

**Thursday, March 21, 2013**

**Workshop Session 3**

Time of Session: 1:30-3:00PM

Session Title: Community-Based Recovery Planning—The Role of a University

A. Hoffman Triangle Neighborhood Planning from the Inside Out

Speaker: **Michelle M. Thompson**, UNO-PLUS

Speaker: **Brittany N. Argeneaux**, WhoData.org

B. The Role of Universities in Post-Disaster Community-Based Recovery Planning after the Great East Japan Earthquake

Speaker: **Tamiyo Kondo**, Kobe University

Room: 256

Head Count: 12

Note Taker: Kyle Tveten

## **Community Based Recovery Planning**

### **Hoffman Triangle Neighborhood Planning from the Inside Out – Michelle Thompson, Brittany Arceneaux**

- WhoData.org was designed to make sure surveyors are not conducting surveys that have already been collected but just need to be posted online.
- Collecting information helps surveyors establish a context for the information gathered.
  - o i.e. – The crime rate is high from 12-4PM because people come down from a drug high and go out to steal in order to purchase more drugs.
- Surveying allows volunteers to gather information about the positive aspects of the Hoffman Triangle neighborhood so that those can be marketed as opposed to the neighborhood's negatives.
- Questions
  - o Why collect information about tires in the city?
    - A: Deposits of tires are a notification of community issues and contribute to more community issues like mosquitoes. The client funding the survey project requested data about tires.
  - o How has the city of NOLA responded to data and blight requests?
    - A: They have not responded well. They do not sincerely address the requests that are sent to them. Certain areas of the city are prioritized for concern.
  - o How are the citizens taking care of the Hoffman Triangle?
    - Certain citizens, business owners, etc. step up to help improve the neighborhood. There is a small neighborhood association set up to address issues, but most citizens do not have time to contribute to the association.
  - o The comment about drug abuse and high crime occurring around 12-4PM seemed a bit off color. Where did that information come from?
    - A: Fred, the Director of the Neighborhood development association, who is also a New Orleans native, made this observation.
  - o How does the city address neighborhood drug problems?
    - There is a program established to offer known dealers the choice to take a rehabilitation program and/or go to school, or refuse the program and go to prison.
  - o How do you evaluate the project's contribution to the community?
    - Statistics: After 2 months of the information being online there were 1 million hits on the site.
    - The mayor's office holds meeting on a regular basis which WhoData attends to discuss issues of blight, etc. The mayor's office staff expressed that they want WhoData's map on their site.
    - The project has statistically helped parolees filter into

self-development programs.

- How does an individual use the data WhoData provides?
  - This information reflects the wants and needs of the very members of the Hoffman Triangle community. With it one can develop projects or actions that will most positively affect members of that community.
- Katrina was 7 ½ years ago. Are these surveys too late?
  - Project was started in 2011, for reference.
  - This project is a service to the community based on real, observable needs whether related or not to the effects of Hurricane Katrina.
  - WhoData is an equal opportunity defender of every community in New Orleans that needs it.
  - And yet, still certain communities have not changed since Katrina.