

Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee

Mission, Vision, and Objectives

Approved March 4, 2013

Mission:

The Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee exists to help residents of the County to recover from this disaster and to provide a gateway to a better future for the County and its residents.

Vision:

The Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee will provide a confidential, fair and efficient process for Somerset County residents to apply for assistance from the Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee, Inc. in order to assist them in their own recovery from this disaster.

The SCLTRC embraces the principals of justice and equality for all residents in Somerset County as needs are determined and addressed. SCLTRC will work in partnership with: Federal, State and Local governments; Faith-based and non-profit organizations; the business community; and other willing partners in order to carry out its mission to serve all residents, regardless of race, religion, sexual preference, disability, economic status, age or gender.

The SCLTRC is:

- Community driven
- Based on public involvement
- Locally controlled
- Holistic (caring for the place, and the spiritual needs of the people in the place)
- Project-oriented, and will
- Incorporate, restoration and mitigation best-practices

Objectives:

1. Will meet as needed and otherwise communicate on an ongoing basis to assure the most productive possible collaboration in addressing its mission.
2. Establish a community-based non-profit (501 c.3) Limited Liability Corporation to assist in the long term recovery of Somerset County.
3. Solicit, receive and disperse money, in-kind donations and volunteer time to assist with the long term recovery of Somerset County. This assistance to recovery will be provided on a case-by-case basis to the extent resources are available.
4. Provide professional case management by hiring a Case Manager, and such other paid or volunteer staff needed to assist in the long term recovery.

5. Secure and operate a Community Resource Center on Main St. in Crisfield.
6. Coordinate support and direction for volunteer rebuilding teams.
7. Assure the availability of support training for clergy and community leaders who have had limited or no direct interaction with long term recovery or recent prior disaster recovery training.
8. Communicate with the residents of Somerset County and all other stake-holders in the long term recovery process, and work collegially to assure public visibility for disaster recovery efforts.
9. Develop such other programs and organizations that may benefit the future development of the Somerset County.

Approved by the Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee
March 4, 3013

Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee, Inc.
Summary Report to Ecumenical Funding Partners
July 21, 2014

Following Super Storm Sandy (October 29-30, 2012) a group of citizens, non-profit organizations, and representatives from local, county and state agencies met numerous times in order to plan a long term recovery strategy to address the destruction of the hurricane. Crisfield and other parts of Somerset County sustained substantial damage, largely due to flooding caused by the five foot tidal surge that inundated low-lying areas of the county. In addition, there was moderate wind and storm damage.

The result of these community meetings was the formation of a Long Term Recovery Committee (SCLTRC).

- The committee was formally organized in January 2013
- The committee adopted its by-laws in February, 2013
- The committee was incorporated as a Maryland LLC named the Somerset County Long Term Committee, Inc. in March 2013
- The committee received its 501(c)(3) determination in August, 2013, effective retroactively to January, 2013
- The committee received its registration as a Maryland Home Builder in January 2014
- The committee's registration as a Charitable Organization in the State of Maryland was approved in March 2014

The SCLTRC can best be described as a "federation" of county citizens, religious, and non-profit organizations, supported by local, county and state agencies, whose mission is to assist county residents to recover from the devastation of Super Storm Sandy. In addition to case work and support services, the SCLTRC provides "gap" funding for residents. Residents contribute any funds that they have received from FEMA, insurance settlements and their own resources. The committee then will fund the difference between what the resident has and what is needed for the resident to achieve recovery from the storm damage.

Each non-profit has raised its own funding and participates in a collegial process to apply that funding to the repair or complete rebuilding of homes damaged by the storm. The SCLTRC provides the construction assessment, case work, volunteer recruitment and technical expertise needed to repair or rebuild damaged homes.

The committee hired a staff to coordinate these recovery efforts. Presently the staff consists of a Case Manager, Case Worker, Construction Superintendent, Manager of Construction Operations (vacancy to be filled), Office Manager/Volunteer Coordinator and Data Base Technician (one-half time). The staff and general operations are managed by two Disaster Consultants affiliated with Lutheran Disaster Response (Pastor Phillip C. Huber and Pastor Thomas G. Sinnott). The consultants also assist

the board in its non-profit governance, policy development and incorporating best practices.

