



MRC ★ In Touch

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North Idaho MRC Provides Care at Annual HealthFest

According to MRC unit coordinator, Judith Scarborough, Kootenai County (ID), has a population of approximately 140,000 people, with 25,000 of this population uninsured and facing challenges in locating affordable medical, dental, and health services.

To help the uninsured in the community, the HealthFest annually provides basic medical, dental, and mental health services.

Approximately 300 people attended this year at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds, where 26 volunteers from the North Idaho MRC helped individuals in its community receive quality care.

MRC volunteers provided clinical classes on the topics of CPR, women's health, HIV/AIDS screening, and vaccinations. The MRC also assisted at the registration, medical history, and vitals stations; helped medical providers in exam rooms; coordinated the meals available both for patients and volunteers; and offered medication evaluations. Additionally, patients could receive lung testing from Covelli Research and dermatology screening for skin cancer by visiting dermatologists.

The MRC volunteers worked alongside other local organizations including the Dirne Community Health Center, United Way of Kootenai County, Panhandle Health District, Lake City Community Church, Kootenai Health, North Idaho Health Network, and Pacific Source Health Plans.

Challenges

Despite the cold weather and rain, there were a significant number of attendees; however, it is suspected that the weather was discouraging to some families and individuals who would have had to wait out in the rain for public transportation to transport them to HealthFest, which was accessible via the free bus route.

Noise was also a challenge where classes were being taught in the exhibit barn at the county fairgrounds, and at the vitals station where blood pressure was being taken.

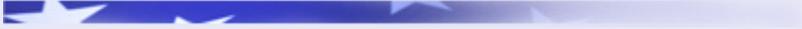
Takeaways

Scarborough says that the greatest takeaway from the HealthFest is that "there is a great need for dental and vision care in the community. Even if someone has medical coverage, dental and vision care are usually more

expensive and not always covered by basic health insurance."



MRC/NACCHO Connections



Extreme Heat Dark Site

It's summertime, which means hot weather is here. Access a dark site, which features a variety of tools and resources that provide information about heat stroke, first aid for heat induced illness, and heat stress in the elderly.

A dark site is a pre-developed Web site that is activated and used to share vital resources following a crisis or emergency. The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has developed several incident-specific dark sites for local health department staff, emergency managers, and the public to use when disaster strikes in communities.

To access the extreme heat dark site, please visit <http://naccho.org/topics/emergency/darksite/extreme-heat.cfm>.

Announcements



CDC Tips from Former Smokers Campaign

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched an unprecedented 12-week campaign to prevent smoking and encourage smokers to quit. The campaign, called Tips from Former Smokers, features powerful ads based on the experiences of former smokers suffering from illnesses caused by smoking.

For more information, please visit http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/campaign/tips/?s_cid=OSH_tips_D9011.

Advisory Announcement: 2012–2013 Capacity Building Awards

The Office of the Surgeon General (OSG), Division of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (DCVMRC) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is announcing important information regarding the upcoming Capacity Building Awards (CBAs) for the 2012–2013 funding year.

The FY 2012–2013 CBAs will include a two-tiered award system, as follows:

Tier 1: Non-Competitive Awards will be available to all units who meet

basic eligibility and application requirements. Actual individual award amount per unit will be determined by the total number of eligible applicants.

Tier 2: Competitive Awards will be available through a selective application process. Units must meet basic eligibility and specified application requirements in order to be considered for the competitive awards. Actual award amount will be fixed with a defined number of awards to be determined prior to competition. Applicants for competitive awards are also eligible to receive non-competitive awards, as above.

All application dates and funding are contingent upon Federal funding.

Application Announcements

Applications for the 2012–2013 CBAs are expected to open in late August 2012. Please watch for additional official announcements regarding the CBA process on the two-way ListServ beginning in late July and continuing through early August.

New units who are in the process of registering with the DCVMRC must have applied for unit registration by August 22, 2012 in order to be eligible for the 2012–2013 CBAs. All new unit registrations will be confirmed by the DCVMRC.

If you have any questions regarding this announcement, please contact NACCHO via e-mail at mrc@naccho.org.

Your Voice is Needed to Help Fight Against Extreme Spending Cuts

In January 2013, budget cuts totaling 8% of spending across federal departments are set to go into effect due to an agreement between Congress and the White House made last summer in the debate over raising the debt ceiling. NACCHO is compiling information on how an 8% cut would impact communities nationwide.

Your voice is needed to make the case for why these cuts are too extreme. Please fill out a form via the link, with details of what a 8% cut would mean in your program or health department.

Visit <http://www.naccho.org/advocacy/fy13-sequestration.cfm>.

To submit information for either MRC: In Touch or MRC: In Focus, please contact Stacy Hosler at shosler@naccho.org or (202)507-4197.



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