



April 13, 2018

www.medicalreservecorps.gov

Featured Article

Regional Readiness: Teaming Youth with MRCs for Multi-Generational Preparedness

The Upper Merrimack Valley (UMV) MRC, in partnership with the Greater River Valley (GRV) MRC, (Massachusetts) received a 2016 Challenge Award for their project titled *Regional Readiness: Teaming Youth with MRCs for Multi-Generational Preparedness*, focused on connecting youth and older adults through emergency preparedness activities. The project was multi-faceted and included 20 separate educational events, assembling 100 emergency preparedness kits for vulnerable populations, and enrolling 70 people in a Medical Special Needs Registry.

The MRC units had three 'kit packing' events that included Boy Scouts, high school students, and college students. The youth were engaged in sharing information about preparedness and compiling essential materials with which to educate the public. The UMV also engaged a HOSA student to present 72-hour kits at a large fair, which was later televised repeatedly on that town's cable station. They estimate that they reached approximately 500 vulnerable area residents through presentations, TV programming, and other outreach activities. The participants received information on preparedness, 72-hour kits, and/or support for their preparedness needs.

In addition, three college interns contacted 70 vulnerable residents in their homes, collaborating with social workers to identify those who may wish to be contacted. A flyer was created specifically for the Medical Special Needs Registry and was supplemented with existing flyers from FEMA and other federal or public health sources. These resources were included in the 72-hour kits and distributed at fairs.

To develop the Special Needs registry, they integrated municipal departments from Information Technology, Police, Fire, EMS, Emergency Management, COA staff, and outreach coordinators. The registry was modeled after a similar program in Rhode Island and the *Preparedness Buddies* program from Brookline, MA. The program encouraged those who might have additional difficulties in a disaster to sign up in advance, so that they could be contacted proactively and early in the case of an emergency. The goal was to empower individuals to be more self-sufficient and aware of disasters in the case of an emergency and thereby mitigate overburdening emergency response in a time of need.

The GRV unit coordinator emphasized that seniors are familiar with 'civil defense' and prior needs to become self-sufficient in a disaster. He explained in numerous presentations that these measures are not only good for emergency preparedness, but also for general life. Questions posed to the audience included: "Wouldn't you WANT to have all your important phone numbers and medical information in one place that's easy to find? Wouldn't you WANT a loved one to know where your key documents are, so they could help you in a disaster? Wouldn't you be relieved to have a grab-and-go bag with all your essentials, so you could leave quickly without having to worry about missing something you need, like extra hearing aid batteries and 'cheater' glasses and the number of your pharmacy?" Residents chimed in with great ideas, such as unexpected uses for duct tape in an emergency, and times they'd had to be ready and fend for themselves in a disaster. The coordinator said he learned a great deal from their shared wisdom.

The units shared some lessons learned that are worth noting for other units undertaking this type of endeavor. For any kind of elder outreach, it is essential to work closely with the senior advocate at the local council on aging. That person can open doors, serving as the liaison to vulnerable residents, and is a good resource to ensure the project meets the senior populations needs. It is important to that events are consistently and widely publicized with a clear message on the impact of the audiences activities as 'force multipliers'. They also learned that it's harder than expected to work with young people. Seniors are the easiest to reach since most are available during the day, while teens are in school and busy with sports and clubs evenings and weekends.

Overall the project resulted in 40 MRC volunteers contributing 120 hours of service and 200 community members that were directly served and approximately 500 community members indirectly served.

MRC/NACCHO Connection

Apply for the 2018 National Health Security Award

Apply for the 2018 National Health Security Award

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the [Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response](#) (ASPR) are pleased to announce the third annual *National Health Security Award!* This award recognizes health departments that have demonstrated significant accomplishments in implementing health security-related initiatives within their jurisdictions. [Applications will be accepted now through June 1, 2018.](#) Awardees will be featured in NACCHO's publications and receive a scholarship to NACCHO Annual. [Read more...](#)

Resources to Promote MRC Capabilities

NACCHO has compiled relevant statistics from the 2017 MRC Network Profile and developed two Fact Sheets that MRC units can use to promote the capabilities of the MRC network.

[Network Profile Fact Sheet for Emergency Planners](#)

[Public Health and Community Stakeholders](#)

We encourage MRC units to share these resources with partner agencies and at outreach events.

Building Workforce Resilience through the Practice of Psychological First Aid - A Course for Supervisors and Leaders

The purpose of this course is three-fold.

- First, it introduces leaders to the concept of Psychological First Aid as a leadership tool to build workforce resilience.
- Second, it educates leaders about the core components of Psychological First Aid.
- Third, it provides an opportunity for leaders to apply PFA within scenario-based exercises.

This online course can be found on [NACCHO University](#).

Individuals in health, public health, and emergency management leadership roles are faced with many challenges when their organizations are activated in response to a disaster. Although mechanisms and processes are in place to support these responses, the abrupt change in focus from normal operations to disaster response operations and the intensity of these devastating events increase the level of urgency and stress for the entire organization.

Announcements

Surgeon General Announces Naloxone Recommendations

Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams [issued a health advisory](#) yesterday urging more Americans to carry the life-saving medication naloxone that can temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. The medication is currently carried by many first responders, such as EMTs and fire department personnel and police officers, but the Surgeon General is now recommending family, friends, and those personally at risk of an opioid overdose to also keep the drug on hand. Dr. Adams also wrote an [op-ed for the Journal of the American Medical Association](#) on how health care providers can raise naloxone awareness.

Recording Now Available for ASPR TRACIE Webinar: Healthcare Response to a No-Notice Incident: Las Vegas

HHS ASPR's Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) hosted a webinar on March 28, 2018 with healthcare providers who responded to the October 2017 mass shooting incident in Las

Vegas. The diverse panel covered topics such as surge management, triage, prioritization of surgical care, incorporating pediatric providers in adult response operations, and mortuary response.

The presentation and recording for the “Healthcare Response to a No-Notice Incident: Las Vegas” webinar are now available [HERE](#). The title page of the presentation includes a link to the recording. You can also directly access the recording at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/3579578141668518147>. You will be asked to enter your name and email address prior to accessing the recording.



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.

1201 Eye Street, NW, 4th Floor Washington, DC 20005

P 202-783-5550 F 202-783-1583

© National Association of County and City Health Officials

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.