OVERVIEW

Of the phases of the disaster cycle, the recovery phase is the longest but the least explored with respect to the experiences of people with disabilities. This session will provide an overview of what research reveals about the needs of people with disabilities and their families post-disaster. Barriers to the recovery process as well as the resource and service roles of state and local agencies, FEMA, and voluntary organizations post-disaster will be discussed.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Attendees will **learn what research findings** reveal about the needs of people with disabilities post-disaster.
2. Attendees will **identify barriers** which individuals with disabilities and their families encounter during the recovery phase of disaster.
3. Attendees will **identify recovery services and resources** typically available through various organizations post-disaster.

THE DISASTER CYCLE

[Diagram showing the four phases of emergency management: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, Recovery]
RECOVERY PHASE OF DISASTER

• Recovery starts following the response phase.
• Recovery is the phase following a disaster in which agencies and organizations help affected persons and communities to develop and implement plans and structures for return to pre-disaster functioning.
• The recovery phase is typically the longest phase of disaster and can last for an extended period of time- even several years.

RECOVERY PHASE OF DISASTER

• Typical activities include restoration of infrastructure and vital support systems, resumption of the routines of daily life, and initiation of plans for permanent housing.
• Human, material, and financial resources may dwindle, along with decreasing public attention.
RESEARCH INDICATES PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES EXPERIENCING DISASTER:

- Die at a higher rate
- Often lose their homes or have high property damage
- Are more likely to incur injuries
- Experience health-related complications
- Receive less assistance from emergency personnel and volunteers
- Take longer to recover

(Stough, & Kelman, 2018).

PRE-DISASTER, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ARE MORE LIKELY TO:

- Live in poverty
- Be unemployed
- Live in a flood plain
- Have limited access to healthcare
- Have smaller social networks

(Stough & Kelman, 2018)
DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT

- Disasters do NOT impact everyone equally
- It is not only that people with disabilities are more likely to be impacted, it is that the loss and severity of the impact is disproportionate.
- These families thus begin the recovery phase two steps behind, rather than one step behind.
- These factors make recovery even more complicated post-disaster.

DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT

- Case managers are active during the response and recovery phases.
- Used to connect disaster survivors to needed resources and services.
- Case managers are typically assigned to an individual or family.
- The case manager meets with clients to determine their current needs and to collaboratively agree on goals.
- The case manager informs clients about resources that might meet their needs and the programs for which they meet eligibility.
- Identify documentation needed to apply for assistance and guides the client in completing applications.
DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT

- People with disabilities and other functional and access needs typically need more intensive disaster case management.
- Disaster recovery for individuals with disabilities can be strengthened through:
  - Connection with disability-related resources
  - Direct advocacy by the case manager
  - Collaboration with other agencies
  - Client motivation and persistence

(Stough, Sharp, Decker, & Wilker, 2010)

BARRIERS TO RECOVERY

- People with disabilities encounter most of the same types of barriers to recovery:
  - Housing, transportation, financial support, furnishing
- However, there are two systems to negotiate:
  - Disability support system: personal assistants, special education services, medical supports
  - Disaster support system: temporary housing, financial assistance, food, clothing
- Paperwork and negotiating these two systems

(Stough, Sharp, Resch, Decker, & Wilker, 2017)
THE SPOON THEORY

- Each activity of living requires mental and physical energy (a spoon)
- When you/your child have a disability it takes a LOT of spoons
- We manage through
  - Natural support
  - Formal Supports
  - Services

AFTER A DISASTER

- May lose our support network
- Displacement has major implications
- Jump through hoops again
- Replace specialized items
THE INTERPLAY OF NEEDS

Housing

Health

Employment

Transportation

RESOURCES FOR LONG TERM RECOVERY
WHO YOU ARE MATTERS

Long Term Recovery Looks Differently for Different Populations...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>% of US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low socio-economic status***</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly – age 65+*</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with disabilities****</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language other than English**</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_17_5YR_DP05&src=pt
**https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_17_5YR_DP02&prodType=table
*** https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=CF
****Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

KNOW WHO DOES WHAT....

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- State and Local Agencies
- Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD)
FEMA

Disaster assistance may include

- grants to help pay for temporary housing,
- emergency home repairs,
- uninsured and underinsured personal property losses and medical,
- dental and funeral expenses caused by the disaster, along with other serious disaster-related expenses.


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FEMA

- Provides grants to qualified homeowners to repair damage not covered by insurance; renters may qualify.
- Personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses is income-dependent and officials make decisions on a case-by-case basis.
- www.DisasterAssistance.gov

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- The SBA provide financial assistance through FEMA following a disaster and provides low-interest disaster loans to homeowners and renters.
  - Loans to cover repairs and replacement of physical assets damaged in a declared disaster.
  - Loans to cover small business operating expenses after a declared disaster.

LONG-TERM RECOVERY COMMITTEES

- Strengthens area-wide disaster coordination by sharing information, simplifying client access and jointly resolving cases with unmet needs;
- Helps affected families to develop a plan and receive adequate assistance for the recovery;
- Composed of representatives from disaster response agencies; and
LTRC.....

- Composed of non-profit volunteer, civic, faith-based, and other state and local organizations in local counties.
- Exists with all participating organizations as equal partners.

OTHER STATE AND LOCAL RESOURCES

- Centers for Independent Living
- Protection & Advocacy Centers
- University Centers on Developmental Disabilities
- Paratransit systems
- Schools
- Libraries
- Lion’s Clubs, Rotary, Meals on Wheels, United Way, Easter Seals...
  just to name a few
VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN DISASTER (VOADS)

- A coalition of organizations that prepare for and respond to the recovery needs of America’s communities in times of disasters.
- 50+ reputable NGOs
- Over 40 years of experience in disaster support
- Find your state VOAD Chair- https://www.nvoad.org/

SUPPORT SYSTEMS POST DISASTER

- Social relationships provide emotional and instrumental support post-disaster
- However, social support systems may have changed due to:
  - Displacement of the individual,
  - Neighbors, or community members displaced or moved,
  - Communities and buildings needing to rebuild (e.g. community centers, libraries).
- Number of social support systems may have changed.
REDDY DIRECTORY

- REDDy: REnources on Disasters and Disability
- The REDDy Directory is a project jointly funded by the Association of University Centers on Disability and the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.
- Based on a database of 2500+ disability resources

Graphic of the REDDy Interface with functions labeled.
Supporting Individuals with Disabilities
Recovering from Hurricane Harvey

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