

NOVA and CJJ Kick Off NIMS Project with AR-CRT

Tom Canady, AR-CRT Board Member and Training Chair developed an experiential crisis response training workshop for NOVA using the National Incident Management System [NIMS] model. NIMS is an outgrowth of the National Response Plan adopted after the tragedies of September 11, 2001.

AR-CRT was selected for the pilot project because of the number of the number of seasoned intervenors. Board members, team leaders and responders with national "call-out" experience were asked to attend.

AR-CRT members completing the training were: Andy Altom, Rev. Lawson Anderson, Jack Bell, Cyndi Coleman, Lynn Cross, Judge Jodi Raines Dennis, Rev. Steve Farmer, Ruth Fissel, Linda and Dennis Graham, Msgr. Jack Harris, Charlene James, Larance Johnson, Dr. Jennifer Lang, Gray LeMaster, Karen Lowery, Coralie Maxwell, Leah Mohlke, Sandy Morrison, Rev. Andrea Northcut, Ann Patterson, Russ Sherrill, Kendra Simpson, Max Snowden, Carol St. John, Shelton Walker, and Dr. Stan Wilson. Each received a completion of study from NOVA and will receive a IS 700 NIMS certificate from FEMA..



NOVA Executive Director Jeannette Adkins with Tom Canady and NOVA Deputy Director Cheryl Tyiska

In light of the information that came out of the NIMS/ICS pilot training in Arkansas, NOVA plans to create a National Crisis Response Advisory Committee to look at how NIMS/ICS concepts and principles should guide the National Crisis Response Team's protocols and those of

Cheryl Tyiska explained that NIMS and the Incident Command System (ICS) training is critical for responders on the national level, and will benefit responders on the state and local levels as well. NIMS/ICS will help NOVA team with aspects of preparedness, resource management, communications and the use of supporting technologies to move the teams further along in their evolution. It will also help us to communicate more efficiently with our partner voluntary organizations and governmental agencies.

NOVA's state and local teams. Key, however, is the concept of preparedness. As Canady said during the pilot training, paraphrasing an old Indian proverb, "It's OK to call on God for help, but row away from the rocks. NIMS/ICS helps us to know how to use common sense and practicality to get the job done.

