

Kansas City Regional COAD Bi-Monthly Report

October 30, 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 when we do not have general membership meetings. This is done to assist with continuous communication.

Possible Activation/Activation

WYCO/Other Storm Response (Update to the Involvement Prior Reported)

- An RFA came in for a full MARC on August 29th at 29th and State in KCKS from 10-4. Additionally, there was a request for additional equipment such as commercial size chain saws and more to aid in the response and recovery efforts. The COAD alerted the Tool Bank Disaster Services to potential needs and they participated in the WYCO calls and assured they could have needed equipment most likely on site in trailers within 2-3 days. In the end, this equipment was not needed.
- The COAD continues to participate in ongoing post-storm calls.

Potential Request for Partner Assistance

- Recently, there was a substantial fire in a local apartment complex and the COAD was contacted by the ARC for potential partner assistance. After the initial inquiry, nothing further was received.

Committee Updates

Spiritual Care:

- Kevin Hardy continues as Chair. Mr. Hardy's email is: Kevin@mwcn.online.
- Mr. Hardy continues to actively recruit members to staff his committee from both sides of the state line.
- The inaugural meeting is being scheduled.
- I (Jennifer) have passed on to this committee some pertinent trainings to further support their mission set.
- I (Jennifer) connected the committee with the Raytown Chamber of Commerce and Faiths of Raytown.
- I (Jennifer) connected the committee with the COAD's Membership Secretary, Cheryl Gates.
- I (Jennifer) connected the committee with one of the COAD's Salvation Army contacts, Tracie Smith, Assistant Divisional Social Services Director.
- Will, COAD Intern has worked on refining committee descriptions as well as corresponding pertinent trainings.

Children in Disasters:

- Jennifer L'Heureux continues as the Chair.
- Continued work on drafting pediatric emergency response protocols for this committee. This will standardize how we respond. These protocols will eventually be posted to our committee's tab on the COAD website for transparency. Completion by the end of the year and in final draft form.
- The meetings are on the fourth Monday of each month. Some meetings were canceled because of scheduling conflicts and activation reasons.
- In 2027, we will be having a National Expert speak at one of our meetings. Dr. Lori Peak prior spoke at the SOC, Systems of Care that I (Jennifer) also Chair. Dr. Peak is an expert on children in disasters and has a plethora of experience and credentials. Look her up on You Tube to see a small sampling of her experiences!
- Will, COAD Intern has worked on refining committee descriptions as well as corresponding pertinent trainings.

Access and Functional Needs (AFN):

- Jennifer L'Heureux continues as the Chair.
- The meetings are on the second Friday of each month.
- Partnership for Disaster Inclusive Strategies meetings on Tuesday (we continue to participate in these).
- We participate in the State level AFN committee.
- Drafting response protocols for this committee to also standardize our response and post to the COAD website. These will be in final draft form by the end of the year.
- Will, COAD Intern has worked on refining committee descriptions as well as corresponding pertinent trainings.

Long-term Recovery:

- Greg Topping (Chair) continues to reach out to various disaster representatives to strengthen responses.
- Meetings are on the second Tuesday of every month from 3-4, virtually. He had to pause these for scheduling reasons but will resume prior to the end of the year. Please check with Greg for any questions.
- Greg participated in calls for the WYCO disaster response.
- Greg and his connections are assisting a family in dire need of a fence to ensure the safety of a severely Autistic child. A partner is giving a discount on things and will soon submit an estimate for the fence. The SOC and/or COAD are hopeful that we will be able to cover the costs. No, this is not a “disaster” per se but anything that can be done to improve safety and the quality of life prior to something significant happening is never a bad deal.
- Will, COAD Intern has worked on refining committee descriptions as well as corresponding pertinent trainings.

Mass Care/Health and Medical:

- John Ezell and Derek Olcott are the Chairs.
- John is working directly with the COAD intern who will be updating and simplifying various documents as well as related assigned projects. This will be approximately for 15 hours a week until possibly December. (Work in this regard is ongoing).
- Meetings have combined with Health/Medical and are now the 4th Tuesday from 11-12, every other month.
- Upcoming Red Cross Shelter Training – Derek Olcott (completed).
- Ongoing involvement in MRPs or Mission Ready Packages and their completion.
- Actively recruiting members on an ongoing basis.
- Participated in collaborative calls with SEMA.
- Gave a formal presentation at the COAD’s September meeting pertaining to Disaster Health Preparedness.
- Will, COAD Intern has worked on refining committee descriptions as well as corresponding pertinent trainings.
- As of 9-9-26, the following was current information:

Current business:

