

9/2 VCLN Workshop

COVID Lessons Learned: Maintaining Long-Lasting Mutual Aid Infrastructure and Growing Resilience

Margaret Woodruff : Yes, pickles!

Patricia M Sears : The experience with mutual aid via FacebookGroup #WeAreLowellJayWestfieldTroyArea continues to teach us to announce value statements with rules of engagement that encourages more inclusion and equitable access to 'news' and resources.

Jon Copans : A link to Vermont's Hazard Mitigation Plan - <https://vem.vermont.gov/plans/SHMP>

Ruby McAdoo : this is all very interesting and inspiring. I am from Putney Mutual Aid-neighbors helping neighbors. I am less interested in the hazard mitigation planning (as this is managed by our town). I'm eager to hear about how people are continuing on in their efforts to move forward with volunteer/neighbor support in the post Covid era.

Jon Copans : Thanks Ruby. We will most definitely get more deeply into that, especially as we move into the open forum.

Penelope Doherty : Jon - I could address some of Ruby's thoughts if you like, being in VEM

Laurel Green : laurel1planet@gmail.com

Wendy Rice : Hello Everyone - Former FEMA reservist here. I wanted to alert everyone to a couple of resources that might be helpful to think through community organizing, planning, and managing a disaster (although this is tailored to natural disasters, the structure would carry over to other crises) . 1. National Disaster Recovery Framework 2. Community Recovery Management Toolkit. I am including the hyperlink here - scroll through the page for specific links to these documents <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/national-preparedness/frameworks/recovery#>

Patricia M Sears : Many THANKS, Wendy.

Nick Kramer : Where can one find that manual you mentioned, Jill?

Leigh Hodgkin : Could the information on the manual and the hub be shared?

Jill Davies: Here are the documents to share. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ECqbG6cQgytz9-PqsBfKzCmSz4htGlic?usp=sharing>

Everything is in this folder....the guide, a list of documents and the documents themselves related to the guide and the pages of what we are currently designing.

The guide and the list of documents are available as pdfs, the other documents are not.

Jennifer Jacobs : Since we have so many resources in the Brattleboro area AND they also have (prepandemic) kind of functioned in isolation of each other, the Hub idea was something I was hoping Brattleboro Area Mutual Aid (BAMA) could fulfill. However, having a full-time job and family obligations, I could not wrap my brain around how to do this. I appreciate this example and I'm still unsure how to keep BAMA alive and relevant when not in crisis mode. Thanks for introducing me to the term Blue Sky Day!

Patricia M Sears : Much appreciation for the future lens you all are dedicated to; THANK YOU because it is uncertain how long the COVID infection and ripple effects will be with us and the impact it continues to have in maintaining uncertainty in our neighbors, relationships, and partners. THANK YOU All.

Jill Davies : I will share the manual and slides with Nick and he can share with everyone. Jill

Nick Kramer : Great!

Lyn Haas : Thank you all

Jennifer Jacobs : This has been super helpful. Thank you to all!

Margaret Woodruff : Need to head to a library meeting. Would love to keep in touch:

margaret@charlottepubliclibrary.org

Penelope Doherty : Exactly Emily - that's actually the premise of the INS structure: toss out the usual roles and put the most effective people in the spot - expand your resources!

Emily Rosenbaum : So sorry. I have to hop off!

Jon Copans : Thanks Emily!

Kimberly Williams (she/her) : This has been so great to listen to. Thank you folks for sharing and for all you do! I have to jump off.

Tayo Kirchof : The manual jill will be sharing will be very helpful in the long term plans for many of us.

Jennifer Jacobs : Yes...Brattleboro Area Mutual Aid is still grappling with that! Hi Ruby :-)

Erin Maile O'Keefe : Thanks, Ruby! As Jenn said, we are holding similar questions. Let's get together!

Penelope Doherty : We're doing some connections in our ongoing model

Sara Demetry : Thank you everyone. This has been interesting. I am in the process of joining the Red Cross in Disaster Mental Health. It is great to see the larger picture of ongoing collaboration.

Erin Maile O'Keefe : This has be WONDERFUL! Thank you all!

Tayo Kirchof : Agreed! So amazing to hear all these incredible community responses!

Jennifer Jacobs : Yes, that's what I was going to say with my hand up...a huge strength of BAMA was the neighbor to neighbor connection. we got over 500 people in our network and the local organizations were amazed. I'm concerned that mutual aid going under an agency or org umbrella will make it hard to keep it neighbor to neighbor and grassroots.

Patricia M Sears : Elizabeth: The name of that organization?

Ruby McAdoo : VOAD = Vermont organizations active in disaster

Patricia M Sears : MANY THANKS, Elizabeth.

Melissa Disorda - VT Foodbank : Thank you to Jon for creating this space for us to gather. A shout out to all of you for all that you do to support your neighbors. I have to hop off.

Jennifer Jacobs : Thanks and have a great day!

Ruby McAdoo : actually the v is for volunteers on voluntary!

Tayo Kirchof : thank you!