

# **Fulton County Long Term Recovery Group**

## **Minutes for March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026—10:00 a.m.**

### **A.) Call to Order**

**Present (Physically):** Jessica Sparenberg (Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library); Paige Edwards (Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library)

**Present (Virtually):** Chris Helle (Emergency Services Disaster Agency); Matthew Raymond (IEMA); Micah Garnett (Trinity Lutheran Church)

### **B.) Communications**

There were no communications.

### **C.) Agenda Items**

#### **1.) Meeting at American Grille with Spiritual Organizations**

Group members discussed the meeting at American Grille which occurred on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026. Chris Helle reported that approximately 30% of solicited organizations were able to make the meeting, with approximately 50% reaching out for additional information following the conclusion of the meeting. Mr. Helle stated that several organizations responded to the content of the meeting positively, and were on board to contribute whatever resources they were able for any weather-related disasters as necessary. Jessica Sparenberg reported that she thought the meeting went fairly well, and that meetings of a similar type could start to be extended to other organizational groups.

#### **2.) Marketing and Outreach**

Group members discussed which groups to reach out to next, following the success of the March 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Jessica Sparenberg stated that library directors in Fulton County could be reached through networking groups she already participated in, and thought they would be valuable additions to the COAD. These organizations could fulfill similar functions that Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library could, acting as informational hubs for organizations/businesses in their community. She stated she would perform a brief presentation about the COAD to her upcoming Rural Directors network meeting to occur later in this month.

Paige Edwards shared that she had a robust list of area agencies and contacts through her work at the Fulton County Health Department that she could disseminate to the group as a means of reaching out for potential participants. Her network group, Fulton County Social Services, meets virtually on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Ms. Edwards stated that there was already a speaker lined up for the March meeting, but that she would look into the April meeting as a possible date to present to the group.

Micah Garnett shared that he would be willing to create an online form that organizations could fill out with contact information that would auto-populate to the existing spreadsheet of contacts in the county. This measure would reduce the need for someone to manage the data entry into the spreadsheet physically as the information comes, as well as facilitate faster and easier data transfer from area organizations to the COAD. He stated he would try to have this done by the April meeting of the Fulton County Social Services group.

Ms. Sparenberg further stated that she would check with the Canton Rotary Club about presenting with Chris Helle at one of the March meetings to share the COAD's mission in the county, and what service organizations could do to help.

### **3.) COAD Call Form**

While unable to attend the meeting, Richard Proffer, of the U of I Extension office, had created a sample call sheet for the group to review prior to approval. This call sheet was created in conjunction with other COAD groups Mr. Proffer has been in contact with, and is intended to provide contact information from organizations, as well as itemizing what each organization could do or provide in recovery efforts. He shared via email that he would discuss the details of the call sheet, and the successes and areas of improvement other groups had experienced thus far.

### **4.) Next Steps**

Group members discussed next steps in engaging the public regarding the FCCOAD.

Jessica Sparenberg will present at the upcoming Rural Directors group to occur in Toulon, in March. She will also inquire with the Canton Rotary Club about presenting with Chris Helle during one of the March or April meeting dates.

In conjunction with Ms. Sparenberg, Paige Edwards will make contact with the Fulton County Social Services networking group to inquire about presenting in April, or the next available date.

Richard Proffer will share additional information about the COAD Profile sheet at the next meeting, and create a possible profile outline to solicit another president for the group, following the resignation of Will Ferguson from the position in 2025.

Gayle Blodgett will distribute a final copy of the groups' Bylaws for their records.

Micah Garnett will work on creating an information sheet that will autopopulate contact information into the COAD Contact spreadsheet.

Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 10:37 a.m.

**The next meeting is scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Parlin-Ingersoll Public Library Program Room & Virtually via Microsoft Teams.**