1. Wyandotte County 8/19 storm response
 - a. Set up a MARC, 8/29
 - i. Assisted 50+ families, 20 volunteers
 - ii. Thank you to participating Orgs: KS Dept. of EM, Renewed Hope Food Pantry, Salvation Army, KS and Western Missouri Division, Wayside Waifs, Wyandotte EM/311, KS Dept of children and family,

KS Insurance Dept., United Methodist Conference, Harvesters,
Village Initiative, Humane Society, Pharmacy of Grace

- b. Focusing transition to long term and recovery
- 2. Mass Feeding Subcommittee – Steven Robinnette
 - a. Giving Hope KC
- 3. Sheltering Subcommittee – Derek Olcott
- 4. Clinical Support Subcommittee – Carter Goetz (MRC)
 - a. [Medical Reserve Corps](#) - Main POC for clinical/healthcare organizations looking to volunteer: your.mrcgkc@gmail.com

Behavioral Health:

- Chairs continue to be Bary Kramer and Laurie Cox.
- Working to increase membership (Ongoing effort).
- Continuing to compile a resource library.
- Meet on 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.
- Stands ready to respond to any unmet BH needs for any emergency.
- Will, COAD Intern has worked on refining committee descriptions as well as corresponding pertinent trainings.

Planning, Training, and Exercise:

- The new Chair is Steve Robinette who has prior been with the COAD and will be settling in permanently to the KC area once his military service is complete. Steve comes with fantastic and practical experience that is well applicable to this committee. Steve is currently involved with the Feeding Sub-Committee. Mr. Wisecarver was unable to serve as the Chair for PTEOC and we are incredibly fortunate to have such an amazing replacement with no gaps in services!
- 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.
- Will, COAD Intern has worked on refining committee descriptions as well as corresponding pertinent trainings.
- KCRCOAD MARC QuickStart Guidebook Project.

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 at 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 COAD with various Chambers of Commerce.
- Ongoing work to position area businesses to respond and help in any way they can if a disaster occurs in our area.
- Will, COAD Intern has worked on refining committee descriptions as well as corresponding pertinent trainings.

Volunteer Management:

- I (Jennifer) remain as Chair. We meet on the third Friday of each month.
- “Track it Forward” system account remains in place to log volunteer hours as needed. This in fact was used to track hours related to a potential activation in Belton.
- Matching volunteers with specific skills sets 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 to protect 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 support.
- Directing calls from people and organizations that want to volunteer with FIFA to the most appropriate agency matched their skillsets.
- Will, COAD Intern has worked on refining committee descriptions as well as corresponding pertinent trainings.

Meetings

- 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 last COAD General Membership meeting was on September at 1:30 p.m. The focus was on “National Preparedness Month” and our featured presentation focused on health preparedness.

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

- The COAD's membership has grown now by more than 60% in just under 2 years. Recruitment and retention are an ongoing effort. There has been an ongoing concerted effort to bring more human service providers into membership with the COAD as the services and goods they bring are essential to our response and recovery efforts. Nothing has changed from this prior statement other than five more people/organizations have formally joined the COAD. There has further been more crossover from the other group that I (Jennifer) Chair and that is the SOC or, Systems of Care (www.jacksoncountysoc.com). The SOC tends to be your Human Service providers and people who can provide the services and goods that EMs will need in an emergency situation.

Internship

- The COAD has one intern from Northwest Missouri State. He comes with solid experience in GIS and a multitude of other areas. He is partnered with John Ezell and will be assisting him with updating and simplifying various forms in addition to other possible tasks. Approximately 15 hours will be given per week, and it may go until December.
- The COAD has additional opportunities for more interns should an interest be expressed. We accept referrals on a rolling basis currently.

Grant Volunteer

- The COAD briefly had a volunteer that assembled some potential grant opportunities that we as a nonprofit could potentially apply for to further solidify operations.
- Volunteers are always welcome as we have a multitude of potential opportunities.

Website

The website continues to be updated weekly at a minimum. We are happy to post flyers of upcoming pertinent events for emergency management, preparedness, exercises, etc. The COAD used Wix as its platform builder and with that came very detailed data analysis reports. To summarize, the reports show in large part what specifically is accessed on the site, how much time is spent, time of day, city, and a few additional features. Results consistently show that the website is well used daily and is a tool for consistent communication and resource sharing. This prior statement still stands at the time of this update.

Shirts and More

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

Additional Information

(This is a summary of additional information from the weekly updates to the COAD Executive Team)

1. I (John) am here with Karen (in the EOC) and we are currently **just supporting**.

We are still assisting with coordinating feeding and sheltering for volunteers such as Team Rubicon. I (Jennifer) aided in these efforts and connected volunteer groups to JT in the EOC to coordinate deployment. I (Jennifer) served in the EOC (virtually), a full weekend.

