

Jacksonville Against COVID-19 (JAC) Response to COVID-19 – Call notes for Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Jacksonville Against COVID-19 Purpose is to bring together nonprofit organizations, businesses, and governmental agencies to deliver hope and foster more effective preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery for the people of Duval County as needed in times of disaster, through:

- **Cooperation:** creating a climate of cooperation, information sharing, and meeting together;
- **Coordination:** encouraging a common understanding and providing a liaison with city-county government officials, as well as resource management with the community;
- **Collaboration:** sharing the work, ideas and insights together as equal participants united by common goals;
- **Communication:** publishing and disseminating information; and
- **Preparedness:** increasing mutual awareness and encouraging effective disaster-related training, policies and procedures.

Jacksonville Against COVID-19 contact information: the email account is contact@artfullygreen.org and internet phone number is **(904) 235-7919**. Please use this email or number to report coronavirus impact situations, unmet needs and available resources. These are monitored regularly.

Jacksonville Against COVID-19 facilitators: Aidan Chau, Executive Director of Jacksonville Against COVID-19 contact@artfullygreen.org; John Sapora, LISC Disaster Recovery and Resiliency Manager jsapora@lisc.org; Raelyn Means, Administrator of the Northeast Florida Long Term Recovery Organization rmeans@duvaldisasterrecovery.org; Deirdre Conner, Senior Director at the Nonprofit Center dconner@nonprofitctr.org.

Meeting notes (55 participants):

Opening Remarks: John Sapora welcomed everyone and offered a few observations:

- COVID is here to stay – it has its own awful, scary and challenging impacts that you all see every day in your service work.
- And now we have to prepare for storm season with special COVID protocols and practices.
- And then we add the new attention to important voices in our community for respect and dignity and full participation in the American life for everyone. We need to journey together as a community toward healing and wholeness, and we as a JAC can help lead that healing through our community work together as diverse servant leaders.

JAC Formation: The Jacksonville Against COVID-19 has been hosting roundtable calls for the past several months in response to COVID-19 and now has the opportunity to formalize by approving bylaws. Our structure is following a well-established national model for VOADs/JACs and will allow us to continue to collaborate and coordinate with one another in times of crises and disaster. Organizations have been asked to formally join the JAC by submitting a membership agreement. To date, 24 organizations have joined as voting members and 6 organizations will continue as associate (non-voting) members. The Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida is anticipated to serve as fiscal sponsor and staff

support will be provided by Raelyn Means, who is sharing her time as Administrator for the Northeast Florida Long-Term Recovery Organization.

Deirdre Conner of the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida shared the background for the JAC, dating back to three years ago following Hurricane Irma. In the fall of 2017, a number of organizations determined the community would be best served by focusing on long-term recovery rather than reestablishing the VOAD that fell dormant previously. Now that the Irma recovery effort has made considerable progress, it makes sense to turn our focus to establishing an evergreen coalition that will allow us to be better prepared for future disasters. The Nonprofit Center is ready and willing to support the JAC as fiscal sponsor (as it has done for the LTRO), but also wants to support the goals of the JAC and help build capacity where needed. Our community has been recognized for its stellar collaboration through our response and recovery efforts and the Nonprofit Center is committed to ensuring the JAC can sustain itself over time.

John Sapora highlighted the importance of aligning the JAC not only locally with emergency management and response organizations, but also regionally with other JACs and VOADs across Northeast Florida and the Florida VOAD.

Other comments on the importance of the JAC:

Bishop Johnson, Grace & Truth CDC recognized the value of the JAC and the opportunity it provides neighborhood-based organizations to continue working in their neighborhoods while aligning with the larger community effort.

Mia Hobdy, New Town Success Zone at Edward Waters College, applauded the power of collaborative impact the JAC provides.

Hermonyone Walker of the Health Smart Church Coalition appreciates the opportunity it provides to connect with other like-minded agencies.

Bylaws Approval: The organizational bylaws have been presented and reviewed at various stages over the past few months and are ready for approval. Brian Baer of the Elevated Studio suggested that the bylaws should highlight the “4 Cs” used by NVOAD and noted our purpose doesn’t specifically identify collaboration. There was group consensus for this addition. By unanimous voice vote, the registered member organizations approved the bylaws, with an amendment for the steering committee to add additional Article II language to address collaboration.

