

Christopher Burt, Sareem Streater, and Monica Goldberg from the County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and the Department of Health and Human Services will present on the County's emergency response system and how all of us Long Branch Partners can coordinate with them on emergency response through Community Organizations Active in Disasters (COAD).

### **Chris Burt Presentation (Oversees Mass Care Operations in the DHHS)**

- Established in 2017 after the Long Branch gas explosion
- He is charged with the people aspect of things
- 3 units are part of the Mass Care Operations:
  - 1. Incident Response Unit (go to scene and do initial intake on those who are impacted & then do next steps for the recovery phase,
  - 2. Reception Center/Shelter team
  - 3. Recovery Team- help people get back on their feet
- Phases of response:
  - Incident- assess scene, determine number of people impacted, coordinate response with fire and rescue, determine next steps. We encourage people to reach out to insurance company and contact their family members
  - If we have to stage a shelter, we work closely with community partners and the American Red Cross
  - Reception- There are 4 tiers of facilities. Difference between shelter and reception center: we also set up a reception center. It takes people away from the impacted area. At the reception center, we provide immediate assistance and comfort. If we have to convert to a shelter operation, we work round the clock to manage the safety, security, and privacy. We address residents on the spot. We also constantly update the County and media about what is going on. After the shelter, we do a deeper dive in the Recovery unit
  - The Recovery Unit- It is case management to help residents to get back on their feet as soon as possible. This can include medical assessment, behavioral health support, emergency SNAP benefits, and helping community members get documents that may have been lost.

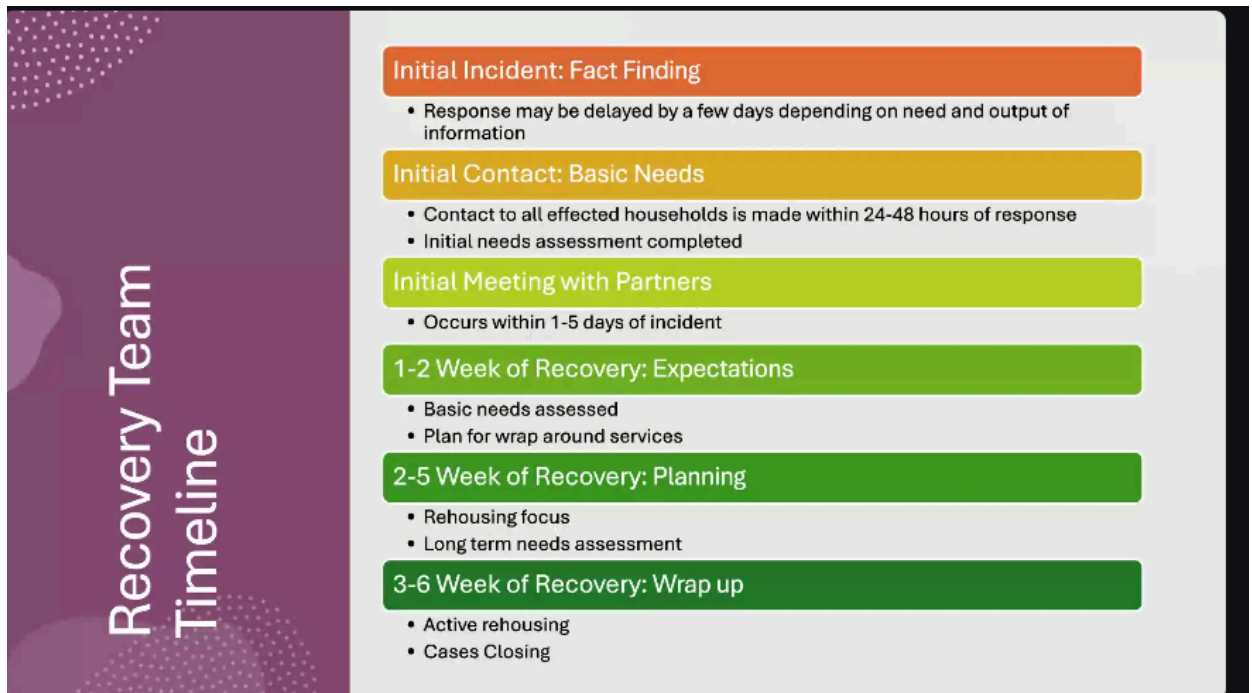
### **Monica Goldberg (Community Action Navigation Team Recovery Services)**