2. Attended WYCO meetings throughout the weekend. Wesley McCain and Dan Manley. I attend both daily. Dan's meetings are now combined with Wesley's and I attend those.
3. Give Directly. Looked into this as a possible organization that could assist.
4. MARC on Saturday. 60 plus families/20 volunteers
5. Sent reminder about meeting, minutes, and agenda.
6. Connected Kevin with Faiths of Raytown and Cheryl.
7. Attended DRHC Disaster Recovery meeting on Wednesday.
8. Posted MARC pics to website.
9. Met with Kevin Hardy. He has done some great recruiting work for his Spiritual Needs committee.
10. Posted 2 months of calendars. Made general updates to the website.
11. Sought report outs from committee leads.
12. Updated Spiritual Needs Committee on website insofar as mission and vision. Kevin did some great work getting this updated and I posted it.
13. Karen W, took Gatorade, large waters with electrolytes, and protein snacks to team Rubicon.
14. Coordination call with SA.
15. Giving Hope KC/ possible COAD partner.
16. Meeting on Tuesday with John Callahan.
17. SBA came to WYCO on Thursday (can apply online or walk in center)
18. We as mentioned did have the General Membership meeting on Wednesday and it went very well. I received feedback from a few who said it was a great discussion. Thank you also to Dan for starting the drone discussion. It was a solid production thanks to everyone, and the conversation and discussion was the best I think I have ever seen it, people were very engaged.
19. We may need to move the November meeting because it falls on the 11th which is a legal holiday. I do not want to just cancel it because it's our last one of the year. The next is January 2027. I am thinking maybe the week prior in November. Thoughts???
20. I spoke with Brandon (the volunteer to find us funding opportunities) and he advised he will be sending me spread sheets every Friday (moving forward) of what he has found and I will attach those to the weekly updates that I already send.
21. Heat Action Planning Committee in JOCO (I-Jennifer-continue to serve on this team). It is very beneficial as much of what they are doing is applicable here.
22. DHRC's Disaster Recovery Working Group (I continue to attend and did attend this meeting).

23. I am working on our year in review and plan for 2027. Because it is technically the end of my term in December, I wanted to include some of our greatest accomplishments over the last 2 years. Yes, there have been bumps along the way and still work to be done but when you look at how far we have come in a short period of time, it is exciting to think about where another 2 years will take us.
24. Cheryl is connecting with her contacts at the Red Cross and someone in the Islamic community to deepen connections with the COAD. Cheryl is our Membership Secretary.
25. Cheryl is also further connecting with Kevin (Lead for the COAD's Spiritual Health Committee) as she has many connections in various religious communities.
26. We had our Executive Team Meeting and the following is the basic summary of that:
- Discussed the work our intern is completing.
 - Discussed the work that the grant volunteer is completing. He is connecting me with various possible financial resources that will strengthen what we as a COAD can do.
 - Discussed the November meeting issue. It falls on Veteran's Day and many people will not be working. I will be sending out meeting invitations today and the November meeting will be a week early and I will highlight that on the invitations. I did not want to cancel it because it is our last meeting for the year.
 - Discussed the WYCO calls that are ongoing in response to the floods. I continue to attend as does John and sometimes others from the COAD.
 - I may be presenting at the joint CDRN/MEMC meeting in October on AFN/Seniors.
 - I am working on the next 2 months worth of calendars. Please let me know if you have anything you want to add or change.
 - I have started working on the year end report as well as the plan for next year. The year end report will do a side by side comparison with the plan for 26 and how we did.
 - Steven R. reported that he will for certain be in KC after he completes his service! Discussed some possible ways he can continue to serve in the COAD. We are lucky to continue to have his expertise!
 - Discussed briefly next year's potential exercise. Previously, EM in WYCO reached out to me about doing a joint sort of Mass Care exercise.
27. Partnership for Disaster Inclusive Strategies (I attended).
28. confluence.disastercentral.org. Interesting site about in part advancing community resiliency in disasters.
29. <https://galvestonchamber.com/disaster-recovery-resources>. This was interesting to look at what a Chamber of Commerce put out in another state.
30. I received the following communication from a COAD partner:

We have received about 12 households through our Red Cross data sharing agreement from the WYCO storms, so I wanted to touch base with you both to see what services (if any) are still available to them and if we can collaborate so as to not duplicate services. I was reviewing my notes from the last COAD meeting and I know the MARC was successful but wasn't sure if any of those orgs (except Greg's) was still working with folks? From the calls we have had with clients, there was someone who still needed help getting their house tarped and another looking for assistance making repairs - both of which are of course uninsured.

