

My Show Sessions

Bosque School Junior Medical Reserve Corps (MRC): Carving a path for the next generation of healthcare professionals

Poster Session

According to the American Hospital Association, the U.S. health industry could face a shortage of 124,000 physicians by 2033. The Bosque School Junior Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) can provide an early pathway for students to enter healthcare. This session discusses the background and history of the first Junior MRC in the nation and how it can be replicated across the U.S. Original student research will be presented in the session, including outcomes of participation in this program related to career choices in medicine.

MRC STTRONG: Aligning Arizona's Medical Reserve Corps to address future cascading challenges

Monday, March 25, 2024

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

In this session, participants will explore how Arizona's Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units expanded their capabilities to address future public health issues and cascading challenges. During the COVID-19 response, the MRC demonstrated an essential value to their communities. This prompted the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) to dedicate 50 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan toward the revitalization of MRCs nationwide. The funding was dispersed through the State Territory Tribal Nations Representative Organizations for Next Generation (STTRONG) grants. This generous grant assisted Maricopa County, Arizona's MRC units to strengthen, build capacity, and form statewide partnerships over a 2-year period. This session will cover key findings, challenges, and successes of the grant. Participants are welcome to share their STTRONG grant experiences as they learn about how local MRCs can to expand with the goal of enhancing public health preparedness.

Prepping Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers for the next rumble: Regional bedside and coordinating center readiness in long-term care

Monday, March 25, 2024

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

This session features a case study of post-pandemic collaboration to enhance readiness for Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers at long-term care facilities. MRC volunteers supported emergency response teams by assisting either at the bedside or in a coordinating center during emergencies affecting long-term care facilities. This collaborative training initiative strengthened regional capacity to mitigate surge events while sustaining volunteer engagement. Presenters will share mission sets, job action sheets, training curricula, and a project plan with participants.

Volunteer Coordination And Evaluation In Rural Appalachia: A Story About A New Mrc In The Wake Of A Pandemic

Monday, March 25, 2024

3:30 pm - 4:15 pm

Rural communities in the Appalachian region of North Carolina have been historically underserved in the field of public health. With a team of local leaders and volunteers, the Appalachian Medical Reserve Corps seeks to increase public health preparedness and response by creating an environment that fosters community engagement, volunteerism, and resiliency, all while increasing access to quality healthcare services. The Appalachian MRC will recruit trained medical professionals from

within the community and train community members in basic emergency response. The program will address structural and institutional inequities in mental health Psychological First Aid and increase the opportunity to achieve sustainable change in communities. It is also the Appalachian MRC's goal to evaluate the impact that a local MRC will have on the communities in which it serves.

Medical Reserve Corps to the Rescue! Loss of oral health access creates workforce opportunity for Medical Reserve Corps recruitment, training and development

Monday, March 25, 2024

4:30 pm - 5:15 pm

Do you have healthcare access issues in your community? Consider strategies to improve workforce recruitment and development through a National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Operational Readiness Awards (ORA) grant. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Southwest Vermont used a \$10,000 NACCHO ORA grant to open pediatric dental pop-up clinics and recruit dental providers to deliver much-needed oral health services in the community. Relationships with providers and community partners have allowed the placement of clinics and services within underserved populations in Southern Vermont. This program has the potential to be replicated by MRCs across the country.

Reevaluation of disaster core competencies: Updates for a new decade

Monday, March 25, 2024

4:30 pm - 5:15 pm

The American Medical Association's (AMA) core competencies have been the foundation for learning curricula among domestic and international response organizations, including the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). Core competencies have also informed more specialized standards for disaster nursing, mental health, and pediatrics. However, in the last ten years, the field of disaster response has matured, and collective experiences such as the COVID-19 pandemic response have altered understanding of what is truly important in effective disaster response. The National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH) convened an expert stakeholder group to review and update the set of core competencies to reflect the evolution of the profession. In this session, presenters will provide an overview of the original core competencies and discuss key themes from the expert working group discussion.

Developing leadership from within: How one Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) strengthened its capacity to serve its community

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

How can a group of volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) respond effectively to a myriad of community needs? How can coordinators match volunteer strengths and interests to the most urgent situations? This session provides an overview of how the MRC of Dutchess County, New York, developed volunteer leadership within its membership to create a network of individuals able to respond to emergency preparedness and response, mental health, animal rescue, and more. Come learn how these teams are created and activated, how members are trained, and how the MRC partners with government and local agencies to strengthen the work of these teams.

20 Years of Service: Shining a light on the impact, strengths and future directions of the Medical Reserve Corps through data from the 2022 Medical Reserve Corps Network Profile

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

4:30 pm - 5:15 pm

This session will provide findings from the 2022 Medical Reserve Corps Network Profile by the

National Association of County and City Health Officials. This biennial profile is a nationally representative assessment of the premiere volunteer organization active in disasters, the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The findings of the profile will be discussed as well as key insights, impacts, and future directions of the MRC.

Building the capacity and capabilities of the volunteer workforce through timely training

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

4:30 pm - 5:15 pm

Volunteers are an essential aspect of effectively preparing for and responding to a variety of emergency situations. Timely, competency-based training for the volunteer workforce is critical to ensuring that volunteers have the knowledge and skills necessary to respond when their communities are in need. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) recognizes this need and utilizes the MRC-TRAIN learning management system to provide access to timely training to build and align the knowledge and skills of the MRC network of volunteers. Learn about the resources and competency-based trainings available in MRC-TRAIN and how MRC-TRAIN is a valuable tool in building the capacity of the volunteer workforce.

