

Kansas City Regional COAD Bi-Monthly Report

February 27, 2026

Hello,

Thank you for being such valuable members of the Kansas City Regional COAD. Without you, people in need would not get direly needed services during some of the most difficult times of their lives. As promised here is the bi-monthly update of what COAD activities have occurred. These reports will continue to be distributed no later than the final Friday of months where we do not have general membership meetings. This is done to assist with continuous communication.

Committee Updates

Children in Disasters:

- Jennifer L'Heureux continues as the Chair.
- Presentation completed at the Missouri ECHO-Childcare/Educators session on November 19th. This was pertaining to children's unique needs in disasters.
- Ongoing recruitment of new members.
- The Children in Disasters piece that has been with SOCCEED or Systems of Care in Community Emergent Events and Disasters, is now fully immersed with the COAD including members and resources.
- We are scheduled to speak in the Independence Schools about children and preparedness.
- Working with the local community mental health facilities to ensure needs of children are met during FIFA.
- The meetings are the fourth Monday of each month.

Access and Functional Needs (AFN):

- Jennifer L'Heureux continues as the Chair.
- Presented on February 5th in Independence with Independence EM. This pertained to senior preparedness.

- The meetings are the second Friday of each month.
- Partnership for Disaster Inclusive Strategies meetings on Tuesday (we participate in these).
- [Briefing on the Convention on the Protection of Persons in the Event of Disasters \(PPED\)](#) (Interesting read that I came across).
- [Functional Assessment Service Teams \(FAST\) – Past, Present, and Future](#) (Very informative article).
- [GADRA Virtual Emergency Operations Center](#) (This came from the Partnership meeting noted above).
- Connected FIFA ED with local organizations that are subject matter experts on AFN, for example, EITAS.
- Recruitment efforts are ongoing.
- The COAD was asked to meet with the Hagerty Consulting-Preparedness Division as a part of a development called the St. Louis Regional AFN Project. We were recognized for our expertise in AFN and asked to consult on this critical project. We continue to attend all the related meetings pertaining to this AFN project.

Long-term Recovery:

- Greg Topping (Chair) continues to reach out to various disaster representatives to strengthen responses.
- Greg and Jennifer (COAD Chair) met and discussed world cup.
- New crisis Dec 29th Sycamore Apartment Fire. Worked with Red Cross and met with 7 families the next day. Gave Walmart gift cards and clothing vouchers for Hillcrest thrift. Three of these families have been rehoused and we have supplied them the needed furniture to give them a new start.
- Mission analysis is ongoing to identify any gaps in recovery.
- Jan 1st 4am Gateway Apartment fire again worked with Red Cross. Gave Walmart gift cards and vouchers to all survivors who wanted to meet. 4 Total. Helped furnish 1 family already who has rehoused.
- Focusing on the issue of housing and has activities related to that.
- Ongoing work to simplify the VOAD LTR Guide.
- The Executive Team assists with increasing local partnerships to expand our capacity insofar as response and recovery.
- Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month from 3-4, virtually.

Mass Care/Health and Medical:

- John Ezell and Emma Boyd remain as Chairs. Meetings have combined with Health/Medical and are now the 4th Tuesday from 11-12, every other month.
- Continues to attend any supplemental meetings related to the mission of this particular committee such as the meetings the COAD has had with Kansas City University, SEMA, etc.
- Ongoing involvement in MRPs or Mission Ready Packages and their completion.
- Actively recruiting members on an ongoing basis.

- Presentation from Kansas Animal Response Team (KSART) – Bob Potemski at a recent meeting.
- Regular meetings being held to discuss feeding and sheltering.

Mass Feeding Subcommittee – Steven Robinette
 Newly appointed COAD volunteer Sheltering Subcommittee.

- Emma Boyd. Thunderbolt Exercise
- Clinical Support Subcommittee – Carter Goetz (MRC)
- Medical Reserve Corps - Main POC for clinical/healthcare organizations looking to volunteer: your.mrcgkc@gmail.com
- Meeting with KC26 to plan for FIFA Medical and Health needs

Behavioral Health:

- Chairs continue to be Bary Kramer and Laurie Cox.
- Ongoing work to increase membership.
- Compiling a resource library.
- Continues to meet the 4th Wednesday of every other month at 11 a.m.
- They continue to work with local community mental health organizations and related entities to ensure the needs of all are met during disasters and emergencies.