Executive Committee Nominees: Per our bylaws, the JAC will be governed by an Executive Committee, which will include 4 officers and at least 3 other voting members, as well as liaisons from the City of Jacksonville. A full slate including officers will be presented for approval at a future meeting. A number of individuals have agreed to be nominated for the Executive Committee, including: John Sapora, LISC Jacksonville; an American Red Cross representative to-be-named; Eli Darkatsh, Feeding Northeast Florida; Dawn Gilman, Changing Homelessness; Major Keath Biggers, Salvation Army; Jason Clark, Hunger Fight; Jerome Crawford, Metro North CDC; Angela Leatherbury, Habijax; Jeff Winkler, United Way of Northeast Florida; Shamika Wright, Jax Chamber; Pastor Damon Green, Impact Church; Noah

Ray, City Emergency Preparedness Division; and Sarah Bohentin, City Neighborhoods Department. Please call John or Raelyn or email the JAC if you are interested in serving on the leadership team.

Communications: Raelyn Means reminded everyone to maintain their organization's services and operations in the 211 Directory (<https://unitedwaynefl.org/get-help/>). This will be our main repository of resource information, especially in times of crisis or disaster. The JAC will continue to communicate through its email contact@artfullygreen.org. A Facebook page (www.facebook.com/DuvalJAC) has been created to allow us to share relevant information and opportunities that member organizations can share with their constituents.

Functional Areas/Priorities: As we move forward through storm season, the JAC will be focusing on training and education opportunities for our organizations, as well as strengthening our connection with EPD/Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Brian Baer highlighted the critical need to ensure our JAC is connected with the EOC and to maintain that synergy. He also encouraged the group to ensure we have a number of individuals available to fill the JAC seat should a disaster hit. Skip Cramer, American Red Cross, echoed the need for collaboration and for taking an all-hazards approach to our JAC not just storm disasters. John Sabora hopes the JAC can have a training exercise in July to further explore each organization's roles and responsibilities.

Agency Reports & Unmet Needs

New Town Success Zone: Mia Hobdy reported as the college develops its plan for reopening, they would like to explore becoming a testing site. In response to her inquiry about who to approach for that, Shamika Wright at Jax Chamber suggested she contact UF Health or the Department of Health. UF Health has a mobile testing unit that has been deployed to various locations.

Mission House: Lori Anderson introduced Carina Saladino, the new Executive Director at Mission House. Lori is transitioning to a role with Dial-A-Ride/Beaches Area Agency on Aging. Mission House has worked with EOC in past storms to have a bus come pick up their clients when evacuations are ordered. Lori will share more about this partnership with the JAC for future opportunities.

American Red Cross: Skip Cramer reported ARC is part of a taskforce planning for the Republican National Convention coming to Jacksonville in August. With only 10 weeks to prepare, the group is looking at how to safely prepare not only for the convention itself but also plan for disruptions to other needs for shelter (example: housing fire victims or COVID quarantined persons if hotel rooms are already full). Shamika Wright of Jax Chamber added that if anyone has questions or concerns around the RNC convention, please contact her at shamika.wright@myjaxchamber.com because the Chamber is involved in planning activities.

United Way NEFL/211: Don Earl announced they've been awarded funding through United Way Worldwide/Doordash that will allow them to make food deliveries to families who lack transportation and/or are vulnerable to COVID. They are looking at a 16-week program averaging 250 meals per week. If any agencies are interested in learning more and/or partnering with United Way as a source of food, they can contact Don at donalde@uwnefl.org.

New Source for Cloth Face Masks: The Florida Department of Health received a large volume of reusable cloth face coverings that have been sent to local health departments for community distribution at no cost. Organizations can call 904-253-1850 to request masks and arrange pickup with Winston Gibbs, DOH Duval County Logistics Coordinator.

JEA Update (submitted via email): JEA suspension of disconnections of electric and water service was issued in March, when Florida officials declared a state of emergency. As the community begins to reopen, JEA must now resume normal policies, as utilities across the country have done. **JEA will resume disconnection of services starting July 7, 2020.** Customers are encouraged to act now to avoid disconnection if they have a past-due bill. Customers should contact JEA at **904-665-6000** to discuss flexible payment options. Customer Advisors are available by phone weekdays from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Customers may also explore billing and payment options at https://www.jea.com/residential_customers/billing_and_payment_options/. Should customers need more help, including assistance beyond their utility bill, JEA is directing requests to **2-1-1** or **904-632-0600**.

