

November Meeting Summary



Last Meeting: November 12th, 2025 at KC EOC

Next Meeting: January 14th, 2026. Hybrid

Overview of the November 12th, 2025 Meeting of the KCR COAD

- Welcome and brief introductions
- Minutes were distributed, voted on, and approved from the September meeting.
- Dr. Laura Albert was the featured presenter. She talked about resilience, industrial engineering in relationship to emergencies, how industrial engineering can be used to operate better systems, how management of different scenarios can benefit from algorithms and improved resource allocation systems, how to optimize effective operations, public safety, and multi-faceted approaches that combine data-driven research and traditional EM practices. Multiple people commented on wanting to collaborate with Dr. Albert who advised she welcomes connecting with EM and related professionals.

Dr. Laura Albert is a professor of industrial and systems engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her expertise is in emergency medical response to 911 calls and in managing emergencies during severe weather events.

She studies emergency response protocols during extreme weather conditions, such as blizzards and winter storms, and how these situations differ from emergencies during “normal” weather conditions. Dr. Albert is a thought leader in operations research and analytics. She served as the David H. Gustafson Department Chair from 2021-24 and the President of the Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS) in 2023. Dr. Albert’s research focuses on mitigating risks in the public sector through optimization and operations research methodologies, with applications in critical infrastructure protection, public safety, and emergency response. She is a Fellow of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and the Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers (IISE). Her work has been recognized with numerous accolades, including the INFORMS Impact Prize, a National Science Foundation CAREER award, and a Fulbright Award. An advocate for public engagement,

Dr. Albert has penned several op-eds for national news outlets. Some specific examples of her work include:

- https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=view_citation&hl=en&user=GVfb0TAAAAAJ&cstart=20&page_size=80&citation_for_view=GVfb0TAAAAAJ:P5F9QuxV20EC
- https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=view_citation&hl=en&user=GVfb0TAAAAAJ&cstart=20&page_size=80&citation_for_view=GVfb0TAAAAAJ:isC4tDSrTZIC
- <https://www.ou.edu/systemslab/dream/albert.pdf>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2CCHJMcpeQ>
- <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=GVfb0TAAAAAJ&hl=en>
- https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=view_citation&hl=en&user=GVfb0TAAAAAJ&citation_for_view=GVfb0TAAAAAJ:QIV2ME_5wuYC
- https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=view_citation&hl=en&user=GVfb0TAAAAAJ&citation_for_view=GVfb0TAAAAAJ:RYcK_YlVTxYC

Dr. Albert's research into emergency responses is groundbreaking for its pioneering application of operations research to solve complex disaster management challenges and improve informed decision making. Her work has produced novel, data-driven methods for optimizing resource allocation, improving system design, and building resilience in the face of disasters. This is accomplished through the application of sophisticated mathematical and analytical techniques to real-world public sector issues where resources are scarce.

- There was no update to the KCR COAD's finances as nothing has changed. Our bank balance remains: \$9,908.93.

- The following committee reports were given including slide decks and/or additional notes:

1. Long-term Recovery: Greg Topping, Chair provided an overview of his committee's activities:

Meetings are monthly and active recruitment to expand this membership is ongoing. Greg is connecting with another COAD attendee, Reuben Samuels (Four Square Disaster Relief). Greg shared with the KCR COAD Chair the following documents during a recent discussion: KC Assistance Agencies, a LTR Guide, LTR Plan, and a case file.

2. Mass-Care: Chair, John Ezell presented detailed information about membership and activities specific to mass care response. He also reported on the Health and Medical Committee as these two groups have now combined meetings.

COAD Mass Care & Medical & Health Report Out

11/12/2025

Mass Care/Medical & Health Meeting Tuesday, 11/16, 11AM-12PM via Webex link:

<https://stateofmo.webex.com/stateofmo/j.php?MTID=m121837942cb5e1b5b3f01b97e17aa351>

Current business:

1. Still need MRPs from members. Email john.ezell@uhkc.org with any questions.
2. Both committees have been combined and met previously on Tuesday, 10/28
 - a. Presentation from Medical Reserve Corps. (MRC)
 - i. Looking for presenters for the next meeting
 - b. Discussed World Cup Planning and Mass Care/Medical and Health needs
 - a. KU Med announced as the official FIFA Partner
 - b. MEMC Risk Assessment – New Madrid Fault Line
 - i. Mass Care gaps: Planning, Exercise, Operations, Training, Equipment
 - c. Develop subcommittees
 - a. Mass Care: Sheltering (includes pet sheltering), feeding
 - b. Medical and Health: Clinical support