Improving diversity in the Public Health Reserve Corps through community engagement

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

The Public Health Reserve Corps (PHRC) is Public Health-Seattle & King County (PHSKC) is a local branch of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program. Volunteers regularly support response partners by providing health services and supporting emergencies such as PHSKC's COVID-19 response. Locally, Black, indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) communities experienced the highest rates of positive COVID-19 cases and, as a result, more significant impacts on overall health and well-being. Since 80% of the PHRC members self-identified as Caucasian, PHSKC was concerned that racial makeup of the volunteer force did not reflect the communities served. By connecting with the Latinx and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander health commission, PHSKC focused on building a more diverse volunteer program which aimed to cultivate trust within underserved BIPOC communities.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and community partnerships increase local preparedness and support public health departments and community organizations through outreach

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Collaboration with local public health departments is needed to increase community preparedness and build resiliency within our communities. University of Texas's Medical Reserve Corps (UTMRC) collaborated with various organizations across the Austin, Texas area to increase community preparedness and expand training capabilities for local communities. This session will discuss the results of the community-focused emergency preparedness training.

Medical Reserve Corps volunteer interests and skill levels compared to public health outcomes

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds and provide critical assistance during public health emergencies. Properly trained MRC volunteers have been shown to operate better within the incident management system and provide more effective delivery of services than minimally trained MRC. Proper training ultimately reduces morbidity and mortality from the disaster event. This presentation will discuss training topics that are of interest to

volunteers, at the appropriate skill level of the volunteers, and present the findings in relation to known health outcomes. Specific mission-critical trainings improve the public health response.

Processes in preparedness: Aligning your organization and partnerships toward outcomes

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Organizational processes and performance measures must change with business and workforce demands. Understanding organizational processes as they relate to mission, vision, and values helped drive organizational process improvement for the public health preparedness program within the Manatee County, Florida Department of Health (FDOH-Manatee). With assistance from The Florida Sterling Council, FDOH-Manatee has strengthened its response capabilities, its Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit, and developed lasting partnerships with other organizations. The Manasota MRC, as part of the FDOH-Manatee public health preparedness program, will share the process indicators it has developed with other preparedness and response divisions. These process indicators have been instrumental in enabling continuous quality improvement, and building stronger partnerships with other organizations.

Radiation Community Reception Center (CRC) training and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

This session will discuss the results of a Community Reception Center (CRC) training on Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers. It has been shown that the affective disposition of MRC impacts their volunteerism and the effectiveness of their response. The session shows that a CRC training, as well as medical knowledge and perceptions of preparedness, have been shown to increase the number of disaster survivors correctly routed through a CRC.

Randolph, Massachusetts drive through emergency dispensing site (EDS)

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

As Covid-19 vaccines became available in January 2021, Randolph, Massachusetts utilized a drive through emergency dispensing site (EDS) to vaccinate residents throughout Norfolk County, Massachusetts. Since there is no hospital, health center, or any other medical service available to the residents of Randolph, healthcare workers and emergency responders converted a well-known community center parking lot into a Covid-19 resource center. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided funding reimbursement. Collaboration between Randolph's half time health department, emergency responders, contract healthcare workers, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) volunteers, and the town manager created an effective Incident Command System (ICS) and enhanced future emergency dispensing site capabilities.

The increase Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) engagement and sustainment project

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

San Diego County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) received a huge influx of volunteers during the COVID-19 emergency. This created far more new volunteers in the Disaster Healthcare Volunteer System (DHV) than current volunteers, prompting an evaluation of the current system. San Diego County MRC expanded current resources by focusing on specialty teams to increase engagement and retention during different disaster events. During the COVID-19 response, the goal was to build and sustain deployment opportunities. It was difficult to determine which volunteers were actively seeking participatory opportunities and which volunteers were qualified for those opportunities. To

address this challenge, volunteers were reevaluated within the DHV system to determine their current role and level of activity. This session discusses San Diego County's improvements in the MRC recruitment and retention process.

The success of effective volunteer management based on the experiences of past emergencies

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

This session presents the Puerto Rico Medical Reserve Corps' (MRC) recent emergency responses. Emergencies include Hurricane Maria, Hurricane Fiona, the COVID-19 pandemic, and earthquakes. The session explores how the MRC Relief Emotional Support Team (REST) emerged from the emergencies experienced in recent years. Presenters will demonstrate strategies used to recruit volunteers using funds received by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the MRC State, Territory and Tribal Nations, Representative Organizations for Next Generation (MRC-STTRONG) grant program.

Create an emergency warming shelter plan for the unhoused

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

4:30 pm - 5:15 pm

In the winter of 2022, the City of Somerville, Massachusetts was facing severe cold weather and the existing shelters were full. Partner agencies serving this population estimated there were more than 40 people living on the streets who were susceptible to harm or death from the extreme cold. City staff quickly contracted with the Somerville Homeless Coalition to open an additional overnight shelter. The city provided the physical site, emergency management support, and some supplies. The Homeless Coalition provided staff, sleep mats, personal hygiene/safety supplies, food, translation services and case management. The City's first responders provided transportation to the shelter. This was the first time the city had collaborated on an emergency overnight shelter of this kind, resulting in lives being saved. This initiative quickly leveraged community resources, including the Medical Reserve Corp (MRC), and is both replicable and scalable when certain extreme weather thresholds are met.