

#14

COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link 1 (Web Link)
Started: Friday, August 27, 2021 10:43:53 AM
Last Modified: Friday, August 27, 2021 11:05:30 AM
Time Spent: 00:21:36
IP Address: 198.248.172.2

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Q1

Contact Info

Name	Kate Dinneen
City/Town	Lawrence
State/Province	Kansas
Email Address	kdinneen@douglascountyks.org
Phone Number	785-979-0619

Q2

Name of CERT Program you are affiliated with

Douglas County Emergency Management CERT: DgCoEM CERT

Q3

Name of Government Agency you are an employee with if applicable

Douglas County, Kansas

Q4

Please indicate your current CERT roles (choose all that apply)

CERT Program Manager,
CERT Volunteer Coordinator,
CERT Basic Instructor

Q5

Please indicate your region (where you are physically based)

Region VII - Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

Page 2

Q6

How many years have you been involved with CERT?

Started as a volunteer in 2003, so 18 years

Q7

Which CERT related courses have you taken (select all that apply)

- CERT Basic Training Course,**
 - CERT Train-the-Trainer Course,**
 - CERT Program Manager Course**
-

Q8

Briefly describe your CERT experience

Kate Dinneen has been a member of the Douglas County Emergency Management (DCEM) CERT Team since the beginning of the program. Originally she was a volunteer, took the Basic course in 2003 and then took a State offered Train the Trainer in 2009. She became one of the trainers and was part of the group which created the mini-CERT program for local retirement communities. This program is tailored to give the best preparedness, response and recovery information to benefit an older, possibly more homebound populations.

Kate supported several DCEM staff members who were tasked with leading the CERT Team. As one of the volunteers who had been with the program from the beginning Kate had the most institutional knowledge concerning the CERT program and was able to help each new staff member take the ropes of the program. In 2015 as staff turnover began to negatively impact the CERT program, the decision was made to ask Kate to officially and permanently take on the role of CERT Coordinator.

In 2016, Kate attended both the CERT Manager Course and the CERT Train the Trainer Course at EMI in Emmitsburg, MD. Since that time, she has led her team through twice yearly CERT weekend courses. These are offered to the citizens of Douglas County and are taught and facilitated by members of the DCEM CERT Team. There are currently over 30 active volunteers participating in various capacities. The activities range from training, to outreach, to emergency and event activations. There are generally around 25 events per year for members to participate in.

During the Spring of 2020, with the arrival of Covid-19, Kate identified an online resource and offered the first virtual CERT course in Douglas County. 12 participants completed the online version and were invited to attend a virtual Zoom CERT skills meeting. Kate's vision was to cover all content that didn't require hands-on instruction until an in-person skills event could be conducted. There were a total of 8 who completed the Zoom CERT skills tests. We are still waiting to do the hands-on portion. Even with all the restrictions we have added another 3 CERT volunteers to our team from these online classes.

Kate completed the Kansas Leadership Center's 3 part leadership program in July of 2021.

Q9

Briefly describe a CERT project that you led or were a major part of and how it benefited your CERT program/community

I have been involved from the beginning with a program we call mini-CERT which introduces vulnerable populations to the CERT concepts. Some of those folks have become involved with our CERT program and their life experiences and different abilities have been invaluable in growing the awareness of our team as to various obstacles, concerns and creative responses vulnerable populations can share.

Q10

Briefly describe how your skills, experience, and currently CERT related activities would be beneficial to the NCA and NCA Leadership team:

I have been involved with a strong program which has basically thrived on it's own and am very excited about the possibility of being connected in a positive and constructive way to other groups around the country. Our team is constantly looking for new ways to get our entire community involved with CERT and I think some of the programs and events we've developed might be useful to other programs which are more or less on their own.

Q11

NCA Board Members are required to lead/participate in NCA committees. Please indicate your level of interest in the following current/future NCA committees

CERT Awards Committee	0 - I am not interested in this committee
CERT Train-the-Trainer and Program Manager Committee Committee	2 - I will support this committee if needed and relevant experience in this area
CERT Volunteer Development and Support Committee	4 - I am interested in joining this committee had have relevant experience in this area
Communications Committee	1 - I will support this committee if needed but have little experience in this area
Credentialing Committee	0 - I am not interested in this committee
Elections Committee	0 - I am not interested in this committee
ID Card Committee	0 - I am not interested in this committee
International CERT Committee	3 - I am interested in joining this committee but have little experience in this area
Marketing and Promotion Committee	0 - I am not interested in this committee
Membership Committee	0 - I am not interested in this committee
National CERT Conference Committee	4 - I am interested in joining this committee had have relevant experience in this area
Newsletter Committee	0 - I am not interested in this committee
Social Media Committee	0 - I am not interested in this committee
Training Committee	4 - I am interested in joining this committee had have relevant experience in this area
Youth Preparedness Committee	3 - I am interested in joining this committee but have little experience in this area

Q12

What are some projects that you think the NCA should be working on/emphasizing to better support CERT programs and how can you help lead this project?