Planning, Training, and Exercise:

- Dan Reece and JD Vanway remain as Chairs. Sedaf Nezami is the student assistant planner.
- Ongoing work to promote the EIOG in various meetings to further elucidate how the COAD works and to serve potentially as a model for other COADs.
- Exercise is continuing to be planned for the latter part of this year.
- Ongoing completion of MRPs.
- Ongoing work to revise the COAD Membership Manual.
- FIFA WC planning is ongoing
- Central file storage work to preserve documents
- On January 8th, KCRCOAD planners had a meeting with the FIFA team to discuss their support with our community partners in the event of a natural disaster during the events. Along with this discussion they queried their planning for Access and Functional Needs, Elderly and those with limited English language which led to a discussion of cultural awareness. The FIFA team may have a point of contact for religious and cultural awareness, but the FIFA planner was not sure. KCRCOAD Planners, indicated that they were in the initial steps of increasing our Membership with our regional Islamic Centers. Planners offered that they would ask associates if there was someone available to provide the technical support to ensure that FIFA volunteers and operations were aware of religious and cultural needs. Algeria will be participating in the Kansas City tournament. We believe most of the Algerian guests speak French. FIFA planners did say they were setting up places for Islamic worship

and the planner welcomed the idea of a local leader to help them succeed in accommodating religious and cultural needs.

- Discussion with the Islamic Center Of Johnson County.
- Working on an easy-to-read digital map to be used as a resource of the Islamic centers with their prayer times and Friday sermon times, with languages in which the service is done.
- KCRCOAD MARC QuickStart Guidebook Project.
- Recruitment materials. I (Jennifer) designed a Membership Package for all potential new COAD members.

Donations Management:

- Karen Whitson is Chair of this committee and Charles Gerhart is Vice Chair.
- Todd Jordan is the Chair of Financial Management.
- Meetings are a minimum of twice a year and are more frequent if there is a need.
- Remains available if the COAD is activated.
- Active in connecting the COAD with Chambers of Commerce.
- Working to position area businesses to respond and help in any ways they can if a disaster occurs in our area.

Volunteer Management:

- I (Jennifer) remain as Chair. We meet the third Friday of each month.
- “Track it Forward” system account remains in place to log volunteer hours as needed.
- Matching volunteers with specific skillsets to specific roles is an ongoing focus.
- Ongoing recruitment of members.
- “Choice Screening” remains our system account for performing comprehensive background checks.
- Ongoing effort to develop protocols pertaining to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.
- We serve as a connector between various partners and the FIFA WC Planning Commission.

Health and Medical: Please see Mass Care as these meetings/groups have combined.

Meetings

- In January, D. Scott Penman and Gloria Noble (Missouri 911), Eric Winebrenner (MARC), and Sarah Newell (Polk County 911) were the featured presenters. The topic was on Next Gen (NG) 911 as it pertains to state and local levels as well as to FIFA WC planning. The slide deck from this presentation was posted on the COAD’s website at: www.kansascityregionalcoad.org.
- Exec team meets every Fourth Tuesday of each month and has communication throughout the week (including weekly written activity summaries that I -Jennifer- send to the Executive Team).

Financials

- The 1500 grant for AFN remains with the LTRC and has not yet been needed.
- There have been no additions or subtractions. The COAD's bank balance stands at \$9,908.93.

Membership

- Since the last report-out, the COAD has connected with the Foursquare Disaster Relief team in KC, the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, Eitas, and through Scott Burdin, we are pursuing additional connections with Operation BBQ via:
 - Mike Richter
 - Randy Hartmann
 - Amy Hays
 - Kirstie Withrow

We have had three reach outs from private individuals via our website and are getting connected with:

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- JVS-Disaster Services has joined the COAD.

Internship

The COAD's Internship Program is ready to receive students into the various COAD committees.

Website

This is updated weekly at a minimum. We are happy to post flyers of upcoming pertinent events for emergency management, preparedness, exercises, etc.

Shirts and More

The COAD has a range of sizes left in shirts. If we do not have your size, I can order it very easily. There are some tumblers left as well as badges. These are free of cost to members.

Additional Information

(This is a summary of additional things not noted in the above and information from the weekly updates to the COAD Executive Team)

- Sue Johnson is the new Vice Chair.

