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Subject: Long Term Recovery Situation Report (SITREP #12)

Attachments: 160205 - Winyah Bay-Andrews Kingstree pictures.pptx

Governor - this week's SITREP for your review and comments:

1. The RFP to prepare the Action Plan to support the CDBG-DR was released by the Department of Commerce this past week. We met with Josh and a Rep from Department of Commerce today to discuss emerging roles for my organization based upon the information in the document released. We are in the process on conceptualizing the guidance discussed and I will bring it to Austin for discussion later in the week. I think all parties understand the critical nature of BOTH the Action Plan and any contracts that ensue from that product. I hope to come to you with a consensus product following my briefback to Austin and more fully coordinated strategy that follows soonest.
2. We are going to host a meeting with various state agencies to include DHEC, DNR and EMD to discuss both Mold and Mosquitos. Given the scope of the recent disaster coupled with the large number of mobile homes impacted, we believe we may have a significant mold and vector control problem as the winter recedes and the heat returns. Our intent is very simply to understand the strategies to deal with these issues AND to be able to articulate each responsible agency and their plans to effectively deal with the issue before it becomes problematic.
3. Case management remains critical and we are eagerly anticipating the award of a contract. We continue to receive calls and inquiries from numerous sources regarding temporary housing needs. Our view is that while many families went to stay with family and friends, that effort is wearing thin and culminating. We are coordinating with DSS, SC Housing Authority and other state agencies as well as VOADs to work the issue.
4. We met with the LLR Commission overseeing licensure of contractors and home builders, along with Pastor Greg Varner of the United Methodist Church. The purpose was to obtain a favorable interpretation of existing regulations covering the need for a State licensed general contractor to oversee the reconstruction, to include VOADs. This has been an ongoing issue confronting the VOADs due to varying interpretations of the

regulations at the local level. As a result of Richele's direct support and the testimony provided by Pastor Varner the VOADs will be able to work with one less encumbrance --- the updated reg is highlighted below:

- a. "A 501(c)(3) eleemosynary organization appeared before the South Carolina Residential Builders Commission ("the Commission") at its February 10, 2016 meeting, to request the Commission's approval for an exemption under S.C. Code Ann. § 40-59-300 (1976, as amended) to bring in disaster volunteer teams from around the country to repair an estimated 500-700 homes damaged by the statewide October 2015 flooding event.
- b. The Commission approved an exemption under § 40-59-300 for 501(c)(3) organizations seeking to assist in the repair of homes damaged by the October 2015 flooding event, under the following conditions:

- * The organization must register with the Commission and provide a copy of its 501(c)(3) charter. This registration is valid only for one year but may be renewed by the Commission if requested.

- * The homeowner and the 501(c)(3) organization must apply together for any necessary building permits. The Commission will notify the local codes departments of this requirement. Per § 40-59-300, the cost of the building permit must be borne by the 501(c)(3) organization, unless waived by the local codes department.

- * Only homes owned by underprivileged or low-income families or individuals located in FEMA-designated disaster areas may be repaired.

- * The 501(c)(3) organization must not perform any structural work or work in the mechanical trades, to include plumbing, electrical, and/or air conditioning/heating. The 501(c)(3) organization or the homeowner must contract with an appropriately licensed person or company to perform these types of work.

5. We are seeing some Long Term Recovery Groups thrive and flourish while others continue to struggle. Those thriving have leadership, purpose, and the support of local government. In some cases we believe that while business and industry are willing to provide contributions to support, they are not willing to provide the human capital in terms of talent to support. We retain our belief in 'Local Primacy' and communities must drive the recovery internally. We continue to work diligently with those needing assistance.
6. We continue to chase FEMA data. A concern I have is that FEMA inspectors are trained to respond to flood emergencies vice severe storm emergencies. Flooding is much easier

to measure vice our disaster of steady, unrelenting rain that ensued and the damage it caused. Anecdotally (the data appears to support it), we may have received about half the amount of money per victim (\$3K vs \$6K) and have half as many recipients (28% vs. 50-70%) as other similar type events. There is the possibility that the case management efforts focused on Flood and failed to adequately consider 27" of rain. To this point, FEMA has not provided the "benchmark" data we've requested to confirm/deny. We also see a lot of data with tremendous inconsistencies – one example: I cannot tell you accurately whether we've had 96 or 131 full grants (\$33K) paid out, nor can I definitively tell you whether many of them were issued to ineligible persons. We continue to seek 'relevant data' from FEMA and the struggle continues.