The SCLTRC Board of Directors is composed of 20 members, representative of:

- County Citizens
- Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR)
- United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)
- Mennonite Disaster Services (MDS)
- Episcopal Disaster Relief, Diocese of Easton (EDR)
- United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore
- Life Crisis Center
- National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)
- City of Crisfield
- Somerset County Social Services
- Somerset County Health Department
- American Red Cross

Crisfield was the area hardest hit in Maryland by Super Storm Sandy, is the poorest city, in the poorest county (Somerset) in the State. Crisfield, with a population of 2700, has 330 public housing units, housing over 1,600 people. This means that over half of the population of Crisfield, Maryland lives in public housing. The State of Maryland has the highest medium household income in the US at \$70,004. However, the medium household income for Somerset County is \$41,558—the lowest in the State. By definition, all of the work that the Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee has on behalf of his city and county has opened access to services and allowed recovery for impoverished peoples.

The influence of the strong faith-based leadership team was instrumental in helping to advance a new community model of justice in Crisfield and Somerset County. In Somerset County, one learns early on that in this community and county there are racial overtones to all community dynamics, including all community and governmental decisions. SCLTRC leadership recognized, along with others, that if the long term recovery effort was to be effective and representative of all people, that traditional patterns needed to be broken and the SCLTRC needed to be diverse in its outlook and make-up. Consequently, the SCLTRC is by far the most diverse influential community group existing in Somerset County. Moreover, over half of the SCLTRC staff are people of color. The present Co-Chairs are women, one an African-American, the other a Caucasian. For the first time in Somerset County history an African-American women now sits in a major, influential position within the county. It was through the leadership of the faith-based community that this inclusionary vision was brought to reality.

The following lists summarize the activities and accomplishments that were funded and led, primarily by faith-based communities.

Establishing an organization to manage long term recovery efforts:

- Established a Board of Directors, Approved by-laws and established governance procedures and policies based on best practices for non-profits.
- The Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee was incorporated as a Maryland LLC.
- Obtained an IRS 501 (c) (3) designation.
- Obtained a Maryland Home Builder's registration.
- Obtained Board and Director's and general liability insurance.
- Provide Board Governance of Case Review, partner gap-funding, construction management and volunteer supervision,
- Created an office and drop in center for staff and clients to meet together
- Built a staff of 7 disaster recovery professionals.
- Built a case load of 295 clients in need of home repair, new home construction and spiritual and psychological recovery.
- Approximately \$ 2,678,000 has been raised by the SCLTRC for the recovery effort.
- To date six new houses have been built, five are in the process of construction and 18 more are under consideration for rebuilding. Over 183 homes have been repaired.
- Introduced electronic communication and documentation systems, including training for Microsoft 365, and Red Cross CAN database. Established a web site to share information and facilitate communication among disaster partners. (www.lpdr.org)
- Provided human resources management (hiring, firing, discipline) and staff evaluation.
- Identified, extensively renovated, and managed a work camp that can accommodate 30-35 volunteers and on-site managers.
- Sponsored town meetings throughout the county, including Smith Island
- Held an anniversary of Sandy worship service for the community
- Sponsored CERT training for members of the community
- Provided county clergy with resource directories for social, spiritual and psychological resources available to county residents
- Established a working Spiritual / Psychological Recovery Committee.
- Coordinated Camp Noah, two one-week-long day camps for children effected by the storm, will be held in Crisfield and Princess Anne from July 28-August 1, 2014
- Established a working Economic Development Task Force which has built a community consensus on projects that will improve economic growth in the county
- Sponsored hospitality booths at two annual Crisfield Clambake and Crab Feasts
- Rebuilt 6 new homes to date and began work on 4 additional homes

Advocating for the needs of Somerset County residents:

- Organized a damage assessment that was the basis for the county and state to appeal FEMA' s decision to deny personal assistance to the county

- Unsuccessfully advocated for the adoption of CDBG disaster guidelines (more flexible than the normal CDBG guidelines) for the 8.6 million grant for hurricane recovery
- Successfully advocated that the state's 16 million CDBG grant be spent in Somerset County as intended by Federal legislation, and not spent throughout the state as the state attempted to implement
- Ensured that the cultural, racial and economic diversity of the county was included in the long term recovery leadership team
- Ensured that the recovery effort would not be limited to building repaired homes, but also addressing the social, spiritual and psychological needs of residents
- Instituted a "Vulnerability Assessment" so that the most needy residents receive a higher priority for receiving assistance

Coordinating the efforts of the faith community:

- Created forty inter-agency partner relationships: faith-based, non-profit, state, county and city.

