



# MRC ★ In Touch

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## Featured Article

### 2009 OCVMRC Awards and Recognition

During the 2009 Integrated Medical, Public Health, Preparedness, and Response Training Summit held in Dallas, the Office of the Civilian Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC) held an Awards and Recognition Ceremony in honor of outstanding Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units and volunteers.

Over 50 nominations were submitted for various awards. However, upon extensive review by an OCVMRC Awards Review Panel, only two recipients were selected for each category.

#### Community Resiliency Award

- MRC GEM unit, Georgia—Sherwin Levinson, unit coordinator, accepted this award.
- Marin MRC unit, California—Brian Waterbury, unit coordinator, accepted this award.

#### Ambassador Award

- Project H.E.L.P. USA MRC unit, Alabama—Dr. Thomas Ellison, project coordinator, accepted this award.
- Virginia Beach MRC unit, Virginia—Jennifer Freeland, state coordinator, accepted this award on behalf of the Virginia Beach MRC unit.

#### Outstanding MRC Responder Award

- Paula Drake, volunteer of the Snohomish County MRC unit in Washington, accepted this award.
- Diana Walker-Moyer, volunteer of the Upper Merrimack Valley MRC unit in Massachusetts, accepted this award.

#### Outstanding MRC Public Health Volunteer Award

- Lida Craft, volunteer of the Montgomery County MRC unit in Kentucky, accepted this award.
- Jeanne Morris, volunteer of the Maui County Health Volunteers in Hawaii, accepted this award.

#### Outstanding MRC Housing Organization Award

- Fairfax County Health Department, Virginia—Dianne Quebral, unit coordinator of the Fairfax MRC unit accepted this award on behalf of the Health Department.
- San Bernardino Medical Society and the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department in California—Brenda Brennan of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's MRC unit accepted the award on behalf of the Medical Society and Sheriff's Department.

### **Outstanding MRC Partner Organization Award**

- Washington Service Corps of Washington—Scott Carlson, Washington state MRC coordinator; Annie Merritt, unit coordinator; Diana Yu, unit director; and Jennifer Burns, volunteer of the Washington Region 3 MRC unit, accepted the award on behalf of the Washington Service Corps.
- American Red Cross, Mid-Rio Grande Chapter of New Mexico—Scott Snyder, Emergency Services Director of the American Red Cross, Mid-Rio Grande Chapter accepted the award.

### **The OCVMRC would also like to thank this year's OCVMRC Awards Review Panel which included the following people:**

- LTJG Shakirat Apelogun, OCVMRC
- Gary Brown, OCVMRC, Region VII
- Becki Chester, NAACHO
- Karen Matsuda, Department of Health and Human Services, Region X
- Ilya Plotkin, Public Health Foundation
- Samuel Schaffzin, OCVMRC

## **MRC/NACCHO Connections**



### **Adolescent HIV/AIDS Prevention**

An increase of HIV/AIDS cases among young adults in the U.S., led the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to enter a cooperative agreement in 2004 with the Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; to build the capacity of local health departments (LHDs) to prevent adolescent HIV, STI, and unintended pregnancy in communities. NACCHO supports LHDs through a variety of activities including the assistance of funding and technical support at LHD demonstration sites.

The NACCHO Web page about HIV/AIDS prevention ([www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/infectious/hiv/index.cfm](http://www.naccho.org/topics/HPDP/infectious/hiv/index.cfm)) offers HIV/AIDS resources, toolkits, policies, and more.

As an important constituent of the public health community, it is vital that MRC units become involved with their communities and provide support services for HIV/AIDS prevention. There are numerous ways for MRC units to initiate the prevention of HIV/AIDS among young adults in communities, below are some ideas to get your unit started:

- Volunteer at an HIV clinic, visit <http://www.hivtest.org/> to find a testing

site in your area;

- Contact your LHD and local schools to discover what HIV/AIDS prevention programs are available;
- Facilitate sessions for adolescents and/or families in your community to discuss any concerns that they might have regarding HIV/AIDS prevention, peer pressure, and substance abuse;
- Invite young adults to become involved with your MRC unit as junior MRC members to encourage them to become involved with positive after-school activities;
- Promote HIV/AIDS prevention through media tools such as Facebook, Web sites, Twitter, etc.;
- Host an event on World AIDS Day (Dec. 1, 2009); and
- Discover how to address HIV, sexually transmitted diseases, and unwanted pregnancies by visiting the CDC Web site, <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/sexualbehaviors/>.

## Announcements



### **Notification of Capacity Building Awards**

MRC units that were awarded a Capacity Building Award in Year 3 (2008-2009) have received notifications and contracts. Signed contracts are due to NACCHO on July 20, 2009 in order for NACCHO to process contracts and send checks by July 31st. If you did not receive a contract, or if your agency is experiencing a delay in processing it, please contact Justine Uhlenbrock at [juhlenbrock@naccho.org](mailto:juhlenbrock@naccho.org).

### **National Volunteer Week 2009: "Celebrating People in Action"**

The theme for National Volunteer Week, commemorated April 19-25, is "Celebrating People in Action." This theme seeks to honor the individuals who dedicate themselves to taking action and solving problems in their communities.

The Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps encourages MRC Leaders to take time during this special week to host events that will focus attention on those MRC members (and partners) who have contributed to the health, safety and resiliency of their community. You can use National Volunteer Week to not only recognize current volunteers, but to recruit new volunteers as well.

### **Mark Your Calendars!**

Start making plans now to attend the NACCHO Annual 2009 Conference, set for July 29 – 31, in Orlando, Florida, at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort.

Under the timely and action-oriented theme, The New Public Health – Working Across Sectors to Leverage Investment in Communities, NACCHO will be hosting the year's largest gathering of local public health officials in the United States!

NACCHO's Annual Conference is frequently cited as one of the most valuable opportunities in the field for local public health practitioners to come together and discuss the critical issues of the moment and to plan

for the future. In 2009, NACCHO will offer exciting learning and networking opportunities geared toward the unique needs of local public health professionals.

Visit [www.naccho.org/events/nacchoannual2009/](http://www.naccho.org/events/nacchoannual2009/) for details.

### **Funding Opportunities for Youth Programs**

A list of funding opportunities for MRC units working with youth. [Click here for details.](#)

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



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