

**North Carolina State Disaster Recovery Task Force**  
**Business and Workforce RSF**  
September 19, 2019, 10:00am-12:00pm  
North Carolina Emergency Operations Center – Media Room

**Meeting Minutes**

**Lead Agency: NC Department of Commerce**

Liz Crabill, Chief Deputy Secretary

Susan Fleetwood, Executive Director of Economic Development

**Staff: NC Office of Recovery and Resilience (NCORR)**

Amanda Martin, Deputy Chief Resilience Officer

[Proposed SBA Business Recovery Centers \(Scott Daugherty/Anne Shaw\)](#)

Re: Dorian. Waiting for disaster declaration for Ocracoke. Had arranged a space up the coast from Ocracoke with ferry access for establishment of facility there to assist. Where there is an existing center, that would be ideal.

Florence: Rural Center was able to host for training SBA staff. Then they would get deployed out to BRC (Business Resource Centers). It was helpful to co-locate with them and work together. RC has made same offer for Dorian, but until declaration, don't know if SBA will be mobilized. But, in field have seen that lots of small businesses are skeptical of SBA—burdensome process, takes too long. Lots of frustration. Helps if can talk to someone, not just fill out application remotely. That's why important to have SBA on site and get businesses talking to counselors.

Can we come up with a one page recommended operating procedure for future disasters? Re: ideal locations for BRCs? Recommend SBA do initial training from Rural Center as centralized location? It would come from RSF and would be shared with EM, SBA, HUB, etc. What do folks think of that? General agreement. Need to find a location equivalent to Rural Center but in Western NC. Once we have this, we would distribute to NC SBA, SBA in DC, Director Sprayberry, Persia Payne-Hurley. *SF: Will have for next meeting to review and agree on.*

[Disaster Unemployment Assistance \(Lockhart Taylor/Antwon Keith\)](#)

*Lockhart Taylor and Antwon Keith from Division of Employment Security, Dept. of Commerce.*

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA): only eligible if not eligible for regular unemployment insurance (UI). Maximum for regular UI is now only 12 weeks, used to be longer. So now there is greater likelihood that people will exhaust UI benefits and look to DUA. Eligible for DUA if self employed, if can't start new job because of disaster, if you become sole support of family because of death due to disaster. Only 30 days to apply once declaration is declared. Right now

for Dorian, no IA approved yet, thus only able to apply for regular UI (not DUA). UI always pays out before DUA. New system (SCUBI), can be filed online or in person at center. Payments are made by direct deposit or debit cards.

#### [Workforce Development Assistance for Business \(Jenni Harris/Russell Doles of DWS\)](#)

Administers federal program for workforce layoffs known as “Rapid Response.” Rapid response funds can also be used to pay for shelter, heat, and water. It is a temporary unemployment program. If it impacts 20 or more employees, the state can deploy rapid response. Also, they have new program called the “business edge initiative”. Funded through rapid response. Can help businesses that are struggling so that they don’t have to do layoffs. Mostly help on business management.

Question to RSF: Who else should be a member of this group? How do we support work force in this RSF? What systems can we put in place to be prepared long term? We want the right team here to pull together when there is a disaster. *Would like to include everyone here on list going forward.*

#### [Connection with Housing RSF \(Amanda Martin\)](#)

Housing RSF is also interested in workforce, how to direct dollars spent on housing toward in-state workers, how to cope with contractor shortage and create career pipelines for people who need work. Question: how does this group want to be involved in that work? Housing RSF will create a subcommittee to deal with this. Barry Ryan of Rural Center and Alicia Lyon of HUB will be liaisons to the Housing RSF.

#### [Protocol for Engagement after an Event: Relationship with Business Recovery Collaborative \(Susan Fleetwood\)](#)

Question: Does the Business Recovery Collaborative and the RSF need to be synced?

Discussion: The BRC is not as in depth—not two hour calls. But makes sense to have more overlap. RSF would be welcome to participate in the BRC if anyone wants to. The difference seems to be that the BRC is more a tactical immediate response. The best option might be just to keep RSF informed of what’s happening with the BRC. Would be helpful to have an update on the RSF’s agenda about the BRC. And if Scott/SBTDC can keep Amanda connected to the BRC.

#### [Updated Hurricane Guide \(Susan Fleetwood\)](#)

NCEM is working to update a hurricane guide for 2020. Haven’t done this in 10 years. Susan and RSF have been asked to provide some content on business recovery. Susan will draft and circulate for feedback.

#### [Recap and Next Steps \(All\)](#)

Next meeting:

- *Will get recommended operating procedure for business recovery centers for next meeting.*
- Will have already done hurricane guide.
- Maybe a Housing RSF update.
- Dorian Update.
- Review of past programs - space out over a couple meetings and talk about what we'd like to change.

Next meeting is Oct 16, will check if room is avail and send out an invite.