

Responding to Hurricane Katrina

Report of a Community Meeting in Waco, Texas

In response to the terrible crisis of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, community leaders met at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, on September 2, 2005, in the Chapel of George W. Truett Seminary, to share information and coordinate our community's response. Spokespersons first shared information from the City of Waco, the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Waco Independent School District, and Seventh & James Baptist Church, which was the site of the first shelter for evacuees in our community. After a time of question and answer, the group of 150 leaders divided into four discussion groups to address ways of collaborating in our response. The groups included: (1) social services, (2) health care needs, (3) physical needs (food, clothing, shelter, long-term housing, and (4) information and volunteer coordination. Each group took notes of their discussion, which follow. These notes have not been edited and are provided here for reference to participants of the discussion.

The meeting was facilitated by the faculty and staff of the Baylor School of Social Work. For more invitation, contact:

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SOCIAL SERVICES

Tim Brown—Methodist Home 753-0181 ask for Tim Brown

Openings for 30 children, aged 12-17

9 boy, 9 girl, 12 at ranch

Has openings in other cities

3 empty buildings that could be converted to house 30 additional children; could provide staffing

In touch with network of other providers; can facilitate transfers to other areas

In partnership with Christian Women's Job Corp

UT Charter school on campus, 7th – 12th grades

2 emergency assessment and counseling teams; administrative and medical staff also available

Funds for families of children in their care for housing, utilities, etc.

In contact in United Methodist agencies in other states; trying to locate displaced foster children

Has ability to help statewide in a number of ways

Rita Cone, Mission Waco

In collaboration with Methodist Home to provide grief or trauma counseling.

Has shower and laundry services.

Doug McDurham, MCYC

School-based social workers in 23 local schools to connect students with social services

Typical requirements to access services are being waived

After-school programs also provided; fees being waived.

753-6002 to contact Doug

Need public service announcements to make evacuees aware of social services available to them.

In a few weeks, perhaps schedule and advertise an information meeting for evacuees to attend regarding school-based services available to their children.

Social Security Barbara Zimmerman Barbara.zimmerman@ssa.gov

Evacuees will need to obtain emergency documentation/social security cards to apply for services/assistance. In order to do so, they often need to establish a place of residence in order to apply for these services.

Rita Cone said evacuees can use Mission Waco's address, 1315 N. 15th St. Waco, 76707 to obtain documentation. Can pick up mail at Meyer Center, 1226 Washington Ave

Eric Robinson 710-4796 eric_robinson@baylor.edu, Director, School Psychology (located in the Baylor School of Education)

Special needs children in programs that Waco ISD is not currently equipped to handle.

Need system to transition children into best available avenues.

Milet Hopping 752-0324, x280

Housing Authority

Authorized to take families already in public housing, about 20 units available. Can issue vouchers for Section 8. Does not have instructions yet regarding helping evacuees who are not already in the program. Families have to be registered thru HUD and FEMA for tracking purposes. Needs venue to get information out to people.

Cindy Sutter-Tkel F.I.R.S.T. Place 723-8083

Interested in collaborating with persons dealing with parenting issues and helping young children aged 0-5 years.

Hubert Beverly 717-7442

Will try to coordinate people to volunteer at shelter during the difficult hours.

Need identified: Transportation will be needed. Maybe bus and taxi companies would be willing to assist with this. Maybe people would be willing to contribute funds toward this. Maybe churches would be able to offer church buses/vans for this.

Health Care Needs and Resources

| Needs (Now and anticipated) | Who can do what to meet them |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Medications</p> | <p>ARC: Take med bottle with label to Walgreen's. No med bottle, need RN or MD assessment</p> <p>Potter's Vessel Ministries: Will assist with longer term provision of medications through drug companies Debbie McElveen 757-3633</p> |
| <p>2. Mental Health Needs...existing MH conditions New mental health needs...from trauma...depression and anxiety</p> <p>Issue: Texas state shortage of state hospital beds. MHMR help with DePaul admissions, but it is filling up as well.</p> | <p>MHMR can help with severe and persistent mental health needs Children and Adult Mental health services Counseling...medications Larry Becker: 752-3451</p> <p>MR: Carrie Amthor 757-3933 Children's: Ron Kimbell 752-7889 Children Under Three: Pamela Marcum 297-7085</p> <p>SSW: MSW students for debriefing, supportive counseling for individuals and families. Contact Dennis Myers 710-6464</p> <p>Gail Roaten: 710-6163 Faculty: Teach Counseling: Faculty and Students available to help with individual And group</p> |
| <p>2. Physical Health Needs</p> | <p>Hillcrest: Meeting re coordination with FPC to establish contact information for medical assessment/appointments. Will let us know who to contact.</p> <p>FPC</p> |
| <p>Contagious Disease/Vaccinations</p> | <p>McLennan County Health Department? Vaccinations? Contagious disease? Infectious disease: Dr. Farley Verner Have responded right now</p> |