I'm not sure if this is an issue in other States but I would like to see a program which helps connect all the CERT's within a state/region. My leadership in this would include a passion to make this a reality

Q13

As a NCA Regional Representative, you are representing CERT programs in your region. Briefly describe your relationship with CERT programs in your region, including your communication channel and how you could represent them accurately.

I have relationships with only a couple of CERT programs in my region but made more connections at the Conference in Springfield this past July. If elected I would reach out to all the programs I can find and start a discussion to find out what those programs need, want and can contribute to the NCA. My guess is there are quite a few CERT programs in my region which are not currently a part of the NCA and I would definitely be a cheerleader for the organization and what it can offer groups in our area.

Q14

NCA Leadership candidates are required to have a recommendation from their next in line in the CERT Hierarchy. CERT Volunteers need a recommendation letter from their CERT Program Manager CERT Program Managers need a letter of recommendation from their CERT Sponsoring Agencies CERT Program Managers that are also the Sponsoring Agency Point of Contact need a letter of recommendation from their supervisor State/Territory CERT Coordinators need a letter of recommendation from their supervisor and/or FEMA Region

Recommendation Dinneen, Kate.docx (34.1KB)

Q15

(optional) Please upload any additional letters of recommendations or supporting documents

Dinneen Support Letter.pdf (366.7KB)

Q16

Respondent skipped this question

(optional) Please upload any additional letters of recommendations or supporting documents

Q17

Respondent skipped this question

(optional) Please upload any additional letters of recommendations or supporting documents



DOUGLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

111 East Eleventh Street, Unit 200
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August 26, 2021

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation for Kate Dinneen as a candidate for the NCA Board of Directors. As Ms. Dinneen's direct supervisor, I have had the pleasure of watching her build and sustain our local CERT Program while providing valuable training to the community.

As the leader of Douglas County CERT, she understands that each volunteer has specific reasons for joining our organization and seeks out a broad range of opportunities for them to connect in the most rewarding way possible for each of them. This approach has also allowed our department to expand areas and events we can support. She continuously seeks out new ways to engage our current volunteers through innovative online and in-person training, local exercise participation, and support to the May 28, 2019 Tornado, 2019 major flood and COVID-19 response and recovery operations.

Ms. Dinneen's vision for community resilience shows brightly in her development and execution of department sponsored public CERT courses. As the COVID-19 pandemic shut down in-person gatherings, she identified a virtual program that could be offered and followed up with virtual sessions with our CERT volunteers to ensure participants understood local services and resources. She was instrumental in the creation and deployment of our mini-CERT program which serves more vulnerable populations. She is currently working on modifying the mini-CERT program to serve younger students. This requires a great deal of coordination among partner agencies, and they are always willing to support Kate's efforts. Additionally, Kate invests a great deal of her own time into numerous community projects to foster a culture of preparedness.

It's this innovative spirit, strong vision and dedication to community that makes me confident Kate will serve your organization well. I recommend Kate Dinneen without reservation. Please contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Jillian Rodrigue
Deputy Director
Douglas County Emergency Management



Adjutant General's Department

Kansas Division of Emergency Management

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Major General David A. Weishaar
The Adjutant General and Director of
Emergency Management & Homeland Security

Laura Kelly, Governor

August 25th, 2021

Re.: Kansas Citizen Corps Reference for Kate Dinneen

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter of reference and support in regards to Kate Dinneen's self-nomination for a position on the National CERT Association Board of Directors.

The Kansas Division of Emergency Management and Kansas Citizens Corps supports the reference and sponsorship of Kate Dineen by Douglas County Emergency Management.

Ms. Dinneen has been a part of the Douglas County Emergency Management CERT Team since 2003 and completed the State sponsored CERT Train the Trainer course in 2009 and currently serves as the Coordinator for Douglas County CERT. Additionally, Ms. Dinneen has attended both the CERT Manager Course and the CERT Train the Trainer Course at EMI in Emmitsburg, MD.

If you have any questions or would like additional information please feel free to contact me by phone at 785.217.7233 or email at devan.n.tucking.nfg@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

Devan Tucking
Recovery Section Chief