Miguel Garcia, Simply Healthcare (via chat): We have formed an alliance with Aunt Bertha which is a huge community resource for families who are looking for food, clothing, job info etc. if you would like to get more information on how you can register and learn more about Aunt Bertha please send me an email at mgarcia@simplyhealthcare.com. I can provide additional information via email. Thank you and hope this helps.

COJ's Senior and Disabled Financial Assistance Program starts June 20: the City of Jacksonville just announced a program to distribute one-time \$300 grants to up to 3,300 qualifying low-income seniors (72 years or older) and people of any age who receive Social Security Disability benefits who have experienced reduced income or increased expenses due to COVID. It is first-come first-served starting at 8 am on Saturday, June 20 – call 904-255-888 or apply online at: <https://www.coj.net/welcome/news/senior-disabled-financial-assistance>.

Disaster Preparation

2020-21 Storm Preparedness and Response Guide: the annual JAXREADY Guide highlights life-saving information for residents in all types of disasters. Most residents will receive the Guide via the US Mail but you can download and distribute electronically at <https://www.coj.net/jaxreadyguide>.

Special Medical Needs Registry: City Emergency Preparedness Division has a special medical needs registration to aid in assistance or shelter evacuation in the event of storm or other disaster. Each client must re-register each year to remain in the system. For more information, visit <https://www.coj.net/specialmedicalneeds> or call (904) 255-3172.

Hurricane Supply Checklist: household storm preparedness is the first step in staying safe and creating resilient communities. Here is the latest Florida Department of Emergency Management checklist for preparing your household for storm season. Remember “**the first 72 is on you**”, meaning your household needs to be able to survive for at least three days without assistance from relatives, neighbors or emergency responders. <https://floridadisaster.org/planprepare/hurricane-supply-checklist/>

Learning Opportunities

Florida Housing Coalition: Please join the Florida Housing Coalition on [Thursday, June 18 at 1:30pm](#), as they host a free webinar to discuss the COVID-19 Response for Housing and Homelessness in Florida. This webinar will provide you with the new information and resources surrounding COVID-19, as well as guest speakers. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7424013968460964107>.
flhousing.org.

Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida: The Nonprofit Center has a number of upcoming training opportunities. https://nonprofitctr.org/inspire_events/

FEMA is hosting additional webinars to expand awareness and understanding of the newly released "[COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season](#)." FEMA released this guidance to help emergency managers and public health officials best prepare for disasters while continuing to respond to and recover from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The webinars will allow emergency managers an opportunity to discuss how the guidance can assist jurisdictions to review and modify their plans given the constraints and limitations of the ongoing pandemic. To register:

- [Webinar](#): 11 a.m. ET on Tuesday, June 23
- [Webinar](#): 4 p.m. ET on Wednesday, June 24
- [Webinar](#): 2 p.m. ET on Thursday, June 25

Download the "COVID-19 Pandemic Operational Guidance for the 2020 Hurricane Season" on the [FEMA website](#).

FEMA Emergency Management Institute: The Emergency Management Institute (EMI) offers self-paced courses designed for people who have emergency management responsibilities and the general public. All are offered free-of-charge to those who qualify for enrollment. <https://training.fema.gov/is/> Consider creating a FEMA SID and taking the following courses to help build personal disaster skills and community knowledge:

- IS-100.c – Introduction to the Incident Command System (2 hours)
- IS-700.b – Introduction to the National Incident Command System (3.5 hours)
- IS-800.d – National Response Framework, An Introduction (2 hours)

Standing Agency Resources & Information

- Link to the City COVID-19 Recovery Resources is <https://www.coj.net/recoveryresources>
- To subscribe to the City of Jacksonville EOC COVID-19 SITREP Distribution List, send an email to: LISTSERV@LIST.COJ.NET and type "SUBSCRIBE COJ_EOC_SITUNIT" with NO other text, including signatures, in the message field.
- Monitor www.jaxready.com/virus for the latest Duval County disaster information.

