



MRC ★ In Touch

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Featured Article

Free Dental Care Services Provided to More than 1,000 People

To help ensure the low-income population of El Paso County receives proper oral healthcare services, the MRC of El Paso County (MRCEPC) of Colorado participated in a two-day dental clinic with the Colorado Mission of Mercy (COMOM) and other volunteers, to provide services to more than 1,400 adults and children unable to afford dental care. People of all ages were treated, from young toddlers to the elderly, at the Phil Long Expo Center located in Colorado Springs on October 1–2, 2010 from 6 AM to 4 PM.

It is estimated that more than 1,000 volunteers participated, including 15 MRC volunteers, college students, the American Red Cross, church groups, and others. The dental supplies were funded by COMOM, which relies on contributions and donations. It is part of the Colorado Dental Association's Charitable and Education fund. The COMOM combines the volunteer services of dentists, dental assistants, dental hygienists, dental lab technicians, and other community volunteers to join and provide services at free dental clinics. Donations were also made by Henry Schein and Colgate.

At the clinic, patients met with a dentist or nurse for an initial evaluation. Then, patients received dental treatment once staff became available. Dental services included cleanings, fillings, root canal treatments, and temporary dental appliances and extractions. In addition, patients were given instructions on how to care for their teeth. After the appointment, patients were asked to participate in an exit interview to determine their COMOM experience and other factors. Bilingual volunteers were also available to assist non-English speaking patients.

During the clinic, MRC volunteers provided pre-dental screenings which includes taking a patient's blood pressure, pulse, temperature, oxygen saturation, glucose screening, and oral cancer screening. The MRC volunteers also assisted with moving the patients through the exit interview process.

Unit coordinator, Frankie Gales, LPN, says that this round of dental clinics went very well due to teamwork and vouchers. "Vouchers

were the key to success because people were given a date and time to arrive ahead of time. During previous clinics, people had formed a line and slept outside because dental care was given on a first come, first serve basis.”

One of the most rewarding experiences from the clinics was for volunteers to hear and see the difference they were making in these peoples’ lives. Gales says that she encountered a woman at the clinic who had four of her bottom teeth broken off during an auto accident two years ago. Unfortunately, the woman did not have any health insurance and her husband has been in and out of the hospital with a serious heart condition. Gales says, “She could not afford to see a dentist and was using superglue to keep her teeth in place. Her husband was very concerned that the superglue would make her sick. She was in tears and kept her hand over her mouth when she talked to me because she was embarrassed to not have her bottom teeth. The woman was able to have the four broken teeth removed and she was fitted with partial dentures. Her tears of joy were the unspoken works of thanks that make me want to volunteer again.”

MRC/NACCHO Connections

Vaccine Awareness

Each year, thousands of people die and many more are hospitalized because of diseases that could have been prevented by vaccinations. In these tough economic times, more families must choose between healthcare and other critical needs. Fortunately, the federal government program, Vaccines for Children (VFC), provides vaccines to eligible children and teens at no- or low-cost. NACCHO seeks to raise awareness among parents about this program, and local health departments can help.

NACCHO launched a campaign, with support from Sanofi Pasteur, to increase awareness of the VFC program and educate parents about how they can access vaccines for their children and teens. Campaign materials include radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs) in English and Spanish and radio interviews.

For more information, visit <http://www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/immunization/vfc.cfm>. Use NACCHO’s talking points with the media, community partners and the general public to encourage parents to get their children vaccinated. To download the talking points, visit <http://www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/immunization/talkingpoints.cfm>.

Announcements

2011 Integrated Training Summit Abstracts for Poster Submissions

The 2011 Integrated Training Summit Planning Committee is accepting poster presentations to be considered for the 2011 Integrated Training Summit that will be held in Grapevine, Texas from May 1-5, 2011. The deadline to submit abstracts for poster presentations is Tuesday, February 1, 2011.

For more information, please visit <http://teams.hhs.gov/conference/>.

Register Today for the 2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit

The 2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit will be held in Atlanta, February 22-25, 2011. Register early to save money for the 2011 Public Health Preparedness Summit at <http://www.phprep.org/2011/register/>.

To learn more about why you should attend the 2011 Summit, visit <http://www.phprep.org>.

OCVMRC and NACCHO Announces 2011 MRC Special Projects Awards for States

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) are pleased to announce the 2011 MRC Special Projects Awards for States competitive application process. All states with a MRC State Coordinator recognized by the OCVMRC will be eligible to compete for a MRC Special Project Award for States. A total of 25 awards at \$15,000 each will be granted.

NACCHO will release the 2011 MRC Special Projects Awards for States request for applications (RFA) on January 18th, 2011. Applications must be completed and submitted online between January 18, 2011 and Tuesday, March 1, 2011 by 5:00 PM EST. Paper applications will not be accepted and no extensions will be approved.

States must register their MRC coordinator position with the OCVMRC by January 31, 2011 in order to be eligible to apply for a Special Projects Award. States that received a 2010 MRC Special Projects Award or those that have already registered their MRC State Coordinator with the OCVMRC do not need to register again. To confirm if your state has a registered MRC state coordinator position, please visit <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/StateCoordinators.asp>.

If you have any other questions about applying for the 2011 MRC Special Projects Awards for States application process, please contact Janelle Gillings at (202) 463-8094 or jgillings@naccho.org.

MRC Units Needed to Test Toolkit and Website

We are seeking MRC units throughout the country to participate in the testing of a toolkit and web site for MRC units. The purpose of the toolkit is to assess the effectiveness of engaging volunteers in flu clinics this fall. It will identify the strengths of engaging volunteers in public health activities, specifically flu clinics, and the barriers experienced by volunteers. The project is the result of a partnership between the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC), NACCHO, the Harvard School of Public Health, and the Georgetown University.

The toolkit can be found on the Harvard School of Public Health's Center for Public Health Preparedness Web site at <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hcphp/mrc-toolkit/>.

For additional information on how you can become involved, please review the announcement at <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/MRC/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&pageid=161431>.

MRC Lessons Learned and Experience Sharing

"MRC lessons learned and experience sharing" is a way for MRC units to share their practices, examples, and success stories. It is designed to highlight the challenges and successes of MRC units' involvement with emergency preparedness, response, and public health activities; therefore, MRC units and their leaders can learn from one another. <http://www.naccho.org/topics/emergency/MRC/resources/mrcshare.cfm>

To submit information for either MRC: In Touch or MRC: In Focus, please contact Megan Skupien at mskupien@naccho.org or (202)783-1376.



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