

Kansas City Regional COAD Bi-Monthly Report

April 24, 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.

Forthcoming Activation/EOC Standup

- On 4-17-26, Belton, MO experienced significant damage from a tornado. The COAD's EOC was activated as were some of its committees. The COAD convened a Response Planning Huddle with Belton EM on 4-18-26, 4-21-26, and 4-23-26. The next call is on 4-27-26. Pertinent committees submitted slides as to status and these were used as the basis for the briefings. Additionally, multiple coordination calls occurred amongst various entities to ensure clear communication and that all needs or potential needs were covered. There are no completed Belton RFAs at this time but one to two are forthcoming and expected on 4-24-26. I (Jennifer) as EOC Director have tentatively set a MARC for May 2nd. More specific information is forthcoming. The SOC (also Chaired by myself, Jennifer) was able to pledge up to \$5,000 for any unmet needs as the result of what happened in Belton. ARC completed assessments as did UIC. Again, more information on this critical event as it becomes available. This will be the COAD's **third** activation in just under a year. We are very fortunate to have all of you as partners because that equips us to best serve communities when it is most needed.

Committee Updates

Children in Disasters:

- Jennifer L'Heureux continues as the Chair.
- We spoke at the Independence Schools about children, preparedness, and resources.

- Continuing to work with the local community mental health facilities to ensure needs of children are met during FIFA.
- Secured a partnership with KABOOM, a nationally recognized nonprofit that restores playgrounds after disasters so that children can get back to being children. Healthy outlets promote successful recoveries. KABOOM seeks to abolish various forms of inequality in under-served neighborhoods. Their work includes helping communities to rebuild or build fully accessible playgrounds after disasters. Through an “Unlocking Possibilities Fund”, the costs for these projects could be fully covered.
- Previously, the SOC had Dr. Lori Peek speak. She is a Nationally recognized expert on children in disasters. I am coordinating to see if I can have her speak at the COAD. Here are some links to some of her amazing work:

<https://hazards.colorado.edu/resources/lori-peek-publications>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2a0DezEA7Y>

<https://hazards.colorado.edu/uploads/basicpage/Peek%20et%20al%202018%20Children%20and%20Disasters.pdf>

<https://www.iaem.org/portals/25/documents/Children-and-Disasters-Understanding-Vulnerability-2008.pdf>

- The meetings are the fourth Monday of each month.

Access and Functional Needs (AFN):

- Jennifer L’Heureux continues as the Chair.
- The meetings are the second Friday of each month.
- Partnership for Disaster Inclusive Strategies meetings on Tuesday (we participate in these).
- Donated over a \$1000 worth of Neutrogena Sun Screen for the MRC.
- The COAD was prior 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. The project is now complete.
- Met with Kansas City University and ongoing communication with in relationship to FIFA.
- Best practices for people with AFN from prior disasters has been reviewed.
- The AFN employs CMIST as its guide: Communication: The need for multi-modal alerts, accessible messaging, translation services, and equipping staff. The committee has tip sheets for how to communicate with people who may have a variety of disabilities. This is available in print copies that can be immediately emailed, text, etc. to volunteers. Volunteers will all have access to LetMeTalk for Android/iOS. This is a completely free app that comes with an enormous library of symbols and images that can be used to build sentences. Internet is NOT required to use this. Further, it can be customized to add pictures, photos, categories as well as switch languages. This can be downloaded at: Google Play Store (Android), Amazon Appstore (Kindle Fire), and the Apple App Store (iOS)

- I have also created an account with the Language Line that has 240+ languages available 24/7, including American Sign Language. This is a pay as you go account and costs are being covered by a \$1500 grant for AFN in disasters/emergencies. The SOC will cover any costs beyond this should it be needed.

Long-term Recovery:

- Greg Topping (Chair) continues to reach out to various disaster representatives to strengthen responses.
- Mission analysis is ongoing to identify any gaps in recovery.
- Ongoing work to simplify the VOAD LTR Guide.
- Educating people for World Cup and any potential incidents. Uickc is gaining momentum and working on building a team of church volunteers who will soon be going through training for Red Cross sheltering and also going through our team shepherd and CIT training. The goal is to get them trained to host shelters at their local churches.
- Other COAD members have done direct outreach with local schools, churches, and other religious institutions as possible sheltering locations.
- Other COAD members have reached out to possible locations that could house volunteers.
- 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.
- Regular meetings being held to discuss feeding and sheltering.

Mass Feeding Subcommittee – Steven Robinette

Newly appointed COAD volunteer Sheltering Subcommittee.

- 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.
- Hosting a Web EOC training on May 19th.
- Further refining the RFA form.
- Presentation from American Red Cross - Disaster Sheltering

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.
- Communication with the local CCBHOs about potential behavioral health needs.
- Ongoing dialogue with ARC.
- Communication with DMH's Behavioral Health Strike Team.