Leads the Recovery Unit at Community Action Agency

Assist families with holistic services from the time that they are displaced and for 30-60 days after they are rehoused

Everytime there is a flood, fire, or explosion, the navigation team will be involved.

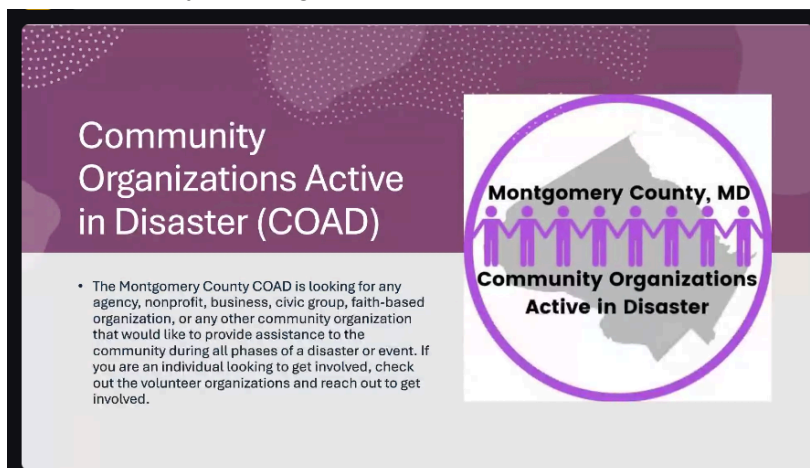
There are 6 phases in the recovery timeline:



- Disaster Assistance Center Nights: DAC nights are nights where we open up the rec centers to build community among affected persons. It also is to showcase local community providers.

#### **Sareem (Community Organizations Active in Disaster COAD)**

- A collection of nonprofits, civic groups, faith-based orgs, and other businesses that provide assistance to community during all phases of a disaster or event
- Hosts quarterly meetings.



- Sareem will send Kent an email about the training to Kent

#### **Questions**

Bruce: Experienced an apartment fire in the area. Emergency response team was not involved. We were told that there was no disaster recovery because a threshold was not met because only 2 families were displaced. What is the threshold?

-We do not get involved with single family fires. We focus on large scale events (e.g. apartments and office buildings) Monica: You can still reach out to Monica even if the Red Cross does not get involved. Chris says that although they do not focus on smaller events, he still takes calls. They are focused though on getting everyone the services they need in their time of need.

Bruce: What can and should Long Branch Partners do in order to be effective to be active in the case of a disaster?

-Sareem: Establish an open line of communication between COAD, DHHS, and our group. Fill out the intake form for the COAD group on their website for them to understand what resources we can provide to the community so that they know what to request. COAD would call us after getting a notification of the event that occurred and needs have been determined for community members. Sareem would then send an email, text, or call to the specific org letting them know what specifically they need from our group. Bruce clarifies that Long Branch Partners is a group. We would probably want a Zoom meeting with all the partners on a call to be informed and coordinate efforts to respond. Monica: Thinks we should inform renters about renters policies in the case of emergencies. There is a lot of misinformation on how all of that works. Some only covers the apartment and not personal belongings.

Sareem's contact information:

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Vanessa: Is there one good thing that we can help with right now? Would like to help people get ready.

Sareem: Can provide community emergency response training to the community. Can also come to resource fairs and events to share information with community members. Vanessa will send Sareem an email after the meeting.