7. We reviewed the FEMA Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator (FDRC) Mission Scoping Assessments (MSA) this week. We believe the Mission Scoping Assessments for Infrastructure Systems, Community Capacity Building / Planning and Economic Recovery appear to be adequate to produce a Recovery Support Strategy (RSS) to take us forward. That said, there appear to be significant gaps in Housing Mission Scoping Assessment and basic FEMA database information we still need to complete our mission analysis. It contained few details, did not address any of the top three concerns we presented in our previous meetings and did not even mention mobile homes. We have noted our concerns and sent them back to both the FDRC and the FCO.
8. Following a meeting with the Winyah Bay LTRG, SCDR team members observed that there was an inordinate number of farm tractors and equipment for sale at an auction house in Kingstree. Additionally, various tours of SCDR team members throughout the most impacted areas of the State continue to show ground saturation and standing water. Each of the LTRCs continue local efforts in assessing the unmet needs population. In many instances, storm and flood victims have initiated or completed rebuilding efforts on their own. However, in other instances it appears there has been no movement in the rebuilding effort at the local level (see attached slides).
9. SCDR team members met with the Lee County Administrator, EMD Director, Fire Marshall and Fire Chief on 02/10/2016. The SoVI Model was discussed along with the need for local primacy and community involvement in the long term recovery effort. They admitted having less damage than the two other counties represented by the Tri-County LTRG (Sumter and Clarendon). They repeatedly expressed concern that citizens without true vulnerability would use valuable resources based on their recent experience with DSNAP sign-ups. They were interested in getting specific information on IA information for Lee County so that the EMD Director could follow up on the recovery status of those affected.
10. On Tuesday, SCDR staff toured the hardest hit areas of Richland County to review still unrepaired damage and gauge recovery progress. The review included houses in the red and pink zones as indicated in the SoVI Model. The results were a mixed bag of homes,

which included some that were seemingly repaired and other homes still in need of repair. These SCDR staff members were able to speak with two individuals during the tour concerning two homes that were still vacant and unlivable. In both cases observations indicated that a combination of deferred maintenance issues and poverty were the main cause of the homes still being unrepaired. During the tour no active repair activities by volunteer agencies were observed.

11. On Wednesday, a SDRC Team traveled to Orangeburg County to meet with the Billy Staley, the Director of Orangeburg County Emergency Services. After the meeting, Mr. Staley took these SCDR staff members on an extensive tour of flood damaged areas of Orangeburg County and reviewed how the areas were recovering. During the tour, a great deal of discussion was held on the needs of Orangeburg County and lessons learned from this disaster that could be applied to the next. Some of their recommendations for the future included:
 - a. The need and value of the State and/or County's having websites and phone numbers that could be given out at the beginning of a disaster where local citizens could go on line or call to report damage to their property. It was felt this would help local and State agencies to have a better inventory of damage and not have to rely solely on FEMA data. If done correctly, it could be core information in the case management package to support a future event.
 - b. The criticality of the State having a "pre-positioned" case management contract in place that could be activated upon declaration of a disaster. It was felt that this would ensure local communities would be better represented when negotiating the FEMA requirements for assistance and help to move recovery along at a much faster pace. There are a number of significant obstacles to overcome, the first would be to determine how to tie the funding approval to existing grants so that the state could be reimbursed.
12. Economic/Small Business Report - Reviewed framework and resiliency reports for South Carolina. Met with US EDA to discuss resiliency training with COG's and will give a brief presentation on ESF24's strategy at that meeting next Tuesday.

Respectfully,
Kevin

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