



MRC In Touch

Volunteers Building Strong, Healthy, and Prepared Communities

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www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Featured Article

The CCMRC Gear Up to Tackle the Opioid Crisis in their Community

The Opioid Epidemic—heightened by prescription drug abuse—was recently declared a public health emergency. With such widespread public health concern in mind, the Capitol City Pharmacy Medical Reserve Corps (CCPMRC) in Washington DC, uniquely established to provide pharmacy-related functions during an emergency, focused their 2017 MRC Challenge Award to addressing this crisis in their local community. Supported by Howard University College of Pharmacy and the Washington DC Department of Health, the CCPMRC is a group of local volunteers made up of pharmacy personnel.

The CCPMRC designed a multifaceted approach to battling the opioid crisis in their community—seeking collaboration with DC Department on Aging, local senior homes, and local community organizations to coordinate a year-long community outreach activity to help educate seniors ages 60 and older on the signs, symptoms and proper management of prescription drug abuse, in all 8 Wards of the District of Columbia. Their initiative allows for pharmacists, pharmacy students and technicians who are the drug experts, to engage with this at risk population, often victims of polypharmacy and are prone to drug misuse and abuse; “this is key as we have observed that many seniors within our community are on long-standing opioids and pain management”, stated MRC Student Director, Detron Brown. Thus far, they participated in two outreach events within senior homes, impacting approximately 63 seniors in a total.

To ensure their volunteers had the appropriate training prior to engaging their community, the CCPMRC conducted their first training program, educating 66 health professionals and 52 pharmacists on the proper use and indications for naloxone. Most recently, they also hosted a training symposium with another interdisciplinary unit focusing their discussion on changing the patterns and indications for opioid pain management. As they continue their initiative, the CCPMRC hopes to expand their training efforts to change prescriber behavior.

The year-long community outreach activities aims to foster their relationship with the broader community while engaging their target population. To add value, pharmacy students—making up the majority of the CCPMRC volunteer cadre—are indoctrinated to become a resource for elderly patients, educating them to better understand pain management and prevent substance abuse.

If you're interested in applying for a Challenge Award, visit <https://application.naccho.org/Public/Awards/Detail/228>.

MRC/NACCHO Connection

Coming Soon: The 2017 Network Profile of the MRC

NACCHO will soon release the *2017 Network Profile of the Medical Reserve Corps* report, a comprehensive look at the way MRC units connect and partner to serve the needs of their communities. With more than 769 units participating, and a response rate of 82%, research revealed the network continues to contribute to the nation's health and safety through a commitment to local public health, emergency preparedness, and response efforts. The full report and companion pieces will soon be available at network continues to contribute to the nation's health and safety through a commitment to local public health, emergency preparedness, and response efforts. The full report and companion pieces will soon be available at <http://bit.ly/2017MRCNetworkProfile>.

Announcements

Opportunity to Contribute to Research on Recovery

NACCHO will be conducting key informant interviews in late November through early January to develop a deeper understanding of recovery challenges at the local level. We are currently looking for local health department representatives to participate who have experienced real responses to discuss the recovery challenges that they encountered. The information collected during these interviews will be used to support an evidence-based planning guide/template addressing recovery needs of local health departments and to develop a document that will assess the current state of recovery planning and highlight recovery gaps and challenges at the local level.

Interviews are expected to last 30-45 minutes, will be held virtually over conference call, and interview questions will be provided in advance of the call. Volunteers can include local health department representatives that were involved in either a real response or exercise and have experience with recovery. If you are interested in participating or learning more about this opportunity, please contact Laura Phonharath (LPhonharath@naccho.org) by December 1st, 2017.

NACCHO's Model Practices - Applications Now Being Accepted

[NACCHO's Model Practices Program](#) nationally honors and recognizes outstanding local public health practice and shares the outstanding practices through the [Model Practices Database](#). By submitting a practice, LHDs contribute to the overall improvement of public health through effective evidence-based practice methods.

NACCHO strives to recognize the best local public health practices in the country. This is why we created the Model Practices Awards. All Model Practices winners will be recognized at the [NACCHO Annual 2018](#) Grand Awards Ceremony. If your local health department would like to apply for a Model Practice Award, or if you want to learn more about NACCHO's past Model Practice Awardees, you've come to the right place! You can find a full listing of past Model Practice Awardees in our Model Practices Database.

Questions? If you have any questions concerning the Model Practices program please e-mail practices@naccho.org and a member of NACCHO's Model Practices team will get back with you.

Mission Ready Packages - Resources Available for MRC Units

Developing [Mission Ready Packages](#) (MRP) is way that MRC units can build unit capability, prepare for emergencies in their community, and also potentially identify and develop resources to support their neighbor states. MRC Volunteers can support a variety of response missions and the MRP tool provides a mechanism for providing mutual aid through the EMAC system.

To learn more about MRPs download the [Mission Ready Packages Resource Guide for MRC Unit Leaders](#) or watch the eLearning [MRC Mission Ready Packages Introduction and Overview](#). The resource guide provides background information on the evolution of MRPs, examples of emergency response activities that MRC units support, developing MRPs to fit local response needs, and examples of MRPs for MRC units. The MRP Resource Guide is available for download and can also be found in NACCHO's Toolbox in the MRC Toolkit.

NACCHO Releases Report on Local Radiation Preparedness Efforts

NACCHO, in collaboration with the CDC Radiation Studies Branch, developed a report entitled "[A Mixed-Methods Approach to Understanding Radiation Preparedness within Local Health Departments](#)." The report includes information about how local health departments are preparing for radiation events and examines the barriers and facilitators to radiation preparedness planning, highlighting partnerships with volunteers in radiation planning.

Data for this report was gathered from a 2015 survey of local emergency preparedness coordinators and through targeted key informant interviews with select local health department preparedness representatives. The report also contains a variety of radiation preparedness resources and can be used by national, federal, state, and local public health officials to learn more about local health department radiation planning efforts, priorities, resources, and partnerships.

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

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