I know resources are hard to come by as time moves on, but since we are connected through the COAD I figured this was a great opportunity to connect with you both and see how we can best all support these folks.

I have cc'ed Kali and Kim, our staff working with the WYCO folks, on this email so please feel free to connect with them directly.

Thanks!

Heather Korth | COO

OurFrontPorchCO.org

Phone: 720.593.8606

Direct Line: 720.523.5899

I (Jennifer) corresponded with Heather and connected her directly to the key parties in WYCO so as not to duplicate things, assume anything, etc.

31. Dan sent the following:

Recommend considering signing up for the IAEM newsletter where they have links and info to relevant RESPONCE and RECOVERY information and topics to consider. Recommending reviewing then including provisions to protect women during MARC operations.

[https://19thnews.org/2026/09/fema-disaster-recovery-women-abuse-exploitation/.](https://19thnews.org/2026/09/fema-disaster-recovery-women-abuse-exploitation/)

I concurred and responded with:

I myself see high value in such on several levels. Consider that during a disaster, domestic violence victims may be away from their natural supports and safety nets. Further being in close proximity to someone who is already abusive and even more angry because of what happened is a recipe for trouble.

32. I have reached out to Nutrition Services at Centerpoint Hospital in Independence. I learned that they dispose of a massive amount of perfectly good, prepared food every day. I see the potential for a partnership where that food could be used to feed volunteers and others. Steve, if something comes of this I will be sure to loop you in.
33. I have come across some resources for Kevin's committee and passed them along. Any time I see something that may be helpful to any of our committees I pass it along.
34. I attended the National AFN meeting.
35. I attended the WYCO call on Tuesday. Mold is a big issue now. Tarping, roofing, SBA, asbestos, debris removal, call 311
36. I attended the Partnership for Disaster Inclusive Strategies
37. <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/video-residents-spot-shark-swimming-down-flooded-new-jersey-street-during-storm-12109265>. This just shows the dangers that lurk in or can lurk in standing water. I doubt anyone expected finding a shark!
38. <https://disasterstrategies.org/2026-cooling-the-crisis/>. Good information about people with disabilities and extreme heat.

39. Uploaded the next 2 months of calendars and added the MEMC/CDRN flyer. I will be briefly presenting on an AFN story if it can be remote. I doubt I can go in person because I am covering for someone. If I can go in person I will.
40. I attended the Disaster Housing Recovery Committee meeting on Wednesday.
41. November topic: Responder fatigue in disasters, made worse by limited resources, and further compounded by holiday stress and less available staff. This idea came to me after attending a recent WYCO call. You can hear, see, and feel the tensions as the LTR proceeds. One person in particular became very angry and loud and this is not how this person is any other time. We as responders focus on the people we serve but we also need to care for one another as responders. Responders see and hear significant trauma and they are human beings. It is an issue that I think we would be remiss if it was not addressed.
42. THIS IS AN UPDATE (I HAVE MADE THE ADJUSTMENTS TO OUR MEMBERSHIP LIST):

Hi Jennifer! I hope you are well. I wanted to let you know that as of October 1st I will starting to transition out of my role overseeing Resurrection's Disaster Response ministry into a new role at the church.

Starting November 1st, Sheree Reece (Director of Missions Ministries, sheree.reece@resurrection.church) will be our primary point of contact. If you could make sure that Neil Glaser (Overland Park Director of Mission Engagement, neil.glaser@resurrection.church) also receives communications though, that would be great, as he will transition in to be the primary point of contact as of March 1st.

Let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

Alec Fox
Latin America & Disaster Response Program Director
Resurrection, A United Methodist Church
913-232-4165 | cor.org



[Book time to meet with me](#)

43. Dan has been a great person to consult with on some matters, and I greatly appreciate his assistance and support.
44. Despite the holidays, we have gotten a decent response for our November meeting. This is in addition to the meeting being a week early because of the holiday.
45. I attended the Disaster Inclusive Strategies meeting.
46. Spiritual Wellness Committee will have its first meeting this month. Great to see this needed committee taking off!
47. Updates to the website. I have made a few of these to keep things fresh.
48. Created flyer for November and sent it to you all for comment. My plan is to post it to the website on Monday or Tuesday (since I am off on Monday). I will also send it along with the

agenda and meeting minutes from September with the meeting reminder the week prior to the November meeting.

