

**State Disaster Recovery Task Force
Housing Recovery Support Function Meeting**
State Emergency Operations Center, Situation Room
July 25, 2019
10:00am – 12:00pm

Meeting Notes

Lead: Samuel Gunter, NC Housing Coalition

Staff: Amanda Martin, NCORR

Please note that typically, written meeting minutes will be shorter and will not identify speakers by name. For these minutes, we wanted to make sure to provide detail on the organization introductions.

Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Agenda

A brief overview of the meeting was provided.

RSF Mission and Scope

Amanda Martin, NCORR, describes State Disaster Recovery Task Force (SDRTF). It's about the long-term picture of rebuilding our communities. Not about the immediate response. This is much more collaborative, ground up, and very difficult in many ways. This task force is a way to bring partners into that process.

RSFs are designed to work in different areas. Three-fold mission:

1. Advise on current recovery (will talk a lot about this today);
2. Prepare for future disaster recovery (what are our needs, for data, coordination, etc);
3. Create long-term resiliency (how do we make housing more resilient?)

Today, will talk more about current on-going recovery. Emergency Management Director Sprayberry would like to know how to improve recovery now and next time. Develop recommendations for NCEM, NCORR, Governor's Office. Also an opportunity to use this space to work with one another. Want to maximize the use of this group to generate collaborative solutions. There are 12 RSFs, including housing, that work in different areas.

Questions raised and answered about the status of CDBG-DR.

RSF Member Introductions

RSF members are invited to share answers to the following questions:

- What is the overall scope and mission of your organization?
- Is your organization currently involved in long-term Matthew or Florence recovery? If yes, what is your organization doing?
- What capabilities in your organization could support long-term recovery and resiliency? E.g. Relevant expertise; Programs or policies with relevant goals; Relationships with federal, local, nonprofit or private stakeholders; Grants or funding; Personnel capabilities

William Kennedy, USDA Rural Development: Can offer rental payments of up to a year. Also repair programs to remove health and safety problems, increase elevation.

Mike Hanley, NC Housing Finance Agency (HFA): Original plan for matthew: rental and homeowner rehab. Did not get a lot of requests for rental help. 400 Single Fam owner-occupied units goal of helping. Have 478 units in portal, additional in process. Funded 36 partners, serving 48? Counties. Got \$10million for Flo. All going to multifamily housing. 49 applications from disaster declared counties. Goal to be ready for occupancy in December 2021. Run urgent repair program.

Nancy Bloebaum, NC HFA: Described her work re disaster specific. Has a contract with Social serve to connect people with rental housing.

Comment: info on the Social Serve rental housing web portal is not current or accurate. Response: Info they have is not always updated. Contact Nancy Bloebaum if something is inaccurate.

Kasey Ginsberg, Golden Leaf: Can use money for infrastructure to support new housing. Extension of water sewer infrastructure (Fair Bluff eg). Florence: asked golden leaf to manage relief funds. Spent \$5million with VOAD to do direct assistance to survivors. Worked with Legal Aide on heir property issues. Also working on repair of units of local gov, 501c3s, and places of worship.

Emmett Wainwright, NCEM IA: working on Matt/Flo. Generally work with the most affected. Have disaster case management program and VAL program to increase capacity of long term resiliency. Partnering with VOAD. Working on essential rapid repair program with Baptists and Methodists— let state do the casework and provide steady stream of list of repair needs so that they can focus on the work itself. Working with PA to best utilize the travel trailers and housing units going forward. Trying to get everyone housed before the fall holidays.

Q: Are any trailers accessible? Answer: Not sure that the trailers are, but MHUs are.

Q: Are we looking at universal design? Answer: right now trailers are purchased by FEMA and they buy off the commercial lot. So no.

Comment: We should move to universal design model. They have people entering into chronic homelessness because can't get accessible housing.

Comment: I think your casemanagers are over extended/over worked. Also it would be helpful to have a common form for all groups around the table to use the same form for intake. So not all different forms.

EM: 4800 cases currently going. Would love to have a uniform application process. Huge problem though is that we need more affordable housing. It creates a bottleneck with case management because we can't place people in housing.

Denise Neunaber, NC Coalition to End Homelessness: Started "Back at Home" program. Designed to fill a gap where FEMA cannot help. Eg. People who were already homeless before storm hit. Rental assistance, utilities, housing stabilization services. Housed lots of people from shelters—almost 50% head of households were disabled. Much larger than general homeless pop. Importance of this program to increase household resiliency

Pam Atwater, Samuel Gunter, Housing Coalition: Put staff in intake centers, but people didn't come. This is a big problem. Have a weeklong training coming up for housing counselors so that they know how to respond to future disasters. 60 slots open, 30 filled. In Sept.

