



**EPC Roundtable
Montgomery Center
February 19, 2024**

Mike Ramer opened the meeting at 9 am explaining that this is a brainstorming session not training, and all comments are welcome. He asked for introductions around the table. Mike Ramer, Ed Munoz, Diane Finley, Kyle Finley, Lorraine Silva, Amy Meier, Parthenia Hicks, Mattie Alessi, Vera Buescher, Carol Baker (Sector 8 Chief) Fran Schumaker, Mike Gilbert, Marie Colaizzi, Ken Colaizzi, and Linda McMullen were present.

Fran proposed that EPC return to having **quarterly Director Meetings/Roundtables**. She said it would be an opportunity to get to know each other better and learn to work together. This year she worked with the Communications team and has been working with the Emotional Support team for years and works with them both much better now. Lorraine agreed saying we need more cross functional efforts to get to know each other better. Mike R. also agreed saying we need to know what is on each other's minds to help each other. Mike G. suggested we have more of a social gathering.

Diane asked how do we **keep Sector Chiefs and Area Reps engaged**? Arlene shared that we started an **EPC newsletter** but stopped, and Diane agreed that it would be useful for Area Reps. Carol said the survey used by the recruiting team was useful, maybe we need to share it more, and also have coffee hours for feedback. Vera said it would be useful to have a **meeting and a social also**, maybe an Ice Cream Social? Carol agreed saying we should have an action item also so there will be a purpose. Mike suggested **smaller groups than all Area Reps** - maybe village-wide, or sector-wide. Marie suggested having the gathering filter from the top down. Fran disagreed saying it should come from the bottom up, and Amy agreed, that it should come from the Area Reps where they feel comfortable asking questions and contributing feedback. Diane said good unless it becomes a gripe session. Fran shared that in a meeting with Sector Chiefs and medics many new ideas came from the medics. She suggested that we need both Sector Chiefs and Area Reps in the meetings. Amy offered that just the gesture of asking for a get-together makes a difference for those who want to offer help. Fran shared that she and Odette are going to every Sector to build working relationships. She said some do not want to help so we ask if they would come in an emergency, and all said Yes.

Diane reminded the group that the Number 1 goal is to **get residents prepared for an emergency**. They need to know ahead of time how to prepare and respond. Mike R. said in orientations with residents, the Sector Chiefs are starting to see that it is not just about recruitment, but getting to know your neighbors, training to respond to emergencies, learning to come to the AID Station, and getting to know what EPC does. We are doing this training one sector at a time. At the next meeting we will ask what are the topics Area Reps are interested in? Kyle suggested maybe we should send out a survey and ask them. Mike agreed that it might help them get started.

Mike clarified that **EPC does not have a budget**, that the Villages has a budget and we can ask for things we need. Carol asked if we donate to EPC, does EPC see it? Mike responded that it may be better to just ask as we need items. Our requests have been reasonable and have not been refused yet. Fran asked if we need to submit a proposal, do we have a format? Mike answered that the best request includes a link to where you found an

item, but he will accept the request anyway you give it. He needs detail and would like you to talk to him about it so he can ask questions. He then submits items to Matt Hidalgo in Public Safety who then submits to the appropriate manager. Please do not go directly to Matt. We are working on building a process and relationship. He believes the budget proposal for EPC is very reasonable, and new management is trying to manage purchases.

Arlene asked if EPC is **identifying the special needs of residents**? Mike explained that what we record becomes a legal issue, that we can't note the type of disability, only whether we need to contact them in an emergency. Ed added that HIPAA is only for large organizations and health departments working with health information - it is not applicable to neighbors helping neighbors. Lorraine asked Mike, in your orientations do you see neighbors who will help other neighbors? Mike answered yes. Kyle asked if there is a way to engage Area Reps to organize who will contact the people who don't come out? Diane shared in their neighborhood they have a group of 4 houses where we never see the residents. Amy shared that we are now sending out a letter with questions for residents so they can let us know to contact them in an emergency because they have special needs, and Area Reps need to be trained to do so. Vera stated that a man recently asked EPC to provide oxygen to his wife. Fran said this has come up before, that each person with special needs has to have their own back-up plan, EPC is not responsible for that. Neighbors can help but this needs to be arranged beforehand. Diane shared that PG&E has a program for people that have life-saving equipment in their home can apply for special rates and notices of planned power outages. Mike shared that a neighbor who needed the back-up signed up for a program called Medical Baseline and he was allowed to have a lower electrical rate. Kyle said we can find out about the program and share it. Mike said what matters is if we need to check on someone, we need to know beforehand. Diane said we can put out a newsletter and we will have a Fair later this year. Arlene introduced Mattie who can help with the Fair. Diane shared that Lorraine and Linda have just started preparing for the Fair and would appreciate her help.

Marie suggested having both a planned and **unplanned Drill**, that we need to know **what will happen in a real emergency**. Mike R. said in a real emergency there would not be any OK signs, only 2 Area Reps will show up, many will not notice the low-tone NIXLE notification. He explained only 25% of residents signed up for NIXLE. Mike G. said an alternative would be to have just an EPC drill and not include residents. Mike R. asked if we can only message EPC people? Diane said the Villages Management are changing the alert system so they will have the ability to alert only some group, but it is not available now.

Mike G. said he is not clear about the **electrical/data needs in an emergency**. In the last Drill the power needs came from the Villages, not a generator. If the power is out, where do we need generators? Mike R. said yes, and if at night where do we need lighting? Mike G. said there are new radio groups, but no one knows the new maps. The layout of the VEOC has recently changed and I need to know where to place generators and radios. We need new maps. He asked Kyle, Communications staff who work out of their cars, do they need power? Kyle said no, but we should coordinate with you about extension cords, generators, etc. They all have radios and phones, so we need to have a charging station and how to power it. Mike G. said we also need to know shelter needs. Lorraine said we will need temporary shelters until we get the needs worked out. We will need radios, lights, heat, and access to keys. Marie asked if we are here to help them or house them? Mike shared that the Red Cross Coordinator contacted him, and he will meet with her soon.

Arlene said she was surprised that only 25% of residents are on **NIXLE**. Mike R. said some people are concerned that they will get too many messages, but NIXLE does not send messages about PG&E outages or county emergencies. Mike G. asked why NIXLE information is kept private? Mike R. shared that this is protected information so the Villages cannot release it to us, we need to request it ourselves and keep it on our database. Mike G. said he looked for Diane's NIXLE info but could not find it in the database. Mike R. said with the revised NIXLE we can get the information out for sectors, please ask people at Village committees and clubs so we have complete information.

Mike R. said they are continuing their **EPC recruitment efforts** and the 500+ homes in Cribari are overwhelming at this point. They are inputting the information into the EPC database and Marie reported that data entry is up to date at this point. Vera said we need monthly reports. Fran reported that we now have keys to the 4 Centers and to the green golf carts parked in front of the Clubhouse if needed in an emergency.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda McMullen
Recorder, EPC Secretariat