

NACCHO's Medical Reserve Corps Workgroup



Workgroup Description

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Workgroup provides leadership, guidance, and direction to the National Association of County and City Health Officials' (NACCHO's) MRC Program. The MRC Program collaborates with the Office of the Surgeon General, Division of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (DCVMRC), to raise the national visibility of the MRC program and enhance the capacity of local MRC units to support their communities' disaster preparedness, response, and public health initiatives. Workgroup members develop tools to assist new MRC Unit Leaders, promote the MRC through marketing and outreach, and advocate for the MRC through policy and position statements. The MRC Workgroup provides an irreplaceable opportunity for Unit Leaders to gain a broad perspective of preparedness issues, share valuable insights from their day-to-day roles, and provide invaluable subject matter expertise to NACCHO and other stakeholders.

Recent MRC Workgroup activities include the following:

NACCHO Model Practice Reviews

Since 2003, NACCHO's Model Practices Program has honored initiatives—including programs, resources, and tools—that demonstrate how local health departments (LHDs) and their community partners can effectively collaborate to address local public health concerns. For several years, the MRC Workgroup has reviewed model practice applications related to MRC operations.

NACCHO Statement of Policy

In 2012, the MRC Workgroup, with help from NACCHO's MRC staff, proposed a statement of policy titled *Inclusion of the Medical Reserve Corps in Public Health, Preparedness, and Response Activities*. In this policy statement, NACCHO urges LHDs to sponsor or partner with an MRC unit and use the volunteer capacity for both emergency and day-to-day activities. The board approved the policy statement in May 2013.

Background

- Established in 2001, the Medical Reserve Corps is a national network of local groups of volunteers committed to improving the public health, emergency response, and resiliency of their communities.¹
- The MRC Workgroup comprises local health officials; local, state, and national MRC representatives; and other public health professionals. MRC Workgroup members have the unique ability to influence the national MRC network (more than 900 units and approximately 200,000 volunteers).

Current Workgroup Goals

- Serve as subject matter experts for NACCHO's MRC project initiatives
- Identify and increase access to resources and tools that may benefit MRC Units and Unit Coordinators
- Encourage MRC network colleagues to submit innovative practices to NACCHO's Model Practices Program and NACCHO's Stories from the Field website

Current Members

- **Bobbi Alcock**, Coordinator, CNY Medical Reserve Corps and Coordinator, Volunteer Services, Onondaga County (NY) Health Department (*Workgroup Chair*)
- **Michael Gurnick**, Chair, Massachusetts Region 4A MRC: Ashland Branch, MA (*Workgroup Co-Chair*)
- **Peggy Armstrong**, Coordinator, Santa Rosa County MRC, Santa Rosa County (FL) Health Department,
- **Wally Burden**, Health Commissioner, Pike County (OH) General Health District
- **Robert Cohen**, Director, Maine Township (IL) Office of Emergency Managers
- **Betty Duggan**, Director, New York City MRC- New York City Department of Mental Health and Hygiene
- **Tessa Fite**, Coordinator, Franklin and Columbus County MRC, Franklin County (OH) Public Health
- **Jee Kim**, Emergency Staffing Manager, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- **Marlene Martin**, Coordinator, Summit County Citizen Corps, Summit County (OH) Public Health
- **Therese Quinn**, Coordinator, Snohomish MRC, Snohomish (WA) Health District

Factors for Success: Resource Toolkit

As a continuation of efforts that began in 2012, the MRC Workgroup is reviewing a resource inventory for the Factors For Success, a unit assessment tool developed by the DCVMRC for MRC Unit Leaders. The workgroup will assemble a toolkit and recommend its resources to the DCVMRC's National Technical Assistance Coordinator for inclusion in the Factors for Success Resource Matrix that the national office is developing.

Workgroup Membership



References

1. Division of Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps. Retrieved December 2013 from www.medicalreservecorps.gov.

Acknowledgments

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NACCHO

National Association of County & City Health Officials

The National Connection for Local Public Health

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