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.
- Ongoing completion of MRPs.
- Ongoing work to revise the COAD Membership Manual.
- Central file storage work to preserve documents
- Ongoing work 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.
- Upcoming exercise is on 4-30 and the enormous amount of planning this entails. This exercise will: 2026 AVENGERS ASSEMBLE Virtual (TTX) will focus on: 1. KCRCOAD Emergency Incident Operations Guide (EIOG) ver10Mar26 2. KCRCOAD Multi Agency Resource Center (MARC) Quickstart Guide v5Mar26 3. KCRCOAD Request For Assistance (RFA) form/process/tracker 4. KCRCOAD Member Mission Ready Packages (MRPs). This is in partnership with Olathe EM and centers on a fictional severe weather event. The exercise will further allow for refinement of FEMA practices given that may also include severe weather.

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.
- Ongoing work to position area businesses to respond and help in any ways they can if a disaster occurs in our area.
- Offered to assist earlier this year with the displacement of seniors with AFN from a complex on the Kansas side. Their assistance wound up not being needed but they stood ready to provide fresh food to the seniors who were temporarily housed at a local Church.

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.
- Consideration is ongoing as to protection of volunteers from a legal standpoint.
- Skills mapping has in part been used to match volunteers more efficiently and effectively.
- Conducted Hazard Vulnerability Analyses in an effort to determine where volunteers may be more likely to be needed to provide supports.
- Directing calls from people and organizations that want to volunteer with FIFA to the most appropriate agency matched to their skillsets.
- Analyzed past disaster impacts, use GIS mapping to overlay hazard zones with vulnerable populations, and check critical facility locations again to determine where the most needs may reside during FIFA.

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

Meetings

- In March, the featured presentation was from International Association of Fire Fighters, Master HazMat Instructor Bob Ingram will be the guest presenter. Chief Ingram is a retired FDNY Battalion Chief over HazMat and served in the FDNY Hazardous Materials Operations Command and, following the events of 9/11, led the rebuilding of the FDNY Haz-Mat Operations Division. He established and managed the WMD Branch Office at the FDNY Center for Terrorism and Disaster Preparedness and has represented FDNY on multiple local, state, and federal working groups on terrorism and preparedness. He has been a national instructor in hazardous materials for the IAFF since 1994 and worked directly with federal and state officials to develop and deliver responder focused training.
- 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).
- The next COAD General Membership meeting is on May 13th at 1:30 p.m., hybrid at the Jackson County Public Health Department in Lee’s Summit. Currently scheduled to present is Jonathan Kurtz-Warning Coordination Meteorologist: National Weather Service - Kansas City, MO. Mr. Kurtz will be discussing severe weather season with

particular emphasis on new and existing programs to help ensure safety during FIFA. A second presentation is tentatively set with more details to come.

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.
- The COAD is in line for a \$2,000 grant to further assist with meeting the various needs of the community.

Membership

- The COAD's membership has grown by 50% over the last 16 months. Recruitment and retention are an ongoing effort.
- Besides KABOOM, the nationally recognized nonprofit that replaces playgrounds after disasters, the COAD is also in partnership with Our Front Porch-Disaster Recovery in Denver.
- Connected with Pastor Mark Tagaloa – Missouri ACSDR Director/Pastor Mark recently moved to the KC area and pastors the New Beginnings Samoan/English SDA Church, 1316 S Osage Street, Independence, MO 64055.

Internship

- The COAD has received inquiries from two students interested in gaining valuable experience to supplement their respective education.

Website

The website continued to be 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)

- Command Center: Where would a central point for coordination, communications (radio, satellite phones if needed) go and what might resource allocation look like?
- To-Go Boxes
- Thought to Rapid Response Teams: How would we deploy trained volunteers to high-traffic areas for immediate first aid, crowd control, and locating missing persons? MARC HAS A DETAILED REUNIFICATION PLAN. MRC will be engaged insofar as reunification efforts.
- Scott Burdin reported: Sheltering

- Red cross is the lead on this and Emma Boyd is the local contact for that.
Emma.boyd@redcross.org 816-500-5644 Feeding
- Steve Robinette is the feeding coordinator for the Mass Care branch of the COAD.
Steven.c.robinette@gmail.com
- Gaylon Moss with Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief is the POC for first line feeding operations as well as the feeding provider for Red Cross Shelter Operations. I have made connections with Feeding MO and Mercy Chefs and have since connected them with Steven.
- Feeding MO - Lisa Weaver - lisa@feedingmissouri.org 573.355.1204
- Mercy Chefs - Sophie Wishart - sophiewishart@mercychefs.com 443-775-1901
- World Central Kitchens - In process.
- Jody is working on connections with OBR and will connect with Steven as well.
- Steven is working on connections with all local feeding providers.
- The COAD received a draft resource request from Independence EMA (MRCGKC) to support a staff shelter for visiting MRC and CERT teams.
- FDIC AEI Meeting: Affordable Housing Resources & Programs (I, Jennifer attended).