49. Working on November's focus on Responder Fatigue in Disasters.
50. <https://disasterstrategies.org/ruling-in-texas-v-kennedy-court-case-vacates-the-integration-mandate/>
51. <https://disasterstrategies.org/blog-post/disability-community-speaks-out/>
52. <https://disasterstrategies.org/fema-disability-integration-office-update/>
53. Regional Alliance for Resilient and Equitable Transportation (RARET): <https://www.kcmobility.org/raret>. Great potential model to use for AFN transportation needs.
54. I received the following from Hollie Tapley asking if COAD could help. I said.....

We again need funding for another week for one of the storm survivors. Cross Lines is working housing for longer term, but we are not there yet, and I do not believe met their deadline for the hotel for this week. Additionally, this individual has not been eating, and we know for a fact only has \$0.89 left in his bank account until he gets his next social security payment.

Can anyone assist with lodging or hotel friendly food.

Please let me know as soon as possible.

Devan Tucking

Recovery & Community Engagement Bureau Director | State Coordinating Officer

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(THE MATTER WAS RESOLVED WITHIN WYCO. THAT SAID, THE SOC COULD HAVE COVERED A WEEK AND CAN STILL DO SO IN THE FUTURE IF NEEDED).

55. Received this from Derek in reference to a recent significant fire. We did not receive an RFA for anything from EM, however, the SOC can help to help meet unmet needs.

Event Number: 0382237 to

Incident Location: 7808 N. Holly St., Kansas City, MO 64118

Call ID: 1225393

A fire incident at the above location impacted all 24 residential units. Disaster Action Team has opened 11 cases, 12 more to be opened later starting at 10:00 am on 10/12 with cases categorized as **major damage, destroyed**.

DAT responders discussed sheltering options with affected residents; however, no clients expressed interest in utilizing a shelter. In an effort to identify sheltering resources, the Mass Care Coordinator was consulted, and a call-down was conducted to churches throughout Clay and Platte Counties. These outreach efforts did not result in an available shelter location, as churches either did not respond or declined the request.

Additionally, outreach was made to the Clay County Emergency Management Director to explore potential support in securing a shelter facility; however, no response was received.

All reasonable measures were taken to identify and secure sheltering options prior to opening cases. It should also be noted that not all potentially eligible households were opened, and we will resume intake on 10/12. Several displaced residents departed the scene before DAT arrival after independently arranging alternative accommodations.

56. Posted COAD Flyer for our November meeting. This is our last GM meeting in 2026. It is a week early because of the holiday.
57. No one has stepped forward despite asks for nominees for the Chair position of the COAD. I am willing and can serve another term if that is acceptable.
58. Last week was the joint CDRN/MEMC meeting but I was unable to attend because of DMH required commitments. I do know there were other COAD reps present and I wish I could have been there as well. My apologies.
59. Jody D. forwarded some needs of community members that were impacted by storms and I am doing what I can to connect them to additional resources.
60. Finishing the September minutes.
61. Completed the Agenda for the November meeting. The draft is attached. Our presenter is likely going to be Dan, but if he cannot make it (he will let me know today), I have a back-up plan for the same noted topic.
62. SLARCC meeting with Stephanie Norton (I attended).
63. I spoke with Dan at length about some logistic issues and will again next week. It was reported that Steve R. would like to potentially be the lead on Planning! Also discussing our next exercise in 2027.
64. I received the following from WYCO. I still pop into their meetings even though the RFA we received was completed. I am wondering if any of our partners may be able to enlist their respective resources to meet this ongoing need (also see the attachment):

Good morning, everyone,

Many of you have followed the incredible community effort to help Mr. Kirk after a tree fell through his home on Lathrop in August. He's been living between a hotel and in an RV on his land with his dog, Beatle, ever since. Please see the attached one-page summary which highlights the progress made so far and the remaining needs to get Mr. Kirk back home.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR

- Steven Vega of **Northern Star Solutions** has been donating his time since day one and will lead the build of a new 2-bedroom home on Mr. Kirk's lot.
- The Unified Government is covering the demolition and debris removal.
- About \$25,000 in materials and labor has been pledged, and the [GoFundMe](#) has passed \$4,500.
- KMBC 9, KSHB 41 and KCTV5 have all shared his story.

We still need about \$45,000 in materials, more funds, and volunteers who can help with concrete, roofing, plumbing and HVAC.

If you can give, donate materials or lend a hand, please reach out. If you know someone who can, please forward this email to them. I've attached a one-page summary with all the details.

Thank you all for everything you've done so far. Let's get Mr. Kirk and Beatle back home.

Dominic Foreman

Head of Sales & Community Outreach

[BOOK A MEETING](#)



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