



MRC ★ In Touch

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Featured Article

Minnesota Behavioral Health MRC Presents at the Minnesota Governor's Conference

Representatives from the Minnesota Behavioral Health MRC presented "Behavioral Health and the Duluth Flood" at the Minnesota Governor's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Conference February 12—14.

Nancy Carlson, Minnesota Behavioral Health MRC Unit Administrator, and Joanne Erspamer, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator at Carlton County Public Health, spoke about the behavioral impact of disaster on community recovery, how the Minnesota Behavioral Health MRC can benefit their jurisdiction, and the need for short and long-term behavioral health community recovery plans. The speakers exemplified the June 2012 flood in Duluth as a case study.

Some of the county emergency managers were not aware of the availability of the Minnesota Behavioral Health MRC. Presenting at this event brought greater visibility to the Minnesota Behavioral Health MRC and demonstrated the strong relationship between the MRC and state-level entities.

The speakers also highlighted that the MRC's collection of PsySTART data has assisted the Northeast Minnesota flood-impacted communities to obtaining behavioral health community recovery funding and support from the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Nancy estimates that the use of PsySTART data and the MRC's relationship with state-level emergency management has increased their grant funding by over tenfold from 2010 to 2012!

MRC/NACCHO Connections

Join Us for NACCHO Annual 2013

Register now for NACCHO Annual 2013, July 10—12 in Dallas! NACCHO Annual is the year's largest gathering of local health professionals in the United States. NACCHO is the only national organization that hosts annual conferences that specifically address the needs and concerns of local public health.

MRC Unit Coordinators and volunteers will benefit from a number of volunteer, public health, and preparedness sessions, including:

- "Dollars and Sense: A Local Health Model for School-Located Influenza Vaccination Clinics"
- "What Policymakers Need to Hear from Preparedness Practitioners about Community Engagement"
- "Branding Public Health: One Local Health Department's Journey to Raising Visibility"
- "Health Improvement in a Rural Community: Overcoming the Odds"

For additional information on NACCHO Annual 2013 and to register by June 7 for early bird savings, visit www.nacchoannual.org.

Announcements



Webinar: Boston Marathon Bombing: Disaster Management & Volunteerism

Wednesday, June 12, 1:30 - 2:30PM EDT

More than 400 American Red Cross volunteers were operating first aid tents stationed throughout the Boston Marathon when the bombs exploded. In addition to the initial response, the American Red Cross established long-term relief operations out of its office in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The chaos and uncertainty immediately following the bombings could have interfered with the response, but the volunteers acted heroically to help minimize the physical and mental damage to the Boston community. Leighton Jones, Regional Emergency Services Director for the Eastern Massachusetts American Red Cross, will explain how the events unfolded and the management techniques that enabled the organization and its volunteers to maximize its resources to the response. Afterward, Leighton will field questions from attendees.

[Register now](#) for the webinar!

Norfolk and Peninsula MRC Coordinators Spotlight the MRC

In this [video](#), Linda Botts, Norfolk MRC Coordinator, and Teresa

Blakeslee, Peninsula MRC Coordinator, discuss what the MRC is, what they do, how to become a volunteer, and why it is important to do so now. The video premiered on April 5 during National Public Health Week.

Webinar: Planning for the Next Pandemic: Crunching the Numbers on H1N1

Wednesday, June 19, 2-3PM EDT

NACCHO's webinar will focus on the findings from a recent study that explored hospital surge during the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic. Speakers will discuss the magnitude of H1N1 surge in U.S. hospitals and emergency departments; the impact of H1N1 on surge on in-hospital quality; and the characteristics of hospitals associated with surge. These topics, combined with other findings, will highlight the implications of pandemics on hospital preparedness and will also help prepare public health and healthcare facilities to better predict, plan for and respond to future pandemics.

[Register Now!](#)

CDC Grand Rounds: "Childhood Immunization as a Tool to Address Health Disparities"

This [session](#) of Grand Rounds explored ways that immunization efforts have served to reduce disparities in childhood infectious diseases, demonstrating an effective and cost-effective tool for advancing health equity.

DCVMRC 'Out and About'

MRC will be part of the Physician Assistant Foundation exhibit at the American Academy of Physician Assistants Annual Conference in Washington, DC, on May 28-29.

MRC Region 4 Coordinator, Kathy Handra and Kansas National Association of School Nurses Board Director, Chris Tuck will present on "School Nurse and Medical Reserve Corps Partnerships: Improving Health in the Whole Community" at the 2013 National Association of School Nurses conference, in Orlando, FL on June 29.

To submit information for either MRC: In Touch or MRC: In Focus, please contact Alyson Jordan at ajordan@naccho.org or (202) 783-5528.



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