



MRC In Touch

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

July 18, 2013

www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Featured Article

Junior MRC Members Host a "Teddy Bear Clinic"

On May 1 and 3, 74 Junior MRC members affiliated with the North Little Rock High School MedPro (AR) MRC participated in the sixth annual "Teddy Bear Clinic." The clinic connects tenth grade students in the "Introduction to Medical Professions" class at North Little Rock High School to kindergartners at two local elementary schools. The high school students teach kindergartners the healthy habits that they learned in the class, which include good nutrition, exercise, and oral hygiene.

During the Teddy Bear Clinic, kindergartners bring their "child," a teddy bear or other stuffed animal, to see the "doctor," a tenth grader acting as a medical professional. Kindergartners are paired with a high school student upon entering the clinic, who guides them through different stations. These stations included dental care, nutrition, heart health, car seats, bicycle safety, pharmacy, and a surgeon who sewed up damaged bears. At each station, the high school students teach kindergartners how to keep themselves and their teddy bear healthy and strong.

The Teddy Bear Clinic allows Junior MRC members to demonstrate what they have learned in their health professions class, while reaching kindergartners to encourage developing healthy habits at a young age.

MRC/NACCHO Connections

Five Tips to Get Ready for NACCHO's MRC Capacity Building Awards!

The application period for NACCHO's Capacity Building Awards (CBAs) begins this fall. The CBAs can help grow a unit's capacity by providing funding that can be used for projects, training, or other activities that address your community's local needs and interests in emergency response and/or public health activities. To be prepared when applications open, follow these tips:

1. Update your unit profile on the DCVMRC's website at www.medicalreservecorps.gov.
2. Subscribe to the MRC listserv and add mrc@naccho.org to your safe senders list to ensure that you receive updates about the application and awards processes.
3. Make sure you know your unit number. If you are unsure about your unit number, contact your Regional Coordinator for confirmation.
4. Look within your volunteer base to identify any individuals who might be willing to help with writing and reviewing your unit's application.
5. Identify any useful conference or training opportunities or other activities that could be funded through the CBAs in 2014.

Email mrc@naccho.org if you have any questions about the upcoming CBA process. This year, NACCHO will also offer a Competitive Challenge Award. More details will soon be available and shared on the MRC listserv.

Announcements

August 21 Webinar: Whole Community Inclusion for Community Resilience: Focus on Older Adults

On Wednesday, August 21 from 3:00PM – 4:00PM EDT, local public health officials will present their experiences in engaging older adults in public health preparedness planning efforts. The webinar will also examine practices for inclusion of older adults for catastrophic event planning—such as a mass vaccination campaign in response to a pandemic outbreak. [Register now!](#)

Learn How to Become a Disaster Health Power User

A new course titled: [Becoming a Disaster Health Information Power User](#) (Course ID 1045121) has been posted to MRC-TRAIN. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Demonstrate appropriate knowledge and use of disaster health information resources, which will result in improved patient care;
- Compare and contrast key health information resources and select the most appropriate to improve patient care and patient outcomes;
- Utilize relevant, reliable, and specific disaster health information resources in the field to provide improved services and outcomes for patients; and
- Demonstrate familiarity with available resources and conduct a search to locate up-to-date medical literature that exists outside their area of practice to improve patient care and patient outcomes.

This course is provided free of charge by our partners at the Department of Health Informatics at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. Check it out today!

National Prevention Council 2013 Annual Status Report

The National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council (the National Prevention Council) [2013 Annual Status Report](#) is now available.

The Report shows how each of the departments and agencies that make up the National Prevention Council are making the federal government a leader in prevention. Highlights include the Department of Defense's Healthy Base Initiative, new work from the VA improving access to healthy food, and a multidepartment collaboration to prevent heart attacks and strokes. Additionally, the Report shows positive trends in some leading health indicators, including decreases in the number of youth ages 3 to 11 exposed to second-hand smoke and decreases in stroke and overall cancer deaths.

We Want Your Great Ideas!

NACCHO is pleased to launch this new In Touch template! With the new format, we would like to poll our readers to see if there are any articles you would like to see featured in upcoming issues. What types of articles or features do you include in your newsletters to volunteers? Is there something you'd always wanted to see in "In Touch"? Let us know at mrcnewsletter@naccho.org!



The mission of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local public health departments.

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Please contact Alyson Jordan, NACCHO's MRC Communications Specialist, with any questions or suggestions for the newsletter at 202-783-5528 or at ajordan@naccho.org.