and Jody attend the round table at the Governor's Conference. They did and discovered the "table" consisted primarily of meteorologists. Jody pleaded with them to be more responsible. Dick Fletcher and Channel 10 said they would honor her comments but indicated that they have a duty to report. The CNN reporter acknowledged that they were not going to change their reporting methods. A reporter from the Pensacola Newspaper indicated that he would print an article on the harm from "hipped" reporting if we would write the article.

Charles discussed the Duke report which was printed in the American Medical Association Journal entitled, "Psychology to Terrorism". Twenty-two thousand adults were included in the sample study as to how they reacted to the 9/11 terrorism and the threat of terrorism. Children in rural areas were as disturbed as those situated in New York City. He proposed we should write an article on children and their reaction to crises and publish it. (It was suggested this be included as one of our Action steps). Kasaundra Mottley mentioned that HOPE was planning a mini-summit with the media and if she had this information in time, she would include it.

Peggy Garcia advised that she thought it will take five years for us to know all the implications of our own disaster. She told how all but 3 of the 11 pastors in her own conference who went through Andrew suffered from broken marriages or quit the church. The three who managed best were of Hispanic origin.

Charles saw the following Action items emerging from our conversations thus far:

1. Media
2. Invite universities to work with us.
3. Compassionate care

Rick Armstrong added that we are still in the first year of this disaster and are just beginning to see things unravel now! He thought we needed to make an impression on the leadership of the importance of respite and care of those involved in disasters. A rep from HOPE indicated that it was their responsibility to help victims get back to where they were, not physically, not 24/7, fit but not modeled.

Howard Bratcher thought our responsibility was to first provide training in emotional and spiritual care. He presented the Salvation Army's training manual, "Emotional and Spiritual Care in Disaster Operations". Judith Bunker thought we needed to model good habits and learn exercises to prevent stress. Dale Bass, ACTS, believed just a 3 second prayer and hug made the difference with his group. Their organization has equipped their vans to be "feeding" stations for disaster victims as well as provide a comfortable, air conditioned place for their workers to rest.

Charles Kimber explained the \$11M supplemental grant he received from the State. It was directed only to the Department of Children and Family. No one else could apply and the grant was based upon the cultural makeup and rural nature of Florida. The funded program calls for Florida's Department of Children and Family to make referrals of "situational stressed" individuals to either mental health facilities or one of the 14 teams set up throughout the State. (The number of teams was based on the number of FEMA claims.) The team members will be selected by Children & Family staff. The kinds of things these teams can help with are: 1) Send kids to programs like Camp Noah, 2) provide "respite" for couples, 3) provide help in locating housing and transportation for those who need housing (still in proposal). Also the program may be able to pay for up to 2 weeks of motel expenses for individuals while the team locates housing. He thought that this program might be an excellent way to use HOPE employees and noted that the program would cover indirect costs of 10%.

Note: Please remember to bring your disaster plan to next month's meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 28 at 10:00 in Tampa. (Location to be advised at a later date.) The Executive Committee agreed to conduct a conference call on June 7 at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Peggy Garcia

## BRAIN STORMING SESSION:

Each group answered the following questions:

1. The purpose of this action plan is to:
2. Emotional and spiritual care refers to:
3. Minimum standards of training:
4. Action Plan & Activities.:
5. Activities:

Group 1:

1. Define steps needed to carry out our mission statement.
2. Meeting the behavior and coping mechanism and the ministerial needs of people affected by a disaster.
3. A days training in how to respond to victims and survivors; a days training in how to help the care giver.
4. Needs to be a published printout of contacts (or sites) to visit; a data bank of who's available in addition to structure of incident command trainers.
5. Pre-disaster: Interagency agreements (policies, procedures, roles) and backup plans. Have everyone equipped for the inevitable. During the disaster: Execute those contingency plans and network with other partners and have backup plans in place.

Group 2:

1. Plan for a continuing, ongoing coordination and planning.
2. Addressing the intangible needs of individuals and communicate the needs that give them strength and balance.
3. (No reply)
4. Develop resources of the strengths each organization brings to the table.
5. Develop a written guide or plan that different people have copies of. Conduct ongoing meetings (this committee should meet at least once a year), participate in disaster trainings, and publish a newsletter to keep everyone apprised of what is going on. We need to get in touch with each county State-wide

Group 3:

1. Immediate response: focus on and provide resources for E&S care of the community after a disaster.
2. Proactive approach to maintaining mental and spiritual wholeness as well as reactive approach when major stress develops
3. Pre-Disaster: on going NOVA, Care Team Models, etc. training;  
Immediate Response: listening and compassion training  
Long Term: Training for care teams and care to caregivers.  
Closure or phase out: Debriefing skills and care to caregivers.
4. Process begins in State EOC ESF 15 and our being part of that. That person would have the data base and receive requests for S&E care. The representative needs to maintain current list of contacts/organizations since programs change or they close up shop.

5. Fund FLVOAD to provide the training. This would give us more controlled, consistent training and can be accomplished before a disaster.

Cheryl pointed out that FLVOAD is a compilation of volunteer organization who conduct their own training curriculum.

Group 4:

1. Establish a coordinating entity which would know contacts and have the knowledge of the capacity of groups and know what training each group would possess that was recommended.
2. Like grief counseling, loss counseling, listening skills, recognizing what people need. (What can I do best to serve?)
3. Training in understanding what you don't know and understanding what you do know. Listening skills. a) Care to caregivers by scheduling days off, scheduling places offsite for people to go and transportation to get there. b) Caregivers guide for volunteer coordinators or supervisors. Groups that perform E&S should have a person responsible for training leaders and trainers. Outside core components plan associated with E&S.
4. Address cultural diversity and training in working with that diversity.

Cheryl recounted Charles Kimber's action items he developed through these conversations.

1. Responsibility of the Media.
2. Compassionate care.
3. Methods for reaching leadership