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| <p>Transportation for physical and mental health services???</p> <p>Available for persons with Medicaid.</p> | <p>Medicaid providers?</p> <p>Church volunteers?</p> |
| <p>Sexual health concerns....</p> | <p>6. Pam Smallwood: 759-5762 Planned Parenthood, ongoing family planning. No residency requirements 1121 Ross Avenue Sites Exploring Emergency contraception and birth control, pregnancy testing...treatment for STDS, HIV testing, Cervical cancer and breast cancer assessment and treatment. to shelter sites....Nurse practitioners may be able to go to the shelters and deliver services there.</p> |
| <p>Children' Health</p> <p>Area children who are overwhelmed with the images on TV and chaos</p> | <p>Schools....30 day waiver for vaccinations of children to get into school.</p> <p>SSW inservice/training available for youth ministers interested in helping children manage this crisis</p> |
| <p>Safety issues for helpers....</p> <p>Ex. Some prisoners out....</p> | |
| <p>Follow up/case management for those people who are with family members and/or in apartments.</p> | |
| <p>Estimate of capacity????</p> <p>Ex 15 families coming to Parkside apartments tomorrow</p> | |
| <p>Flyer of contact information for clients so they know who to call for what....</p> <p>Information sheet.....</p> | |

Food, Clothing, Shelter, Long Term Housing

| What is needed | Who can provide it |
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| Shelter, clothing, food, they need help with volunteers | The Myers Center & My Brother's Keeper, single males, single women, no children, serves breakfast to public M-Sat. |
| Will donate new clothing | Walmart |
| Apartments | First United Methodist Church |
| Shelters need - Long term volunteers (more than one hour at a time) a schedule of volunteers needed and know how long they can be there | |
| Volunteers that can only volunteer for short time period | Caritas, Salvation Army |
| Counseling, substance abuse treatment | Freeman Center |
| | Central United Methodist Church |
| List of volunteers # to call for emergency volunteer help | Baylor SSW students organize? |
| List of apartments available | Heart of Texas Apartment Assoc. |
| Will find temporary employment for evacuees | HomeBuilders Association |
| Dishes, household needs | Gift in Kind program at Caritas (Wal-Mart return center) Red Cross is connected with this |
| Blankets, needs for children | Project Linus – in Temple Bernina Quilt Shop & Quilt Shop in Waco will have contact information for this group |
| Tickets, passes | Mayborn Center, Ranger Museum will donate tickets, etc for families |
| Telephones, need dedicated lines, prepaid cells | 7 th & James |
| Computer availability | Baylor? Escorted by a Baylor student, employee? Contact ITS to set up guest access? |
| Computer access | Libraries |
| Refer to Red Cross Shelters already established | |
| Need someone to clean apartments – 15 families coming into Parkside apartments. Families will be here at 2:00 pm 9/3/05., need apartments stocked with food, necessities, etc. | Jane Derrick, Community Race Coalition |
| Temporary shelter to victims of sexual, physical abuse, counseling, advocacy, food, clothing, bus passes | Family Abuse Center 772-8999 Dione Jackson, Victims Counselor, 750-1745 1-800-283-8401 |

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| Shelter for children coming from Methodist Children's home in New Orleans | Waco's Methodist Children's Home |
| Children's books, reading material | |
| Resource sheet for all shelters | |
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Information and Volunteering Coordination

(Most people in this group were pastors and church congregants)

Interfaith Council Meeting: Providence Hospital Today @ 12:00 PM

NEEDS

- CENTRAL WEBSITE FOR NETWORKING!
 - www.waco-texas.com
 - INCLUDE ON A WEBSITE- THE PROCEDURE FOR GETTING AN IDENTITY & CONTACTS FOR PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP
- MATCHING PEOPLE UP WITH FAMILIES TO HELP THEM MEET NEEDS
 - ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM
- SISTER CHURCHES/BROTHER CHURCHES?
- Training Volunteers and coordinators for congregational responses
- How does one start a fund inside your church to financially help needy families?

Seventh and James: Main Contact Church

- Need volunteers 24 hours
 - Volunteer for more than a couple of hours
 - Need leadership volunteers
 - Can equip and educate so that people are ready to serve through training
 - Creating a database and list of services. Will be available for churches
- www.seventhandjames.org (w/ hurricane relief button)- will list the next go-site