- **630-CITY Helpline:** The City’s helpline continues to support customers with routine inquiries about city services as well as answering questions regarding the virus. Staff are working remotely and referring to 211 and providers as needed.
- **211 Helpline and Resource Directory** – <https://unitedwaynefl.org/get-help/> is the primary JAC source for what disaster resources are available from various organizations. 211 operators search this database to assist Helpline callers, so please REGISTER your organization and update your contact information and available resources. 211 manager is Don Earl – donalde@uwnefl.org.
****Link for agencies to update their information with changes to schedule and services:**
<https://unitedwaynefl.org/get-help/update-agency-information/>
- **Volunteers** – If any organization has a need for volunteers, please contact Contact@artfullygreen.org with details and we will connect you. United Way Volunteer Hub Agency Page: <https://uwnefl.galaxydigital.com/covid-19-agency-information/> Don’t forget to track volunteer hours—may be beneficial for future funding proposals and required matches.
- Resource document for screening volunteers:
<https://uwnefl.galaxydigital.com/files/dl/26f3d88ca8b72ab56c9aaf7b00e9734f/>
- **The Nonprofit Center** is maintaining information for nonprofits at <http://nonprofitctr.org/covid-19>.
- **AARP** has created a website for AARP Mutual Aid Groups, which are informal groups of volunteers that band together to find effective ways to support those people most in need who live in their local community. Mutual aid can include picking up groceries, providing financial assistance, or lending emotional support to your neighbors.
<https://aarpcommunityconnections.org>
- **Northeast Florida Regional Council:** NEFRC provides a host of emergency preparedness services for the public, private and government sectors in our seven-county region (Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns). This includes but is not limited to the areas of natural hazard planning, hazardous materials and wastes, and training and exercise services. NEFRC maintains staff with expertise in emergency management. A Florida Professional Emergency Manager or FEMA Certified Master Exercise Practitioner will oversee all projects or programs.

The NEFRC, through a contract with the Florida Department of Health, also manages the Healthcare Coalition program for 18 counties throughout North Florida. Through planning, training, equipping and exercising, the Healthcare Coalitions are building a stronger, regional healthcare system. The Northeast Florida Healthcare Coalition is a group of healthcare and response organizations that collaborate to prepare for and respond to medical surge events. HCCs incentivize diverse and competitive health care organizations to work together for the community. <http://www.neflhcc.org/>. Contacts are Eric Anderson eanderson@nefrc.org and Leigh Wisley at lwisley@nefrc.org.

Ordering Supplies: The City of Jacksonville EOC is currently processing supply order requests only from first responders and healthcare facilities, so nonprofit organizations need to use other vendors for PPE and other supplies. Given the increased demand from businesses as communities reopen for business, please send any recommended suppliers to contact@artfullygreen.org for dissemination to other JAC members.

PPE Resources

If your direct service organization needs supplies such as manufactured masks, gloves, face shields, handwashing stations, hand sanitizer, digital thermometers, etc., please email contact@artfullygreen.org, and the Jacksonville Against COVID-19 will gather orders and coordinate to help source those unmet needs. On the other hand, if your group is a source of masks, either DIY or manufactured masks, please email the JAC to coordinate your source with the unmet needs.

Florida Department of Health, Duval County, has cloth face coverings available for community distribution at no cost. To request masks, call 904-253-1850. You will be contacted to arrange pick up.

Rethreaded is making masks for frontline healthcare workers and for sale to the public. <https://www.rethreaded.com/products/cottonmask>

YMCA has a New Americans Welcome Center program where participants (ladies from Colombia, Venezuela, Ethiopia, to name a few) have been sewing face masks and selling them for \$5/each. This is helping participants make some money for their families. Please call (904) 530-2549 – Amber Dodge, New Americans Welcome Center Coordinator.