Daniel Altenau, Catholic Charities: involved in disaster response through food pantries, financial assistance, case management. Referrals to immigration program as well. Also president of NC VOAD. 30 member organizations, both nonprofits and traditional recovery groups (state VALs).

Amanda Martin, NCORR: NCORR mostly focuses on CDBG-DR, but our three person resilience team is working on bigger picture pieces of long-term resilience and recovery.

Greg Kirkpatrick, Habitat NC: Did not get a lot of donations after Matthew, but got a lot after Florence. Disaster recovery part of overall Habitat mission. Habitat affiliates working in collaboration with state money from Disaster Recovery Act / OSBM. Public-private efforts. Role is facilitative. Habitat is great at generating volunteers, especially in counties like Wake. And people will move around the state to help. Many affiliates sent groups to the recoveries.

Laura Hogshead, NCORR: Mostly focused on CDBG-DR and also work with OSBM on DR funds. Try to work people through groups to be coordinating body. Working with HFA and Legal Aide. 53% of Matt applicants were dual impacted.

Bill Rowe, NC Justice Center: Statewide org on advocacy issues. Working in Wayne and Cumberland in most recent disasters and this is where most overlap with disaster work. Trying to work with MOB/WOB to promote them for work. Works mostly in policy now. Trying to focus on people who are hardest to serve and lowest income.

Curtis Hill, Disability Rights NC: Disaster Relief advocate. Do some case management. Need to keep survivors at the center of what we are doing—it's about them not about us. They are the most important people. When we are dealing with someone who's homeless, how do we help them? How do we help people who have duplication of benefits? They can't come up with the money now? What other resources available? Also, all of us could become disabled. Need to think about this long term.

Iris Green, Disability Rights NC: Monitoring aspect to work. Monitor facilities to make sure people with disabilities are getting the right services and treated right.

Sheri Badger, NCEM: she works on making sure that people with disabilities are considered in all aspects of EM.

Lesley Albritton, Legal Aid of NC: Runs the orgs disaster relief program. More than 200 attorneys, serving all 100 counties. Generally services avail to people within 180% of fed poverty. Knows the ins and outs of housing law. Starting to focus more on heir property issues, major problem in ENC and barrier to getting aid if can't show clear title. Right now have 7 attorneys as well as paralegals and researchers working on DR under Golden Leaf grant.

Comment: Role of this body is to figure out if we had the personnel and organizational infrastructure in place before the disaster, how could we have responded. This is a great opp for creating those nimble responses

Kristen Gillory, Gov Office Policy: Here to listen and learn from the work of this group. Governor's very interested in housing policy. Wants to inform policy direction.

Carlotta Dixon, Health and Human Services: Work a lot with the groups in the room as well as FEMA. Works with hotels closely to vouch for their population in TSA program.

Angela Harper King, HHS: Working to provide more affordable housing. Work with local public housing agencies. Trying to work on ways not just to get housing but to keep housing. Very challenging especially if people are coming from an institutional setting.

Tom Anderson, NC League of Municipalities: Everything in service to cities and towns. Manage high risk insurance pools for local govs. Here as a resource. Wants to serve communities and municipalities.

Mike Patton, Salvation Army: honored to be a part of this group.

Challenges, Barriers, and Opportunities

What barriers or problems are housing organizations facing or seeing in serving survivors during the Florence and Matthew long-term disaster recovery?

Due to time constraints, this agenda item was rescheduled for the next meeting. However, Amanda Martin gave a brief overview of process – want to identify the major issues and barriers and then pick some to work on, examine and develop recommendations for addressing. Just during the introductions, the following issues or barriers were mentioned:

- Recovery of rental units
- Uninsured multifamily developments
- Finding available rentals for survivors
- Not enough housing in general
- Accessibility issues with travel trailers

- Universal design in recovery
- Long lag time in assistance
- Can we have one intake form for multiple programs
- Need more caseworkers
- Need to ensure we have workforce who can do housing navigation
- Eroded personnel/ organizational infrastructure for providing affordable housing.
- Need to help people that need small amounts of money in order to accept disaster recovery funds
- Heir property issues
- Disaster rental assistance program: how to get it set up before next disaster

Will continue to develop this list. RSF members invited to submit written suggestions or comments as well.

[Wrap Up and Next Steps](#)

Will get out next meeting invite soon. Would like to meet four times before the end of the year.