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, December 16th, 11am

3. **Behavioral-Health:** Bary Kramer is one of the Chairs of this committee. His new Co-Chair is, Laurie Cox. They continue to meet every other month, have added resources to their tab on the COAD's website, and have related projects pertaining to mental health and disaster preparedness.
4. **Planning, Training Exercise Operations:** Chair, Dan Reece provided the following update:

PTEOC updates for now-

We, KCRCOAD, responded to a Request for Assistance (RFA) from Olathe, KS EMD Rob Cole to support possible Response and Recovery for the Olathe, KS apartment situation. We tested our updated EIOG with great success. The apartment situation developed where a solution was accepted, and the residents did not have to evacuate. Rob expressed his appreciation for the nimble posture and readiness of the KCRCOAD. Thanks to all who participated! We were there and ready if there was need!!!

Let me and Jennifer know if you want to be included in the initial warm or stand up of our KCRCOAD EOC so we can include you in the initial virtual meeting invite with the impacted EMD. You can then continue to help support our KCRCOAD EOC Director with continued engagement with the EMD, Members, Partners, etc. Recommend review the EIOG to help. [DRAFT KCRCOAD EMERGENCY INCIDENT OPERATIONS GUIDE EOIG ver 10 June 25.pdf](#) Our

Planning efforts helped shape the Response and Recovery environment for effective possible follow-on mission sets during recent incidents.

As a result of the multiple apartment displacements and the involvement of the City EMDs request for KCRCOAD support;

- a. We, KCRCOAD, are beginning to see a need for a KCRCOAD Multi Agency Resource Center (MARC) guidebook to streamline the process to rapidly stand up a MARC and assuage EMD's and city official's concerns. I'll work this and synch with the Red Cross and other MARC experienced team to trim and tailor the current 68 page June 2017, ARC MARC product to fit our Region. Let me know if you want to join in this initiative. [MultiAgency Resource Center Planning Resource JT V-1-0 2017 06 12-.pdf](#)
- b. Also we, KCRCOAD, are considering developing a Special Operations Field Task Force as a committee to deploy to lead the onsite KCRCOAD teams. First action would be the KCRCOAD POC to stand up a MARC, and then leading follow on field operations as the KCRCOAD Task Force lead under the KCRCOAD EOC Director's guidance. Not sure if we have the bandwidth for this just yet. Any thoughts?

We met with MEMC and SEMA on World Cup 2026 planning. We are still attempting to identify what possible mission sets would the EMDs request from the KCRCOAD and what our posture should be for each. SEMA was very clear they are ready to support but not with any funding. We stressed the need for EMDs to use RFA as the method for

requesting KCRCOAD support. They could even prescript them to speed up the process. KCRCOAD Mass Care committee is reviewing mass care and medical mission sets.

2026 KCRCOAD AVENGERSS ASSEMBLE TTX exercise: As a result of the Olathe, KS apartment situation EMD Rob Cole expressed an interest in participating in the TTX with a MARC and possible shelter stand up. We might also consider a WORLD CUP TTX where we stand up a shelter in a Mosque with clients with dietary needs, etc. I'm in discussion with regional Islamic leaders on this concept. If you have any input and want to help build the 2026 KCRCOAD AVENGERSS ASSEMBLE TTX exercise let me know. We'd like to shoot for late Jan 2026.

Still working on the KCRCOAD Debris Guidebook, Code of Ethics, and Membership Forms.

JD Van Way has offered to lead the team to discuss and implement the most effective and ease of use membership form (online, fillable pdf, etc.) let him know if you want to help him out with this. The Primary objective is to find an easy way for new/current members to join/update their info and how the KCRCOAD Membership can capture that info. Secondary objective is to capture their capabilities whether a rough bullet point list, drop down menu, or down the road an easier MRP format.

The KCRCOAD Intern program is progressing-Thanks Chad and Jennifer!!

We have a website!! <https://www.kansascityregionalcoad.org/> Thanks

Jennifer!!

