

2025.12.19 PBEM CPT Strategic Planning Meeting

Regina, Jeremy, Ernie, Joshua, Jim, Lydia, Angelique, Mike, Marisol

Jeremy building strategic plan in [Wiki](#).

COAD History

Mult. Co. had COAD. Staff turnover and meeting agenda may have led to dissolution. Mult. Co. tried to start another COAD with a leader tied into faith community, but leader had to leave due to health. Jeremy and Alice started again but Covid hit. JVIC worked to provide supplies to community. Had interim support with Kate Szrom but Kate also had to leave.

Jeremy - suggests COAD should not be City-led because COAD is more effective as a regional organization. Is this appropriate? Can we entertain a regional model (i.e., like a Joint Information System)? COAD islands are ineffective. Could talk to Courtney Yan with Washington County.

Group Visions for COAD?

Regina - organic growth towards regional model when Kate was running it, but the question was who would run it. It doesn't have a structure on its own. Funding is also a challenge. Regina meeting with VOAD and suggests this should be the model. COAD is currently not there. How do we keep it small, local and managed by PBEM with the **potential** to grow when funding is not an issue? Funding is a huge national issue that affects small businesses, CBOs, government agencies, etc. Can we create tangible KPIs now to show COAD's value?

Jeremy - what is COAD's value to CBOs? Suggests COAD could continue despite City budget cuts if CBOs are invested enough.

Lydia - groups include Citizen Corps, affordable housing, K-12, higher ed, and liaison network. Contact list for these sectors is out of date. Difficult getting contact info updated due to group resources. Difficult engaging liaison network outside of extreme weather activation.

Joshua - EcoDistrict is small (i.e., no dedicated safety manager who can focus on safety and preparedness planning). Gathered info on topics like comms from NET training.

Coordination calls and heat wave templates for how to run cooling centers were helpful. Staff turnover negatively impacts progress.

Jeremy - technical solution for COAD response network. Smartsheet as a spot for people to check in to ensure an organization still has a pulse. Smartsheet can automatically email contacts to check in. Can call people who don't respond via email.

Regina - meaningful connection also helps. Feedback from CBOs on actual needs that government organizations might not be unaware of is helpful (i.e., loss of SNAP benefits partner meeting with State included almost 100 people, one of the largest partner meetings COAD has had). Meeting feedback also led State to improve SNAP benefits application. This small win and others should be officially documented but historically has not been.

Jeremy - suggests COAD partition between City and County should be broken down.

Lydia - agrees. Siloing tends to happen because Mult. Co. looks to where they can support directly (usually in areas without dedicated emergency management). Leadership direction indicates the County does not want to run COAD. Might be able to convince leadership to co-lead. Budget is a huge issue, which is why Alice advocates heavily for grants. A shared-burden structure could be successfully argued. If we can share administrative responsibilities, it would be helpful. Citizen Corps and Community Outreach have their own websites.

Jeremy - Citizen Corps is a federal program and umbrella term for Community Emergency Response Teams (i.e., NET), Fire Corps, Medical Corps, Search and Rescue, Volunteers in Police Service, ARES. In the Midwest, 4H groups are part of Citizen Corps. Legitimate for COAD to be a Citizen Corps group but suggests there is not a one-to-one link between COAD and Citizen Corps, whose funding could be lost. Citizen Corps could be considered a cash cow. Working on collective policy efforts with Citizen Corps fell through because everyone is so busy.

Lydia - if a group is money-dependent, the focus tends to be resource allocation rather than collaboration (sometimes). People are busy and meetings are sparsely attended based on topic applicability.

Regina - when we don't have funding (i.e., used to have \$500.00 sponsorship funds for CBOs to open cooling spaces). Very few CBOs open their space as cooling centers without funding (although these cooling centers tend to get more participants than County cooling centers due to organizational trust and familiarity). **Asking a community to do work for free means communities don't show up.**

Lydia - what government does tends to be extractive without a return on investment. CBOs are primarily looking for resources from government.