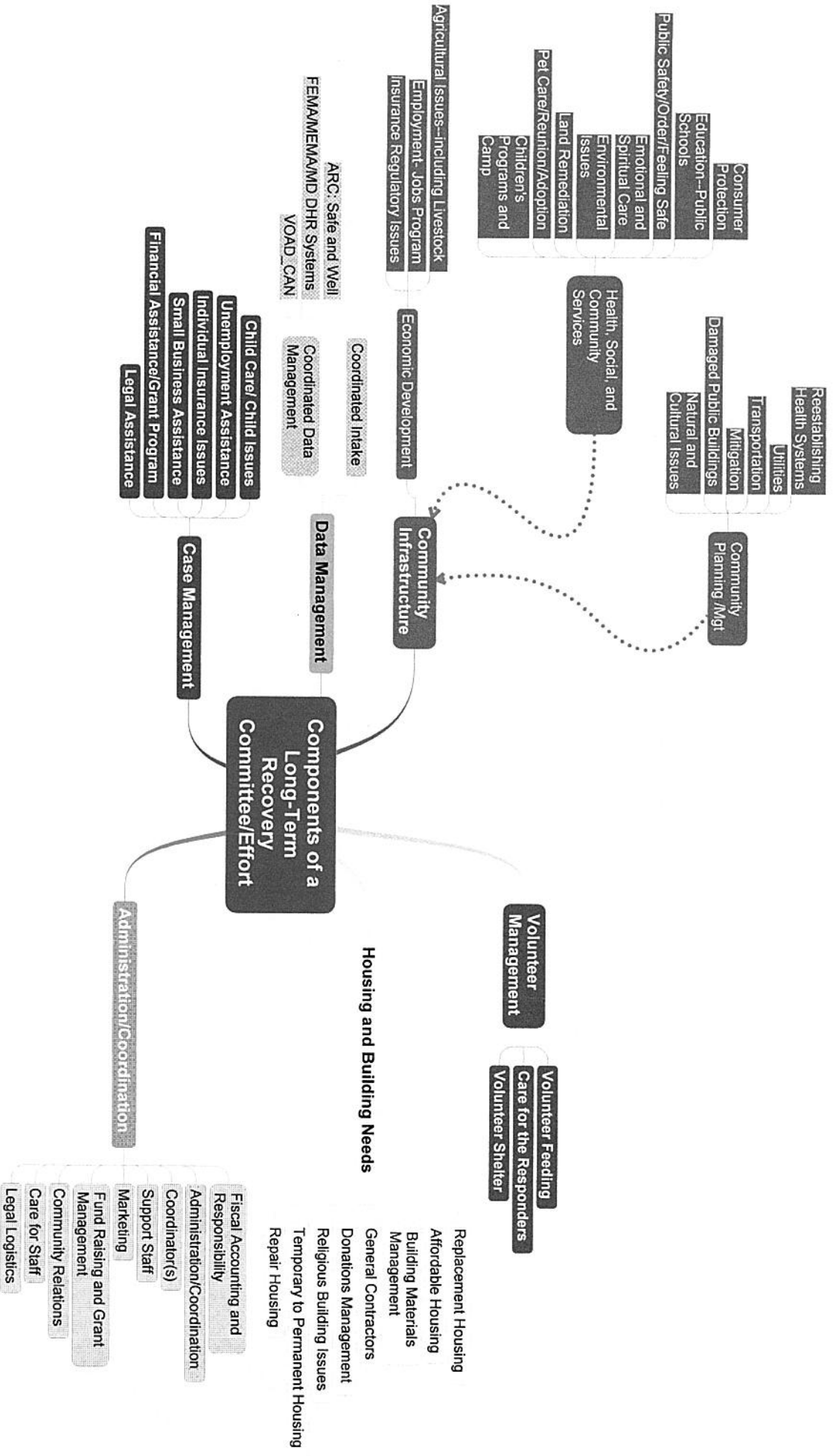
Funding received from Lutheran Disaster Response will ensure that staffing for the recovery effort will continue at full force through September of 2015. There is a considerable amount of work yet to be accomplished. We estimate that there are an additional 12 homes that will have to be torn down and rebuilt. Case work will need to be completed, as well as seeking an additional \$350,000 to complete the rebuilding effort.