- The COAD attends MEMC meetings and provides a brief on our activities.
- Reach out to the Greater KC Coalition to End Homelessness. This was done to begin further work on the concern regarding people being displaced because of the FIFA WC.
- COAD/211 meeting on January 21st. This was put together by our Donations Management Committee, specifically Todd Jordan. He wrote:
We held a meeting with our 211 colleagues from other major markets that are hosting World Cup games and they gave us some insights we would love to share. This is also to promote and enhance further collaboration between the COAD and 211. Fantastic opportunity!
- We are starting a Mass Feeding Subcommittee
- We are also starting a Clinical Support Subcommittee
- Article in MO Baptist about the COAD and Miss Mary in Independence. This was the senior lady brought to our attention after the MARC we stood up last year. She lost her husband in January and both of her children are also sadly deceased. Her basement flooded with muck and everything else you can think of during unprecedented flooding in Independence. She lacked the means to resolve this health threatening issue. Through various partnerships, Mary's basement was restored completely free of charge!
- Excellent webinar on AFN and evacuation/transportation: [Recording Available: Strengthening Transit Evacuation Plans Webinar – The Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies](#)
- The following was shared: <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/office-of-the-director/policy-administration/access-functional-needs/afn-library/>
- Myself (Jennifer), John Ezell, Steve Robinette, and Greg Topping met with Jody D., Gloria B., Michael Booth, Lisa Weaver, and Scott Burdin to continue our conversation about coordination of efforts for FIFA WC. The following is a summary of that discussion:
 - Lisa Weaver (Feeding Missouri) is working on transportation for feeding efforts.
 - Discussed having a sheltering and feeding taskforce of sorts. Gerg is on sheltering, John and Steve R. are feeding.
 - Discussed involving KC EOC.
 - Steve R. is on Mass Feeding.
 - I have requested access to Web EOC via Gloria B. who sent me the needed form. (I am now connected).
 - There will possibly be a Web EOC training combined with G418 Mass Care and Emergency Assistance in KCMO. Gloria is willing to facilitate with Scott B. This will likely be a day and a half. COAD stressed any efforts in this regard needs to be in sync with MARC and their existing Web EOC events.
 - I will communicate with Gloria and Scott on establishing a core team of us that will meet more frequently than the team at large. My thinking was the core set of folks need to meet more often than one time a month and this will increase as we draw closer to the event. Jody concurred. COAD and SEMA meet regularly to ensure efforts for FIFA do not overlap or contradict one another.

- Discussed MH concerns and unaccompanied minors. John is working with MRC on any possible reunification efforts they could contribute to.
- Greg is talking with private colleges to discuss sheltering.
- Discussed MARC and their partnerships that are on both sides of the state line.
- Red Cross Training
- Jody expressed that Chris Harmon told him their National Warehouse (STL) is stocked and should be able to resource sheltering supplies.
- Scott expressed that we need to talk to Gaylon Moss and others about laundry trailers.
- A free and secure account has been created for the COAD at:
 - https://monday.com/lp/dashboards?cq_src=google_ads&cq_cmp=15353191321&cq_term=dashboard%20creator&cq_plac=&cq_net=g&cq_plt=gp&utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=adwordssearch&utm_campaign=us-en-prm-workos-work_mgmt-dashboards-h-search-desktop-core-aw&utm_keyword=dashboard%20creator&utm_match_type=p&cluster=&subcluster=&ati=&utm_adgroup=dashboard%20creator&utm_banner=673774651190&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=15353191321&gbraid=0AAAAADeiQJtnokZ56PD6hmC8af0ZxN4TI&gclid=EAiaIQobChMI-uLYsNaQkgMVIXN_AB0K1hhyEAMYAiAAEgKUe_D_BwE
 - This is a valid and secure means of having a single workspace that all of us can be added to. It has multiple capabilities, is simple to use, and serves as a planning dashboard where documents can be uploaded to and more. This is in the interim of JD working on something more permanent. This new account does have the capability to have all the players log into, synch efforts, and know in real time, where each facet of the planning is, needs, etc.
- Metropolitan Emergency Managers Committee's Recovery Sub-Committee Meeting. I (Jennifer) have been attending these and am tasked with reviewing human service documents. I have completed this task and am happy to continue in any way that I can be of help.
- DHRC's Disaster Recovery Working Group (I, Jennifer attend these).
- I have connected the COAD with Good 360: <https://good360.org/>. They are an amazing organization that keeps direly needed goods out of landfills and into the hands of those who need it the most. Further, they have a disaster response effort that is truly powerful and can provide critically needed materials to help communities rebuild. Recently, the SOC (that I also currently Chair) was able to obtain more than \$1000 worth of name brand sunscreen for the MRC for under \$79. This is an item that the MRC will be able to put to good use as they serve people at various outdoor events, emergencies, etc. This was through Good 360 and the \$79 was just an administrative fee.
- Walmart Disaster Services has expressed interest in being a part of the COAD after our reach out.
- I (Jennifer) on behalf of the COAD may assist with supporting a SIM Cell at the Community Disaster Resiliency Network's Annual Community Exercise on April 21, 2026, from 8:30 am – noon.