Mike - understands this but understands bureaucracy: you can't have any say if you're not sitting at the table.

Jeremy - COAD's role during activations and "blue sky days." Should consider Mult. Co.'s list of community partners. If government has information about upcoming emergencies,

we should be intentional about information sessions, and COAD can add value by dispersing information to people. If we want COAD to respond, the CBO should be able to make resource requests of the EOC. Then Incident Commander decides if resources should be allocated. For blue skies, CBOs get access to things like CPR and active shooter training.

Joshua - County is tending to provide more resources when it comes to heat activations.

Lydia - extreme weather resources are limited by specific criteria. Resource budget is also limited to houseless community.

Jeremy - goal of combining is to make COAD more efficient.

Marisol - NET Unidos is less able than other NETs to support the city due to language barriers but are eager to support and allocate resources to their networks.

Lydia - NET teams have the energy.

Jeremy - NETs can deploy to areas outside Portland with indemnification. **Administrative tasks can also be considered NET deployment.**

Lydia to connect with Marisol on deployment of NET Unidos.

Jeremy - goal is to begin integration process without stressing employee workload. Will come up with ideas and communicate them.

Mike - systemic issues of budget, people and time affect municipality trying to help citizenry. NETs could support resource-limited businesses. Should be a way for a community partner or person with a house to plug into the **emergency preparedness community**. Keep in mind that a fire in Corbett affects Portland. The workforce is comprised of all the people who care about being prepared. Mike's organization is trying to plug leadership into municipal conversations for representation and policy input. Information is invaluable.

Jim - METRO is stretched thin and slimming down rather than taking on new things.

Goal 1: Build and Strengthen Cross-Sector Coordination for Disaster Preparedness and Response

Jeremy would like to integrate technological proposal to inform roles and communication channels. Will run by Regina first.

Jim - include NETs in cross-collaboration. Information sharing with NET community could increase participation. **Could neighborhoods NETS adopt COADs that are in their jurisdiction?**

Jeremy - tried this before but neighborhood NETs needed more guidance to be successful.

Mike - NETs need to branch out to understand who their CBOs are.

Joshua - should address indemnification concerns and nature of resource requests when it comes to NET support of COADs.

Jeremy - important skillset of emergency management is creative problem-solving so doesn't want to put constraints on what NETs can and cannot do. Resource requests depend on urgency of situation and safety too. **Could show COADs what NETs can do but leave the door open for other requests.**

Regina - resource sharing is an asset of COADs.

Increase active participation across nonprofits, culturally specific organizations, faith-based groups, government agencies, and private sector partners.

Jeremy - please start thinking about KPIs to measure success of the above initiative.

Joshua - could apply BEECN goal of prioritizing District 1.

Jeremy - consider community connections as a metric.

Conduct regular cross-sector convenings to strengthen relationships and improve readiness.

Joshua - consider chatting with **Parks about what they do for their quarterly in-person mixers that include training and networking.**

Goal 2: Improve Equitable Access to Disaster Resources and Information

Jeremy - HIRA (Hazard Information and Risk Assessment) from the lens of low-income communities allows us to pre-identify and respond to gaps. PSU could take first swing at this.

Mike - culturally specific groups understand the needs and nuances of their communities.

Jeremy - first part is hazard identification. PSU could create hazard matrix (i.e., high likelihood, low risk, etc.). Push and pull with evaluating risks specific to a certain community (i.e. food insecurity, immigration, housing).

Regina - this data could support funding requests.

Mike - and community equitability of resources.

Next meeting January 23.

- Slides from an interesting COAD presentation I saw in 2024 (I think it was); and
- Some links to other COADs for review and exploration:
- Also attaching a couple links to other COADs:
 - Lane County: <http://www.preparelane.org/>
 - Rogue Valley: <https://rvcoad.org/>
 - Sonoma County: <https://www.sonomacountycoad.org/>

A key question I have about COAD is: How does the Portland COAD interface and interact with the rest of region, particularly Multnomah County?