

CONTACT ERC FOR...

⇒ Disaster Mental Health Response

- ◆ *Natural Disasters*
- ◆ *Man Made Disasters*
- ◆ *Incidents of Community Impact*

⇒ Partnering for Preparedness

- ◆ *Preparedness Drills/Exercises*
- ◆ *Preparing Disaster Plans Including Mental Health*
- ◆ *Reinforcement of Existing Resources*

⇒ Information, Resource Identification and Referral

OCEAN COUNTY ERC CONTACT INFORMATION

OCEAN COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Jill S. Perez, CSW, Director, Mental Health Administrator

Tracy Maksel, MPA, Assistant Director,
Assistant Mental Health Administrator

800-544-7184 | Mon-Fri 8am to 5pm
732-886-4474 | PESS 24/7 Crisis Hotline

<http://www.co.ocean.nj.us/ocdhs>



OCEAN COUNTY ERC



Emergency Response Crisis Counselors

**NEW JERSEY CERTIFIED
DISASTER RESPONSE CRISIS
COUNSELORS**



**800-544-7184
Mon-Fri | 8am - 5pm**

**732-886-4474
24/7 Crisis Hotline**

ERC HISTORY

The Ocean County Emergency Response Committee (ERC) is a Subcommittee of the County's Mental Health Board. The ERC was established in the late 1980's in response to traumatic events that affected our communities. Some of those early issues the ERC addressed include: developing a geriatric task force; responding to and providing education about the tragedy of youth suicide; and reaching out to local clergy regarding trauma in the community.

ERC PURPOSE

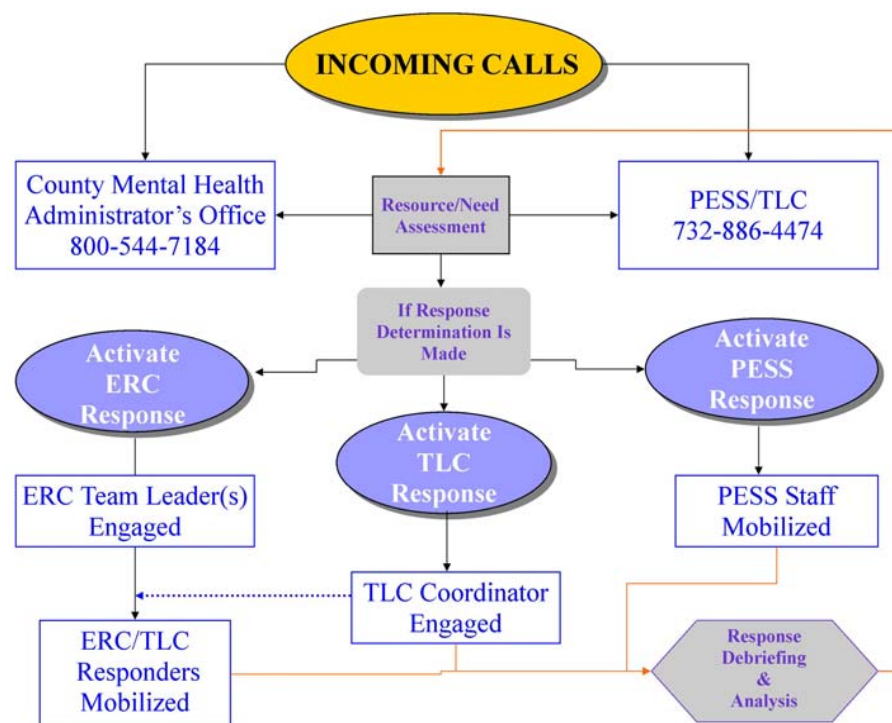
Over the years the ERC and its Response Team have become more defined in their role and purpose. The ERC seeks to provide for a timely and coordinated response effort ensuring that disaster crisis counseling is available to all victims of traumatic events, regardless of situation or population involved.

ERC CREDENTIALS

ERC responders have been professionally trained in disaster mental health, incident command operations and are continually engaged in ongoing education. Ocean County's ERC also participates in the New Jersey Division of Mental Health Services - Disaster & Terrorism Branch's Disaster Crisis Counselor certification process. There are over 70 volunteer ERC members from a variety of backgrounds that participate in this County-wide coordinated effort.

ERC PROTOCOL

An ERC response is made only when requested and is never intended to interfere with the natural and existing support systems that are already in place. Protocols have been developed and are strictly adhered to, giving the ERC and its Response Team a specific mission, direction, and a clear course of action to follow.



ERC and the COMMUNITY

Another goal of the ERC is that of community education, planning and awareness. The ERC partners with many community organizations and agencies to provide regular disaster mental health educational and training programs. Furthermore the ERC assists in the planning and implementation of preparedness drills/exercises and disaster plans that include disaster mental health. The ERC also serves as a disaster mental health information and referral resource to the community.