

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTERS (COAD) 2025-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Leadership

- **Chair: Dr. Jennifer L. L'Heureux**, Chief of Children's Community Operations-NW, Missouri Department of Mental Health, Division of Behavioral Health.
- **Immediate Past Chair:** Michael O'Neal, Retired Deputy Sheriff/Assistant EM Coordinator.
- **Vice Chair:** Awaiting final acceptance from candidate.
- **Recording Secretary:** Shayna Deitchman, Disaster Case Manager, Americorps and Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph.
- **Membership Secretary:** Stephanie Spitz, Senior Project Manager, UMKC/Americorps.
- **Treasurer:** Allison Breeze, Emergency Management Coordinator, Office of Emergency Management, City of Kansas City, MO.
- **Planner:** Dan Reece, Emergency Planner and Training Expert, Independent.
- **Logistics Specialist:** Dante Gliniecki, Manager, Emergency Preparedness Division, City of Independence.

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTERS (COAD) 2025-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Overview

The KC Regional COAD is a body of voluntary agencies and faith-based groups and people who Serve and Care: These non-profit agencies and faith groups seek to follow the values of the Whole Community concept of Emergency Preparedness. In times of mitigation, preparedness, planning, training, exercise, response and recovery of disasters. The 4 C's, as they are known by COAD members, are the essential actions needed to effectively serve, in the event and time of a disaster. Through collaboration, cooperation, communication, and coordination of goods and services, time, energy, and funds are better utilized, and the victims of disasters are better served. When disasters take place, the COAD provides an immediate structure, thereby making service delivery more effective with less duplication.

Overall Focus in 2025

- **Increase membership:** Devise and implement an outreach plan to attract new members from various disciplines and organizations. This will be an ongoing, continuous process.
- **Increase communication and information sharing:** Establish a new, secure website that is kept current. Regular membership emails informing of upcoming events, meetings, or emergencies. Develop a brochure that explains who we are, what we do.
- **Provide a colloquy for all members** to learn from other subject matter experts about pertinent issues is disaster response and recovery. Increase general membership meetings to bi-monthly instead of quarterly.
- **Advance existing committees and subcommittees** by filling vacancies, meeting regularly, and having a work plan with objective, measurable, and obtainable goals relating back to the mission of that particular group. Report outs from the committees or subcommittees at every general membership meeting.
- **Increase community involvement** by regular community service, speaking at events, and outreach. Learn *before* disaster strikes what the particular challenges and assets of a community may be, and form trusted relationships to affect a more efficient disaster response.
- **Finalize the EIOG** or Emergency Incident Operations Guide to organize efforts in support of Regional, County, and Local Emergency Management Response and Recovery Operations during critical events.

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTERS (COAD) 2025-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

- **Create an internship program in partnership with local colleges, universities, and training programs** to supplement committees and subcommittees, provide valuable learning opportunities, and shape the future of emergency management.
- **Capitalize on our 501 c3 nonprofit status** and apply for grants to expand capabilities during times it is most needed.
- **Further support community partners, organizations, and teams** by attending their meetings and promoting their respective missions through our platforms.
- **Complete a mission analysis in the LTRC** to identify capacity gaps in recovery.
- **Focus on the access and functional needs** of populations that may need additional assistance during times of disasters and plan for such.

Committee/Subcommittee Plans

- **Long-term Recovery Committee**

Overview:

Long-term recovery in emergency management is the phase focusing on rebuilding communities, restoring critical services, and addressing the lasting impacts of a disaster. The aim is to achieve a "new normal".

Projects:

- Completion of a mission analysis to identify capacity gaps in recovery.
- Improving community recovery and resilience via community planning and based on the mission analysis and using a RRF or Regional Recovery Framework.
- Increase local partnerships to expand capacity.
- To be announced.

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTERS (COAD) 2025-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Contact(s):

- Greg Topping, Chair, Greg@uickc.org or backup, Jennifer L'Heureux, KCR COAD Chair, Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov

Meeting Information:

- Third Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. on Webex (Subject to change with new Chair, Greg Topping's schedule).

• Mass Care Committee

Overview:

In emergency management, "mass care" refers to the coordinated provision of life-sustaining services, including sheltering, feeding, and the distribution of essential supplies, to individuals and families affected by a disaster or emergency. Mass care aims to address the immediate needs of disaster survivors who have been displaced or otherwise impacted by an event that disrupts their ability to provide for their basic needs.

Projects:

- Research into affordable and rapid sheltering options for disaster survivors.
- Plan and coordinate local and national resources to ensure disaster survivors have access to food and water.
- Plan and coordinate for the provision of emergency supplies.
- Reunification support to reunite individuals with their families.
- To be announced.

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTERS (COAD) 2025-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Contact(s):

- John Ezell, Chair, John.Ezell@uhkc.org or Jennifer L'Heureux, KCR COAD Chair, Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov

Meeting Information:

- First Thursday at 9 a.m. on Webex
- **Behavioral Health Committee**

Overview:

In emergency management, behavioral health care focuses on addressing the psychological, emotional, and substance use needs of disaster survivors and responders, ensuring mental health support is integrated into preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. It recognizes the unique needs of individuals and communities in the aftermath of a disaster, addressing potential long-term behavioral health consequences.

Projects:

- Ongoing research into best practices for supporting disaster survivors and responders.
- Planning for the full inclusion of mental health supports in preparedness, incident response, and recovery.

