

**Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team
CART Coordinators Conference Call Minutes
Tuesday, August 21, 2007
8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.**

1. Welcome and Introductions -Joel Hersh and Dr. Nan Hanshaw Roberts

2. County Reports/Information Sharing
The following counties provided brief reports on their activities and issues of concern.
 - Chester –Lenny Southam
 - Report on active vs. inactive members (100 on roster, around 20 active)
 - Creation of Access database to track volunteers and training
 - Observed there was a need to delegate more to team members and expect CART meetings to be used for reports on progress rather than getting bogged down in the weeds.

 - Clearfield- Deb Archer
 - Report on revitalization of the team
 - Creation of Executive committee and Response Committee
 - Focus on plan creation and trainings

 - Dauphin –Amy Wimmersberger
 - Report on active vs. inactive members (120 on roster, around 25 active)
 - Discussed water rescue training
 - Intern potential for creating a TV show
 - Need for resource list for sharing with other CARTS

 - Indiana –Tom Norris
 - Report on active vs. inactive members (About 20 on contact list, 10 fully trained)
 - Discussed training activities
 - Plan development and approval by county
 - Equipment needs and Task Force request
 - Kudos to PSU Extension for assistance

 - Lancaster- Gary Fickes
 - Report on active vs. inactive members (100 on roster, 14 active)
 - Discussed progress made in past five months
 - Provided info on fund raising and equipment acquisition
 - Provided link to www.igive.com as a way to receive donations

 - Schuylkill-Debbie Shepler
 - Report on active vs. inactive members (40 on roster; 15 active; 10 fully trained; 2 Vet techs and 2 Vets on team)
 - Working on emergency shelter sites w/ Red Cross

- Divided county into four response zones with specific volunteers assign to be first response to each zone to assess situation and report back situation and needs.
- SUN- Jeffrey Brabant
 - Report on active vs. inactive members (25 on roster; 15+ at each meeting; 10-11 well trained)
 - Report on training and outreach activities
 - Discussed MOU with Evangelical Hospital and outreach to two others
 - Reported on portable sheltering system that was donated
- Venango/Forest- Ginny Kellogg
 - Report on active vs. inactive members (65 on roster; 15-18 active, all are able to respond)
 - Report on outreach to those who haven't been heard from
 - Raised issue of how to motivate volunteers
- Washington – Becky Drudul
 - Report on active vs. inactive members (about 25 members; new folks joining recently)
 - Reported on the creation of a New Volunteer Handbook
 - Reported on EMA Support
- Allegheny-Pat McKenty
 - Report on active vs. inactive members (60 active; 96% wish admin work)
 - Reported on training initiatives
 - Reported on EMA support

3. PASART Update-Joel Hersh (below would have been discussed if the phone system had worked as we had expected. This info is also included in the cover email)

- **Grant funding**

We have not heard as yet as to the status of our request for \$1.1 million in the next federal grant cycle. As soon as we receive information regarding our request and the level of funding to be awarded, I'll let you know.

- **Utility Trailers**

We continue to purchase trailers and apply to Regional Task Forces for funding for same. We have purchased three from current grant funds and project four more to be purchased. Two requests are pending before Task Forces for funding.

- **U.S. Census Project**

We are working with the office of U.S. Senator Arlen Specter to influence the US Census to add a question or two to the 2010 Census Long Form. The question(s) would attempt to gather better data regarding household/companion animals. If successful, it would give programs like PASART data to assist in planning for disasters.

- **Credentialing**

The national credentialing program for first responders continues to be in its infancy at the federal level. However, in PA, some Task Forces have jump started the process in their part of the state. The impact on PASART is that will need to be a recipient of the new access cards as they are issued in different parts of the state.

- **Turnover**

The issue of volunteer turnover and commitment was on my agenda and was also raised by a number of folks on last nights' call. This is a vexing issue for all of us. I would welcome any ideas you may have in this area of volunteer motivation and retention.

- **Vehicle ID**

This issue was raised by one of our coordinators. Specifically, should PASART provide some sort of placard, rear mirror hanger, etc as a way in which CART volunteers transportation can be identified when at the scene of an event? We have priced mirror hangers but need your input. Do you think they are needed?

- **EARS Shelter Forms**

As previously reported, we signed an MOU with EARS to use their forms when we operate a temporary shelter. We continue to wait for EARS to provide the forms.

- **PA Farm Bureau**

We will meet with PA Farm Bureau on August 23rd to discuss ways in which can get more volunteers from the farming community.

- **Coordinators Conference and HSUS Training**

I continue to need input from you on agenda items for our meeting. On last night's call, it was clear that fund raising and volunteer retention/management need to be on the agenda. Also, our consultant on strategic planning will inform and update you on that initiative. However, I need input from you. Please respond as quickly as possible with any suggestions.