By the Numbers

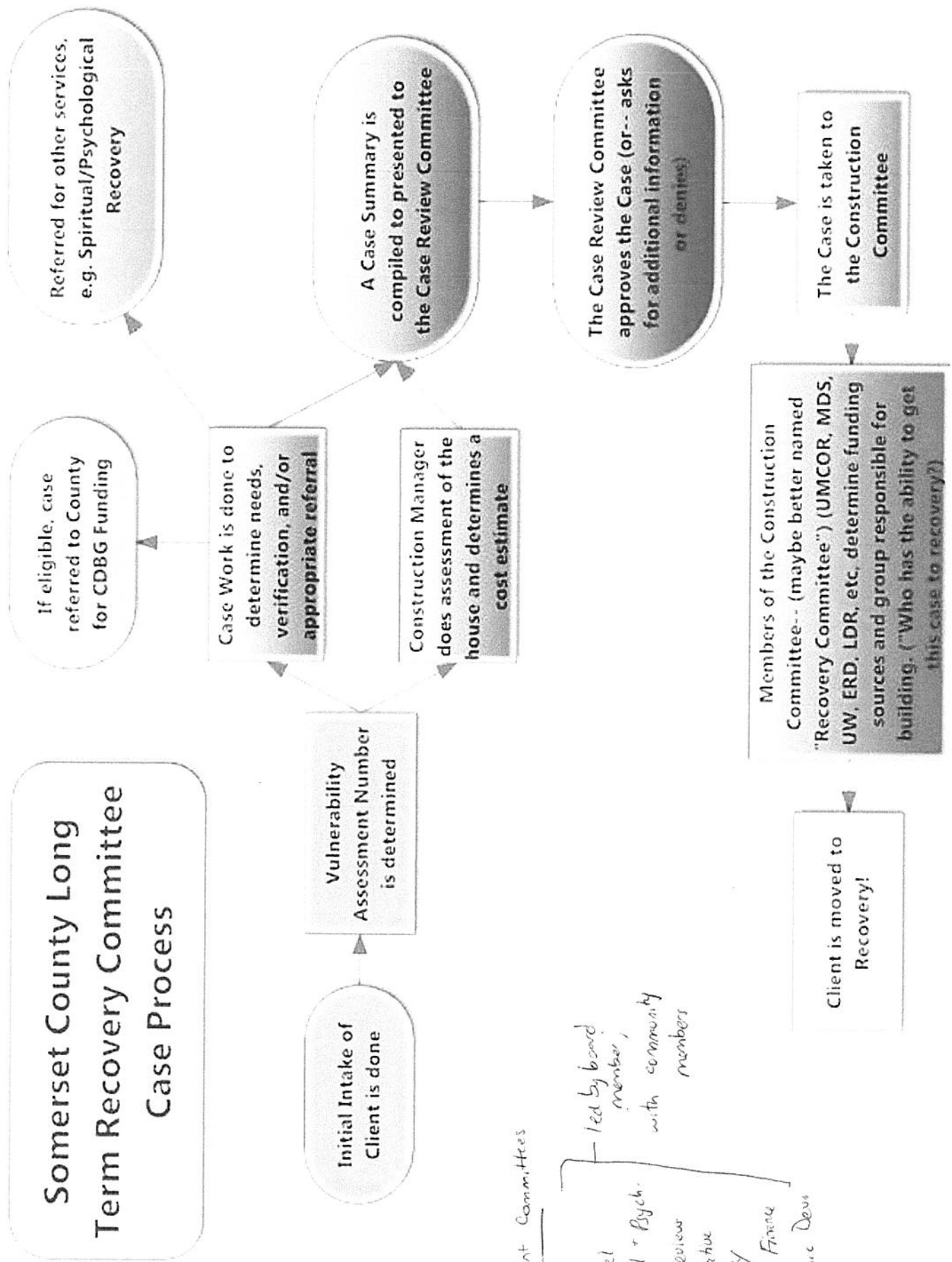
<i>1006</i>	<i>Number of volunteers engaged</i>
<i>419</i>	<i>Number of Households served</i>
<i>183</i>	<i>Numbers of homes repaired</i>
<i>46</i>	<i>Numbers of homes that still need repair</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>Number of new homes built</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>Number of new homes under construction</i>
<i>12</i>	<i>Number of new homes remaining to be built</i>

July 21, 2014

Maryland Long Term Recovery Committee



Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee Case Process



Difficult Committees

- Policy*
 - Personnel*
 - Spiritual + Psych.*
 - Case Review*
 - Legislative*
 - Publicity*
 - Grants + Finance*
 - Economic Dev*
- led by board member, with community members*