Jennifer crossed the finish line with KCRCOAD Swag—OUTSTANDING effort and results!!

5. Donations Management: Chairs are Karen Whitson and Charles Gerhart. Todd

Jordan is the Chair of Financial Management. They are continuing to stay on what are the best practices for donations, receiving, sorting, and distribution. They stand ready to respond to any disaster or emergency. The following additional update was provided prior to the meeting as Karen was not able to attend:

Hi Jennifer,

Renewed Hope Food Pantry is hosting a food pantry event in Ottawa Kansas with AdventHealth Ottawa at this time. So I won't be in attendance.

Could you let everyone know that Renewed Hope is working with Costco on a large food rescue project for Thanksgiving. Volunteers are picking up a large Costco donation Wed before Thanksgiving at 9 pm. With this food, we will host an extra food pantry via drive up on the Friday after Thanksgiving from 1 to 2 pm. We'll need volunteers from noon to 2:00 to help. Location is at 87th and Antioch in Overland Park. Here is a sign up if anyone would like to help out with this.

<https://app.vomo.org/opportunity/69109713791b7>

As a note, due to increased food insecurity with SNAP checks not going out and employees in government positions not being paid, our Tuesday mobile pantry with Harvesters last week went from our typical 350 families (the typical number of families we have served on Tuesdays for the past couple of years) to 465 last week.

We think the extra project with Costco and adding this drive up pantry on Friday is warranted in these times. A lot of people will have a good Thanksgiving meal with many outpouring of donations and support from the community... but people need to keep eating the day after Thanksgiving and the next day after that and the next day after that....

Thanks in advance for anyone who is able to sign up and volunteer to help Friday Nov 28.

- 6. Volunteer Management: Jennifer L'Heureux is the Chair. The following update was provided: We continue to meet the 3rd Friday of each month at 9 a.m. Since our last report out, we conducted a mini simulation to determine how rapidly we could assemble, deploy, and potentially set up an EOC. Lessons were learned and modifications being made to our plans moving forward.**

7. **Health-Medical:** John Ezell, Chair gave details about the meetings and related activities. Please see the Mass Care Summary. These two groups of meetings are being combined.
8. **Children in Disasters:** Meet the 4th Monday of each month at 9 a.m. We gave a presentation on children's MH and disasters at the JJA Conference and will be doing another at MO ECHO on November 19th. There was an additional presentation at UMKC on October 9th. I (Jennifer) remain as the Chair.
9. **AFN or Access and Functional Needs:** Meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 9. We gave a presentation on 9-11 to seniors at Messiah Lutheran Church in Independence. There was another presentation on October 9th at UMKC and one on October 10th at a Senior Resource Fair at the Palmer Center in Independence. We are also a part of the St. Louis Regional AFN Project and were sought out by the Hagerty Consulting Firm-Preparedness Division to consult on AFN related issues. I (Jennifer) remain as the Chair and also attend the AFN group still that I formerly Co-Chaired with Deb Hendricks.
10. Questions and comments were asked for/given with reference to all of the noted committees.
11. I (Jennifer) reported on the COAD now has its own t-shirts, insulated tumblers, table runners for community presentations, and lanyards. You can view this on the website. All are made available to our members, completely free of charge.
12. I (Jennifer) noted that in December, the review of how the COAD did against the 2025 Strategic Plan will be released along with the 2026 Strategic Plan. Input is very much welcome from all members.

13. The next meeting is on January 14, 2026 at 1:30, location pending but may be Heart to Heart International. Will also be on Webex.

14. Updates and announcements from members for the good of the group were asked for. Scott Weinberg spoke about related EM matters, Reuben Samuels spoke about development of an all-hazards rig and related EM tactical issues.

15. I (Jennifer) on behalf of the KCR COAD's Executive Team thanked everyone for being a part of the COAD, reiterated that their input is very much wanted in the development of the 2026 Strategic Plan, and thanked everyone for their service.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the KCR COAD at any time if we may be of assistance to you in your endeavors. The recording link to the meeting is available upon request.

Happy holidays!

Jennifer L. L'Heureux, Ph.D.

Chief of Children's Community Operations-NW, MO DMH-DBH

KCR COAD-Chair

SOCCEED-Chair

Chief of Children's Community Operations-Northwest

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