



## **SART STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Thursday, June 7, 2018

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

USDA Farm Service Agency

4440 NW 25th Place, Suite 1, Gainesville, FL 32614-1030

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **Steering Committee Members in Attendance:**

Karen Adams, UF College of Veterinary Medicine (UF CVM)

Tammy Bauldree, FDACS

John Court, FDACS

John Haven, UF CVM

Angie Lindsey, UF-IFAS

Saqib Mukhtar, UF-IFAS

Brandi Phillips, UF CVM

Sue Rantuccio, FDACS

Hyatt Sudano, FDACS

LeiAnna Tucker, FDACS

Summer Williams, FDACS

Arthur Smith, FDACS

Peter Dittmar, UF IFAS

#### **Staff in Attendance:**

Elise Fisher, ARPC

#### **Budget Update:**

Ms. Rantuccio updated the group on the status of the budget. Ms. Rantuccio stated that some funding has been reallocated for the Florida State Animal Response Coalition's (SARC) awareness and operational level courses. Attendees discussed ideas for the IMT training classes under this grant. Dr. Mukhtar suggested a training that focuses on managing stress before, during, and after an event. A course, such as Mental Health First Aid, could be provided to our responders and could be followed-up with a 1-hour lecture at the 2019 SART Conference. Another suggestion made by Dr. Mukhtar was regarding the development of an application to estimate agriculture losses after a disaster. This will help with completing cost estimates of damages within a timely manner, while not going too high or too low. This application will have built in statistics and users could attend an in-services training on the use.

Mr. Haven discussed the animal technical rescue courses and instructor certification. He has completed one course already and estimates that they will teach five more classes over the next year.

Ms. Tucker stated that there is an immediate need to repair SART equipment. Ms. Tucker is going to contact the ESF 17 district specialists to identify equipment, repair and storage needs as well as the condition of animal technical rescue equipment. Ms. Tucker also discussed that, by the end of this year, inventory will need to be performed on all SART MARE Units and Animal Technical Rescue trailers and equipment. All SART inventory must be identified and tagged properly according to state inventory requirements. Ms. Tucker also suggested that the MARE Units be pulled out of the regions and permanently moved to the FDACS district offices to help improve accountability and maintenance of the equipment.

#### **Volunteer Cost-Share Tracking:**

Ms. Tucker and Ms. Fisher discussed how attendees would like to monitor volunteer hours. FDACS will continue to request monthly updates for volunteer hours at the end of each month. These hours help to show how much the state and SART partner agencies are supporting ESF 17 response in Florida. Agencies should include any hours that are spent helping to build SART capacity.

#### **County Meetings Update**

John Court provided an update on the 2018 Annual ESF 17 County Meetings. Pet-friendly sheltering was discussed at the meetings and counties found that the information provided on pet shelter setup was very informative. This information can help with the deficiency of pet shelters.

Ms. Tucker stated that she presented at the Governor's Hurricane Conference with Ms. von Gontard on best practices and how-to setup a pet-friendly shelter, as well as reimbursement procedures and eligible activities for pet sheltering. There is a separate webpage on the SART website with pet-friendly sheltering information, which provides good videos, basic level documents, and training material. Ms. Tucker will email the presentation from the county meetings on the ESF 17 document that discusses responses capabilities.

#### **Online Pet-Friendly Sheltering Training**

Ms. Fisher and Ms. Tucker provided an update on the online pet-sheltering training project. This can be a state certified course and they will be following up with Linda McWhorter from DEM on that process. It will be a free course, and the goal is for it to be completed by the 2019 Biennial SART Planning Meetings.

#### **2019 Biennial SART Planning Meeting – Location, Date, and Theme**

Ms. Tucker has looked at locations on the west coast for the 2019 Biennial SART Planning Meetings. She has identified three hotels in the Tampa area, and will visit the locations to determine the space capabilities. If anyone has additional location suggestions, please send them to Ms. Tucker.

The Committee discussed dates that would not conflict with other statewide and SART partner conferences. This will be a three-day event and the group discussed weeks at the end of February, April, or May. If there are any notable events occurring that we should try to plan around, please notify Ms. Tucker.

The Committee also discussed a theme and shared potential agenda items. Mr. Tucker is going to draft an agenda for review during the next several Steering Committee meetings.

#### **Agenda for June 28 Mid-Year SART Advisory Board Meeting**

Ms. Tucker distributed a draft agenda for review and no changes were made.

**General Discussion:**

- Dr. Mukhtar stated that three Oriental Fruit Flies were found in Miami-Dade on June 1. There has been one public meeting, and two others are planned. It is unknown where they came from or how they got there.
- Ms. Tucker mentioned that Lacey Davis with the ASPCA has moved into a different role and Dick Green will be the new point of contact.
- Ms. Tucker mentioned that she will be presenting at the Department's AgScience Café at the end of the month to present information on the state ESF 17 and SART response to Hurricane Irma. Ms. von Gontard, with the State Animal Response Coalition (SARC), will also be presenting about SARC and SART at the upcoming Family Café event in Orlando where approximately 10,000 people are registered to attend.
- Mr. Haven mentioned that the American Humane Association (AHA) would like to become a partner agency of SART. Ms. Tucker and the state ESF 17 will discuss their potential partnership with SART and their interest in becoming a state-level resource for small animal issues during emergencies.