

January Meeting Summary



Last Meeting: January 14th, 2026, Hybrid-Heart to Heart International

Next Meeting: March 11th, 2026. Hybrid

Overview of the January 14th Meeting of the KCR COAD

- Welcome and brief introductions
- Minutes were distributed, voted on, and approved from the November meeting.
- 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 is posted on the COAD's website at: www.kansascityregionalcoad.org.
- 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:

3 of these families have been rehoused and we have supplied them the needed furniture to give them a new start.

**Jan 1 4am Gateway Apartment fire again worked with Red Cross
Gave Walmart gift cards and vouchers to all survivors who wanted to meet. 4 Total.
And have helped furnish 1 family already who has rehoused.**

**Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday, February 12th, 1pm via WebEx
Please email me directly if you would like to participate, please email me
greg@uickc.org**

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

Current business:

Both committees have been combined and met previously on Tuesday, 12/16

- a. Presentation from Kansas Animal Response Team (KSART) – Bob Potemski
- b. Continuing World Cup Planning with SEMA Mass Care

Regular meeting being held to discuss feeding and sheltering

Mass Feeding Subcommittee – Steven Robinette

- c. Newly appointed COAD volunteer

Sheltering Subcommittee – Emma Boyd

- a. Thunderbolt Exercise

Clinical Support Subcommittee – Carter Goetz (MRC)

- b. Medical Reserve Corps - Main POC for clinical/healthcare organizations looking to volunteer: your.mrcgkc@gmail.com

- c. Meeting with KC26 to plan for FIFA Medical and Health needs

Need to begin hosting regular meetings (monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly)

Next Committee Meeting: Wednesday, February 19th, 11am via WebEx

3. **Behavioral-Health:** Bary Kramer is one of the Chairs of this committee. His Co-Chair is, Laurie Cox. They continue to meet every other month and have projects related to the 2026 Strategic Plan for the COAD. 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.
4. **Planning, Training Exercise Operations:** Chair, Dan Reece and JD VanWay are the Co-Chairs. Sedef Nezami is a student assistant planner. JD reported on upcoming exercise information, FIFA WC planning, a central file storage, and related matters.
5. **Donations Management:** Chairs are Karen Whitson and Charles Gerhart. Todd Jordan is the Chair of Financial Management. The following report-out was provided:

A big thank you Karen Whitson who has helped to corral members of Mass Care and Donations Management around a plan to engage local Chambers of Commerce regarding financial support before and during a disaster that can come from the business community. That meeting is set for Thursday the 15th and we look forward to reporting back on next steps.

United Way recently returned from a national convening with colleagues from across the country. Locally, United Way has been activated as a platform for receiving donations during a major event (example- Super Bowl Parade Shooting), but we have learned a lot from our colleagues in Houston, Los Angeles, and New Orleans around fundraising preparation that can be done to make solicitation turnkey during a disaster. We look forward to operationalizing these best practices to support our areas disaster response.

Also, United Ways across the country have partnered to create a dashboard that reviews historical data on post-disaster assistance mapped to household economic vulnerability. The dashboard will launch this soon and it looks like a

great tool for understanding the amount of need in the community as well as if assistance is sufficient to help households. Will keep everyone updated when it launches.

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. It was reported that there is 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.
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. I (Jennifer L'Heureux) remain as the Chair. It was reported that we will be in the Independence Schools in March speaking about children in disaster and preparedness. We are connected to the local community mental health centers to ensure services continue during the WC.
9. **AFN or Access and Functional Needs:** Meets the 2nd Friday of each month at 9. I (Jennifer L'Heureux) remain as Chair. The following was reported: We will be speaking to a group of seniors through our SPICE component in March in Independence. We continue to be a part of other AFN groups by attending those meetings, sharing resources, and mutual support. We are looking at larger entities such as the National Guard and others specifically how they may play a role in transportation for people with AFN. Our AFN has partnered with FIFA WC planning to ensure that human rights are preserved. We have further partnered with EITAS and brought them into the planning for AFN during the FIFA WC.

- 10. Questions and comments were asked for/given with reference to all of the noted committees.**
- 11. John Ezell provided a report from Bob Potemski (KSART) about an upcoming Pet Sheltering training.**
- 12. Steven Robinette, Active-Duty Military has joined the COAD and is a part of the Planning Committee as well as a newly formed Feeding Subcommittee under Mass Care. Steven is from the KC area and reached out via our website wanting to be an active part of his community even while he is active in the military.**
- 13. The COAD met with Lindsey Douglas, Chief Operating Officer for FIFA WC 2026 as well as Kyle Postell, Director of Security Operations. We did this in partnership and to synch coordinating efforts. They were quite open to us especially assisting with AFN needs to which, I then brought in EITAS as a new partner with the COAD to aide in these efforts.**
- 14. Our internship program can accept applications at this time.**
- 15. I will post a summary of today's meeting along with the approved November minutes and the presentation slide deck to the website, tonight.**
- 16. I thanked Heart to Heart International for hosting the COAD. Interested parties were invited to tour their facilities after the meeting.**
- 17. Our next meeting is on March 11th at 1:30, topic and location to be announced.**

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.

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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