Vendors with reasonable pricing for gloves and sanitizer for those looking to purchase:

- **Gloves (Latex/Vinyl)**
 - Apollo Packaging: Ken Petsch (904) 683-3976 or ken@apollopackaging.com
 - \$70/case of 1000 (10 boxes of 100 pairs per case)

- **Hand Sanitizer**
 - Indoff: Don Compton (904) 517-7268 or don.compton@indoff.com
 - 96 – 2oz bottles = \$298
 - 12 – 32oz bottles = \$295

Spiritual & Emotional Care Resources

- <https://emergency.cdc.gov/coping/responders.asp> “Responding to disasters is both rewarding and challenging work. Sources of stress for emergency responders may include witnessing human suffering, risk of personal harm, intense workloads, life-and-death decisions, and separation from family. Stress prevention and management is critical for responders to stay well and to continue to help in the situation. There are important steps responders should take before, during, and after an event. To take care of others, responders must be feeling well and thinking clearly.”
- **Office of Population Health, Humana Military:** The program is maintaining a resource guide for active-duty military families. For questions and updated information please contact Lavender Morrison at Lmorrison2@humana.com. Pre-COVID-19 project outline and purpose can also be found on our website www.humanamilitary.com/populationhealth.
- **Florida Blue Emotional Support Helpline:** Florida Blue is offering a free 24-hour, bilingual emotional support helpline for all Floridians. Any Floridian, including those who are uninsured or insured by another company, can call **833-848-1762** for help dealing with feelings of stress, anxiety, grief, or fear related to COVID-19.

- **Pray Jacksonville Phone bank:** The Pray Jacksonville phone line is 904-990-1777. About 40 people are standing by ready to support individuals who call seeking spiritual and emotional guidance.
- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance *Building Resilience* webinars for Faith Leaders and General Audiences:** These one-hour programs are designed to increase participants' understanding of their own signs of stress and to teach in-the-moment tools to engage the relaxation response in body and mind. These webinars are designed for faith leaders and anyone responding to the COVID-19 situation and will engage participants in responding to questions and prompts to help create a personalized self-care and resilience-building plan. Those attending will build on their experience while practicing new tools that have been shown to be effective in sustaining our capacity to serve in the midst of challenging circumstances. These webinars have been pre-recorded and are available to view at your convenience. Visit www.bit.ly/PDAESCwebinar for more information.
- **American Red Cross/Bereavement and Grief Assistance:** The American Red Cross is offering a [Virtual Family Assistance Center \(VFAC\)](http://www.bit.ly/VFAC) to support families struggling with loss and grief due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. People can visit redcross.org/VFAC to access a support hub with special virtual programs, information, referrals and other services to support families in need. The hub will also connect people to community resources provided by partners in their area. All support is provided virtually and is completely confidential and free.

Other Helpful Info:

- **FL VOAD:** The state VOAD recently announced regular calls will occur on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 3pm. To be added to the invitation list, please email flvoadmeetings@outlook.com. Situational reports can be submitted online at <https://dart-voad.communityos.org/sitrep> to help state and national VOAD leaders support the collaborative efforts of each responding agency.
- **Other COADS:**
 - **Clay County** - Everyone who has disaster response resources, volunteers or facilities available is asked to please text or call André Van Heerden (305) 395-0912. Please text the contact information of your point of contact person as group communications are being put together to organize a coordinated response. You can also send an email to: info@claysafetynet.org.
 - **Nassau County** – Contact is Stephanie Jerrell-Estep, Nassau P3-Public Private Partnership, 386-365-2252, stephstep@nassaup3.org
 - **St. Johns County** – Contact Jenny Harvey, chair of the St. Johns County VOAD, at jenny.harvey@unitedway-sjc.org.

Future Jacksonville Against COVID-19 calls:

The Jacksonville Against COVID-19 will hold its next membership meeting on **Wednesday, July 1**. Joining by computer is encouraged whenever feasible – chat information is included in the minutes.

<https://zoom.us/j/3952340642>

Meeting ID: 395 234 0642

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JAC organizations need to be ready to share information about needs and available resources, so please join our calls and email us at contact@artfullygreen.org. Information will be distributed to the JAC contact list as needed in between calls.

- On these JAC briefing calls, everyone is automatically muted when they join the call, so use *6 to unmute your phone. If you also manually muted your phone so no one hears your barking dog, remember to unmute that as well so you can share your wisdom and ask questions about what you want to know.
- All questions are welcome and the group will answer or we can research and respond to the group.
- If you cannot make the call and/or have information you want distributed to the group please email it to Contact@artfullygreen.org.