

# PARK COUNTY COMMUNITY SUPPORT TEAM



During the Summer of 2023, the Community Support Team visited with folks across Park County who were impacted by the 2022 flood.

In September, the team shared what they heard with community leaders so that people's voices could be heard.

## HERE'S WHAT WE DID...

### KEY PRINCIPLES OF CRISIS COUNSELING PROGRAM



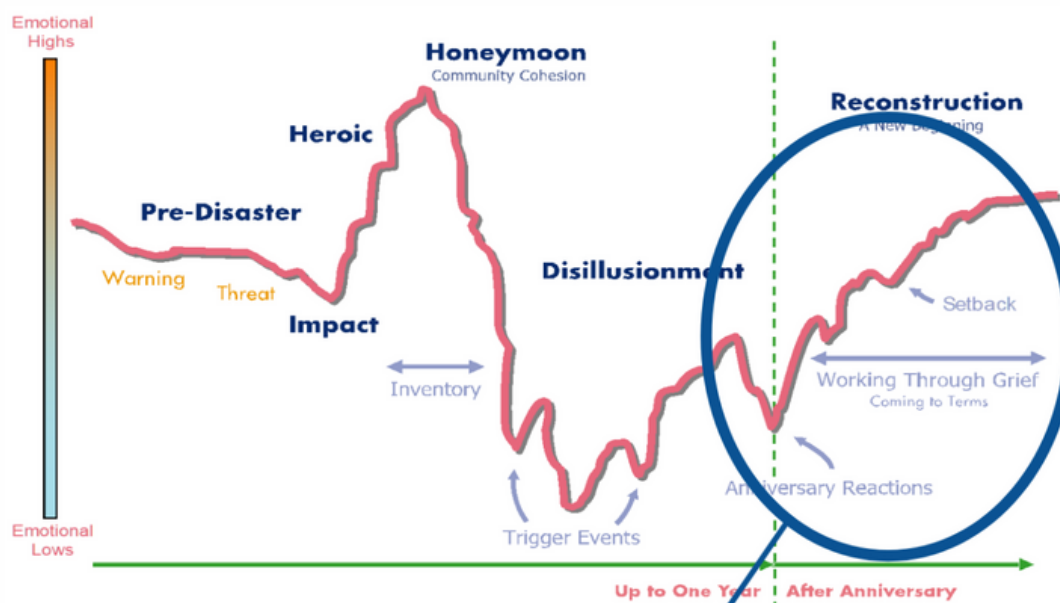
### METHODOLOGY

**Step 1:** Figured out what areas and which groups were the most impacted.

**Step 2:** Knocked on 217 doors of businesses and homes.

**Step 3:** Had 258 unique, open-ended, confidential, voluntary conversations asking questions such as "How are you doing?" and "What was your flood experience?"

### PHASES OF DISASTER RESPONSE



Studies show that individuals often experience a strong emotional reaction 12 to 18 months after a disaster.

\*From SAMHSA--FEMA Crisis Counseling and Training Program

# HERE'S WHAT YOUR COMMUNITY SAID...

## TOP RECURRING THEMES FROM INDIVIDUAL CONVERSATIONS

- Felt supported by community
- Experienced loss of personal income
- Still cleaning up
- Dealing with compounding stress
- Desire for mental health access
- Needing something to blame

## TOP RECURRING THEMES FROM BUSINESS CONVERSATIONS

- Experienced loss of business income
- Focused on employee retention
- Established businesses can pull through
- Observed a lack of communication
- Desire for mental health access
- Participated in mutual community support

## CURRENT EMOTIONAL RESPONSES

- Downplaying of personal impact
- Hypervigilance
- Optimism and looking forward
- Sadness
- Exhaustion
- Overwhelm

## REQUESTED COMMUNITY NEEDS

- Mental health access
- Affordable housing
- Better communication
- Medical care access
- Road maintenance
- Far reaching county support

# HERE'S WHAT WE LEARNED...

## LESSONS WE LEARNED IN THE FIELD



Acknowledge each community is unique



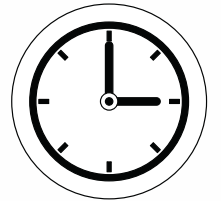
Go to the people and knock on doors



Recognize impacts of compounding stress

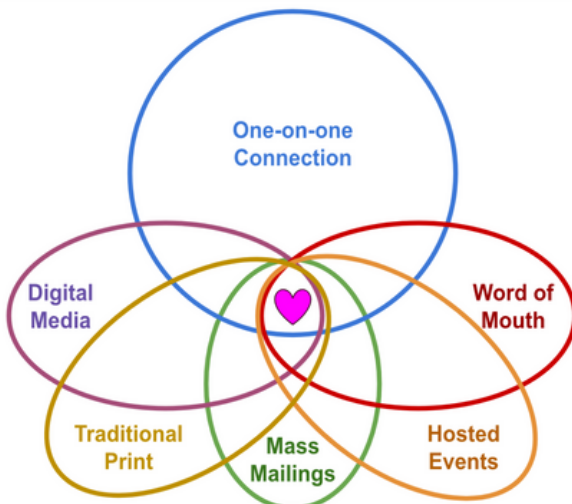


Use all avenues of communication



Lengthen timing of disaster relief services

## HOW TO REACH PEOPLE



## OBSERVATION

Consistent and cyclical services will help our communities thrive.

