



Savannah Heritage Emergency Response

Alliance for Response National Leadership Institute

July 20, 2011



Discussion Overview

- Establishment and organization
- Objectives
- Accomplishments
- Current and future projects
- Challenges
- Sustainability

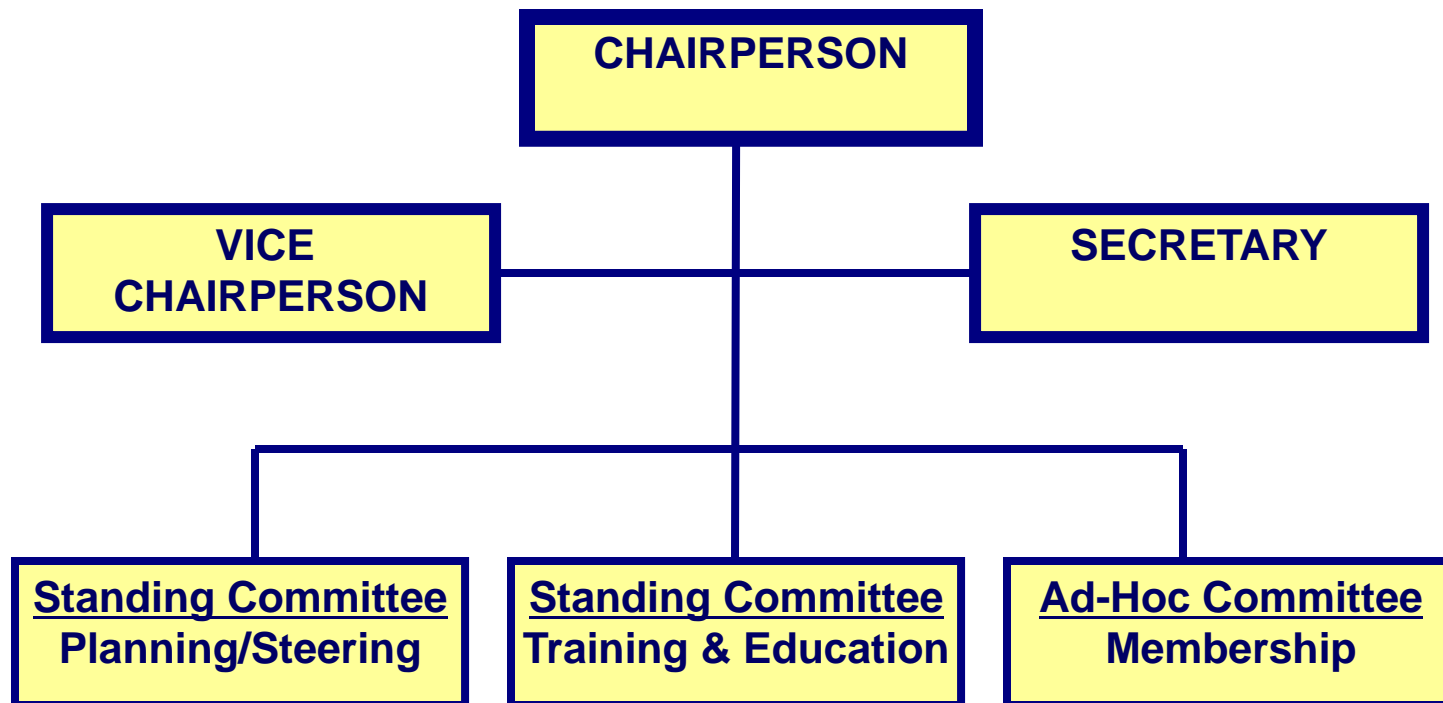


Establishment

- AFR Forum, December 2009
- Established SHER, a partnership between Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA), NCH facilities, and first responders
- Assembled board and created bylaws, April 2010
- Currently no dues or outside funding
- Quarterly meetings (2-3 meetings per year include training/education component)



Organizational Chart





Objectives

- Preserve Natural, Cultural, and Historical (NCH) resources
- Identify risks to sites and collections
- Conduct disaster/hazard mitigation planning
- Plan for post-disaster assessment and recovery support
- Plan for continuity of operations



Accomplishments

- Identified 70 NCH facilities and incorporated into county's Emergency Operation Plan as critical facilities
- Mapped NCH facilities to fire districts, police precincts, storm surge maps, and re-entry routes
- Created membership form incorporating critical facilities assessment information



Accomplishments

- Identified NCH facilities requesting services at post-disaster base camp
- Held HP-sponsored workshop on risk assessment using HP's Risk Evaluation & Planning Program (REPP) resources
- Held group discussion applying 8 critical external community hazards to the NCH community - *resulted in change to county Hazard Mitigation Plan!*



Accomplishments

- Held workshop on pre-qualifying contract recovery service vendors in Georgia
- Held insurance and risk assessment workshop with senior staff from insurance and appraisal companies
- Qualified four NCH volunteers (so far) for CEMA's Emergency Operation Center ESF-11 desk



Current and Future Projects

- Edit Appendix 11-2 of the county's Emergency Operations Plan (In Progress)
- Encourage/facilitate individual facilities to conduct risk assessments (In Progress)
- Review field damage assessment forms and create/select standard form for use in Chatham County (In Progress)
- CEMA will continue to include NCH session at annual Hurricane Conference (In Progress)



Current and Future Projects

- Encourage every critical facility to create a preparedness plan based on Dplan
- Partner facilities w/first responders in their precincts/districts for facility walkthroughs
- Support CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) training and work to create a NCH training module for emergency planners
- Solicit hazard mitigation grants and investigate other funding sources



Challenges

- Participation is a key to sustaining the organization, yet it is also a challenge!
- Of the 70 critical NCH facilities, only 22 (or 31%) have submitted membership forms
- Many facilities are small, understaffed institutions that either aren't aware of the importance or don't have time to make disaster planning a priority



Challenges

- NCH staff required to remain “on-call” with institution during pre and post disaster activity which prevents participation in city/county-wide emergency management operations
- Only government employees permitted to accompany damage assessment re-entry teams which *severely* limits the pool of potential NCH volunteers in our community
- NCH volunteers w/EOC certification need ongoing training exercises with emergency managers to maintain and enhance skills



Sustainability

- Success of the organization relies on solid leadership, but it's difficult to identify new board members with the time necessary to devote to SHER's objectives while managing their own workload
- Funded position has been discussed - but we have no resources to move this idea forward
- Possibly develop internship or partnership with students/faculty in the Homeland Security and Emergency Management program at Savannah State University



Sustainability

- Continue ongoing communication (via email and website) with membership to insure retention of existing members
- Continue offering regular training and education sessions to keep members engaged with our objectives
- Continue networking in the community as this is a successful way to introduce non-member NCH staff and first responders to SHER



<http://sheronline.info/>

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