Contact(s):

- Bary Kramer, Chair, Bary.Kramer@dmh.mo.gov or Josette Mitchell, Co-Chair, jmitchell@swopehealth.org. For backup, please reach out to the KCR COAD Chair, Dr. Jennifer L'Heureux at: Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTERS (COAD) 2025-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Meeting Information:

- To be announced, please contact Mr. Kramer or Ms. Mitchell for further information.

- **Planning, Training Exercise Operations Committee**

Overview:

In emergency management, planning, training, and exercise operations are critical for effective disaster response and recovery, forming a continuous cycle that enhances preparedness and resilience.

Projects:

- Completion of the EIOG.
- Internship research and build KCRCOAD internship program.
- Keep full unredacted MRPs filed by ESFs so when one of our EMD from KS and/or MO stands up their ESF we can begin the review of our KCRCOAD Member's MRPs, by ESF, to see what we can send their way if they, EMD(s), need support.
- Conduct exercises where valuable experience in exercise planning, development, and execution will be had working with Federal, State, Regional, local EM and KCRCOAD exercise partners. This will be using a prebuilt scenario that will be run annually with a different focus KCRCOAD capability each year.

Contact(s):

- Dan Reece, Chair, danntab1@msn.com or Paul Gerard Marx, Co-Chair, paulgmarx@outlook.com. For backup, please reach out to the KCR COAD Chair, Dr. Jennifer L'Heureux at: Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTERS (COAD) 2025-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Meeting Information:

- To be announced, please contact Mr. Reece or Mr. Marx for further information.

- **Donations Management Committee**

Overview:

Donations management in emergency management involves efficiently and effectively managing the influx of goods, services, and cash donations to support disaster relief efforts, ensuring they reach the right people at the right time. Confirming needs before collecting donations to see what is actually needed in the affected area is critically important as is the utilization of existing networks to streamline donations management.

Projects:

- Develop a comprehensive plan for managing donations, receiving, sorting, storing, and distribution.
- Establish interagency collaboration to further build strong relationships with all pertinent entities.
- Develop a system for the clear communication with the public about what donations are needed.
- To be announced.

Contact(s):

- Karen Whitson, Chair, karen@kswhitson.com. For backup, please reach out to the KCR COAD Chair, Dr. Jennifer L'Heureux at: Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTERS (COAD) 2025-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Meeting Information:

- To be announced, please contact Ms. Whitson for further information.

• **Volunteer Management**

Overview:

Effective volunteer management in emergency management involves planning, training, and coordinating volunteers to support disaster relief efforts, ensuring their safety and effectiveness, and leveraging their skills and resources to aid communities.

Projects:

- Develop a plan for managing volunteers including assigning duties. This will further include a determination of the skills and roles needed during different phases of emergencies.
- Construct a process for the recruitment and screening of volunteers ensuring the qualifications and capabilities of each volunteer for the role assigned.
- Develop a system for unaffiliated volunteers to ensure all activities are coordinated.
- Develop appropriate training and education protocols on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Develop protocols for the regular monitoring of volunteer activities.

Contacts:

- Jennifer L'Heureux, KCR COAD Chair, Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTERS (COAD) 2025-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

Meeting Information:

- Third Thursday at 9 a.m. on Webex.

• **Citizen Corps Outreach Liaisons**

Overview:

Citizen Corps outreach liaisons in emergency management, like those in Missouri's Citizen Corps Program, are key to connecting communities with emergency preparedness resources and fostering collaboration between government, community leaders, and volunteers.

Projects:

- Promote emergency preparedness training and education via a comprehensive outreach plan. The plans will focus in large part on increasing preparedness and resiliency.
- Build partnerships between various entities to ensure coordinated responses during disasters.
- Develop a community building and engagement plan to engage citizens in all-hazards emergency preparedness.
- To be announced.

Contacts:

- Jennifer L'Heureux, KCR COAD Chair, Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov

Meeting Information:

- First Friday at 9 a.m. on Webex.

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTERS (COAD) 2025-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

- **Emergency Assistance**

Overview:

In emergency management, emergency assistance refers to the support provided to individuals and communities affected by disasters, encompassing services like shelter, food, medical care, and financial aid, often coordinated by organizations like COADS, FEMA, the Red Cross, and local authorities.

Projects:

- Develop a strong coordinative and collaborative plan between all entities and levels of government for an effective emergency assistance response. This is to take into consideration the various kinds of assistance that may be needed.
- Increase awareness of EMACs.
- To be announced.

Contacts:

- Jennifer L'Heureux, KCR COAD Chair, Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov

Meeting Information:

- Second Friday at 10 a.m. on Webex.

KANSAS CITY REGIONAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTERS (COAD) 2025-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

- **Health Outreach Team**

Overview:

In emergency management, a health outreach team plays a crucial role in promoting public health and safety by providing medical care, disseminating information, and supporting local health systems during emergencies and disasters. These teams, often composed of doctors, nurses, paramedics, and other health professionals, are deployed to provide immediate medical assistance, support local health systems, and ensure the health and safety of affected populations.

Projects:

- Collaborate effectively with various public health organizations, local government, LE, schools, hospitals, and healthcare organizations.
- Increase preparedness through planning and coordination efforts to ensure that health outreach teams stand ready to respond when needed.
- Conduct trainings that prepare health outreach teams to be adaptable and able to work in various challenging conditions.

Contacts:

- John Ezell, Chair, John.Ezell@uhkc.org or Jennifer L'Heureux, KCR COAD Chair, Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov

Meeting Information:

- Second Monday at 10 a.m. on Webex.