



a program of the



COVID-19 LIVOAD RESPONSE

Legal Concerns Subcommittee Call

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

3:00PM

Call Notes

LIVOAD STANDING CALLS	
Tuesdays & Fridays 11:00AM	To join from your computer, tablet or smartphone: https://www.gotomeet.me/HWCLI/covid-19 You can also dial in using your phone. +1 (408) 650-3123 Access Code: 929-959-189
LEGAL CONCERNS SUBCOMMITTEE CALLS	
Wednesdays 3:00PM	To join from your computer, tablet or smartphone: https://www.gotomeet.me/HWCLI You can also dial in using your phone. +1 (646) 749-3122 Access Code: 973-021-205

LIVOAD Overview

- The Long Island Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (LIVOAD) is designed to respond during the ongoing crisis and form a subsequent Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG) to address continuing need in the aftermath of regional disasters.
- The LIVOAD has responded to 4 large scale disasters since its inception: September 11th, the economic recession of 2007-2008, Hurricane Irene, and Hurricane Sandy.
- "If you've seen one disaster, you've seen one disaster." Each disaster is unique and needs its own system of response.
- HWCLI convenes the LIVOAD and will tap on all participating entities to lead and contribute to the response.
- Also important that participants stay in their own lane to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Four C's: Communication; Coordination; Collaboration; Cooperation
- The LIVOAD is currently activated to respond to the public health crisis.

Legal Concerns Subcommittee Overview

- To address the specific needs of the COVID-19 crisis, the LIVOAD has established subcommittee working groups.
- After Hurricane Sandy, a legal hotline was established to respond to the emergent needs of those without homes and/or power.
- However, during the Hurricane Sandy response, it was possible for responders to become stable on a fairly rapid turnaround, giving them the ability to assist those who were hit hardest. In the current situation, everyone is equally jeopardized even though the physical infrastructure remains intact. Work must be conducted remotely.
- Today's call will discuss:
 - o the specific needs and challenges of responding to COVID-19.
 - o the creation of fact sheets that can be distributed.
 - o the establishment of a legal hotline.
 - o whether this subcommittee will address civil, criminal, or all concerns.

Identifying Challenges

- There is prevalent fear across the general population.
- Courts are currently closed and could be for weeks or months. What will happen when they re-open?
- Libraries are now closed which means that the library projects, like the community helpline are also closed.
- Come April 1st, there will be increased urgency if people cannot make rent payments. To note, there is a statewide ban on evictions.

Public Hotline

- Looking into the capacity and need for a legal hotline, and where this would best be housed.
- Could be one central hotline, which then redirects calls to the appropriate contact working remotely.
- Could be housed through 311, Touro, Legal Aid, or other.
- Nassau Suffolk Law Services currently a point of contact.

Civil vs. Criminal Cases

- Suffolk County Legal Aid currently handling cases in Suffolk, and social workers from criminal offices are compiling resources.
- Example of unique need: Methadone clinic provisions despite closing of most county offices.
- All nonessential staff at court houses are working remotely. Legal Aid is working remotely in Suffolk.
- Request for Legal Aid to put together FAQs for criminal cases to be included in fact sheets.

Domestic Violence & Child Abuse Concerns

- Family court is still open.
- LIVOAD has a subcommittee working group focused on Domestic Violence, which will most likely have questions for the Legal Concerns subcommittee, particularly around guidelines for quarantining clients in shelters.
- Legal Concerns and Domestic Violence subcommittees will have continued communications.

Nonprofit Organization Concerns

- Pro Bono Partnership has seen an increase in calls from nonprofit organizations regarding refunds, contracts, employment issues.
- Volunteers from firms have stepped up to assist.
- Please email questions about nonprofit legal concerns to Melissa.
- The Bar Association might be able to provide more volunteers to assist.
- Melissa will distribute the legal notice that they distributed, and more employment lawyers might be able to assist. HWCLI to widely distribute the legal notice.

Funding

- Funding is not coming as quickly as it did after Sandy.
- VOAD could call senators and local electeds about funding to make a unified request from Long Island. Passing this idea to the Funding subcommittee.
- Legal Concerns and Funding subcommittees to have continued communications.

Pro Bono Coordination

- Nassau and Suffolk Bar are able to provide pro bono support, granted it is remote.
- Law School Participation
 - o Many students are now available to participate pro bono, some in the place of externships that are no longer taking place due to the court closure.
 - o Students could help with the hotline, research, or assist volunteers
 - o Jeanine has students who are in need of clinical hours – could assist with research, document prep.

Additional Resources & Information

- Empire Justice is compiling information about Grab-and-Go food suppliers, will share.
- Critical need for language access, to translate all materials into the appropriate language.
- New York State has opened health insurance enrollment to all uninsured New Yorkers for approximately a month.

- 211 has 10,000 programs listed already, please add all new programs to 211. The website already has a tab for pertinent COVID-19 information.

Additional Stakeholders

- Should invite county representation to the subcommittee.
- All members can send in the names of any key leaders who should be on this subcommittee.

Next Steps

- Social workers from Carecen, Empire Justice Project, Safe Passage Project, Suffolk Legal Aid Society will be looped together to collaborate on a compilation of resources.
- Subcommittee will convene for a call next Wednesday at the same time, invites to follow.
- If we come together to address this and work as a team, we can effectively address this crisis for Long Islanders.