



Franklin County & Columbus Medical Reserve Corps

FC&CMRC Quarterly Newsletter

The Franklin County & Columbus Medical Reserve Corps (FC&C MRC) is dedicated to establishing teams of professional and medical volunteers to contribute their skills and expertise during disasters, as well as throughout the year for community health promotion.

MRC Central Region Volunteer Training Summit-SAVE THE DATE!!

When: February 15th from 9am-3:30pm (registration/breakfast will begin at 8:30am)

Where: Quest Conference Center , 8405 Pulsar Place, Columbus OH 43240

Who: All MRC volunteers from the Central Ohio Region Units (Franklin and Columbus, Marion, Madison, Delaware, Pickaway, Union, Morrow, Licking, Wyandot, Knox, Logan, Crawford, Fairfield, Hardin, and Fayette)

What: The Central Ohio region's 2nd MRC Volunteer Training Summit is a FREE all day conference with multiple trainings on Mental Health, PODs, Social Media and Emergencies and more. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided to volunteers at no cost. All MRC volunteers will receive MRC gift items, t-shirt and a certificate for attending. Registration is limited .

To register: The official invitation will go out after the first of the new year. Look for it in your weekly training and volunteer opportunity email.

NACCHO Grant-Factors For Success Demonstration Project

Thanks to 4 MRC volunteers and the MRC leadership team our unit completed 12 documents, including 3 Standard operating plans, multiple FAQs, timelines and more for this grant. The documents focused on alerting, activating and demobilizing volunteers. Over 60 hours of volunteer time was put into making the documents during a month and a half and even more hours were given during the review period. The grant documents were submitted in mid December and the national MRC office will be sharing them across the nation as resources for other units to be able to implement into their plans.



Seasonal Flu Clinic Success

Thank you to our MRC nurses for a successful fall 2013 of seasonal flu clinics! We had over 20 MRC nurses give vaccinations in over 29 school flu clinics with both Columbus Public Health (CPH) and Franklin County Public Health (FCPH). Volunteers vaccinated children at school based clinics in Columbus City Schools and Southwestern City Schools in the month of November and December. To prepare for the large amounts of clinics , volunteers attended an immunization training (FCPH hosted two) to familiarize them with staff and public health protocol.



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Successful Trainings/Exercises and Opportunities

Below is a highlight list of events/exercises and trainings the MRC participated in during October, November, December of 2013

- MRC Leadership Team conference calls and in person meetings
- MRC Language Team
- FCPH Seasonal Flu Clinics
- CPH Seasonal Flu Clinics
- FCPH Rabies Vaccination Clinic
- Multiple In Person MRC Orientations
- Preparedness Partner's Webinar
- Nationwide Children's Hospital- 2 full scale exercises
- Badge ID Sessions
- Factors for Success: Volunteers gave over 60 hours of grant work

Closing out 2013!

- We had over 20 MRC nurses give vaccinations in over 29 school flu clinics.
- We had 30 MRC volunteers give out thousands of public health information flyers and almost 1,500 bottles of hand sanitizer at the county and state fairs.
- MRC volunteers participated in exercises with Nationwide Children's Hospital, the Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency, HandsOn Central Ohio, Columbus City Schools, both Health Departments, and the Airport.
- MRC volunteers participated in the Franklin County Citizen Corps Training Summit.
- We had over 95 MRC volunteers participate in National Preparedness Month activities this past September.
- We had 23 MRC volunteers participate in 4 Franklin County Public Health rabies vaccination clinics.
- We had 17 MRC volunteers assist with multiple Columbus Public Health farmer's markets.
- We trained, exercised and engaged over 1,900 MRC volunteers this year (not a unique count).
- We recruited 174 new MRC volunteers this year.



A Note From Your Coordinator

Thank you so much to all of you who joined, volunteered, trained and responded with the MRC this past year. Your engagement has made our community safer and healthier and I am excited about all the activities we have coming up next year in 2014. I hope you and your families have a wonderful holiday season and a great New Year. My resolution is to make our unit even better in the upcoming year. I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months ahead!

Tessa Fite, FC&C MRC Coordinator



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The Numbers: Have it!

- We engaged and trained over 200 volunteers
- We participated in over 40 different opportunities
- We gave approx. 300+ volunteer/training hours
- We recruited 13 new volunteers for our unit!

May 8th Full Scale Hospital Exercise

The Central Ohio Trauma System and all of the Central Ohio region hospitals are having a full scale exercise on May 8th, 2014. Like many of our past exercises we will need several hundred volunteers to participate as "victims". Volunteers will be transported and processed through a hospital emergency department based on the exercise scenario. Volunteers will get "moulage" or fake injuries to make it more realistic for clinicians. MRC leadership team members will be helping to manage the volunteers the day of the event. Please watch for more details and sign up via our weekly email starting in February.

Maternity Leave

I am pleased to announce that I am expecting my first child on April 6th, 2013. I will be on maternity leave for 3 months. During this time the MRC will continue many of its usual activities with MRC leadership team volunteers acting as the volunteer coordinator for the events. Please watch upcoming Friday training emails for more details. When I return at the end of June I will continue to be the FC&C MRC Coordinator but on a part time basis. I am excited to be able to continue to support this wonderful program and all of you!

Winter Call Down Drill January 14th

Every year we do two call down drills to test our alerting system and give new volunteers practice responding to an emergency alert. Our next alert will be January 14th at some point during business hours. Please make sure to update your phone and email information. If you do not have an email listed please make sure you add it. Thanks!

Database Updates

- Please remember to periodically log into your Ohio Responds Volunteer Registry– it is important that you keep your contact information current and complete.
- We just finished re-credentialing all licensed volunteers in December 2013. Many of you still need to add your license number to your profile. Please do this as soon as possible!

**As the weather gets cold, snowy and icy please remember to update your to-go kit with appropriate items. Stay safe! To find out how to be prepared for winter weather go here:
<http://www.ready.gov/winter-weather>**



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VOLUNTEER TEAM Updates

Leadership Team:

This team continues to meet/coordinate on a monthly basis either in person or via conference call. The purpose of this team is to encourage leadership among volunteers and to get feedback from active volunteers on the direction of the FC&C MRC. Leadership Team members will be eligible for leadership roles in a large scale emergency and have the opportunity to participate in additional volunteer opportunities that do not go out to the general MRC group. Leadership positions are currently open. Next Team Meeting will be: A conference call on January 15th, 2014. Email tessafite@franklincountyohio.gov to get call in information.

Mental Health Team:

Mental health is an important part of an emergency response. Our mental health volunteers take a Psychological First Aid training and support both the health departments and partners in the community during a response. We partner with ADAMH and the Red Cross. We have recently developed Just-In-Time Training materials and Job Action Sheets. We last met on August 20th. We will meet again in early spring 2014. Members of this team include (but not limited to); LSWs, RNs, Psychologists, Psychiatrists, School Counselors and more.

Language Team:

Are you fluent in another language in addition to English? Are you willing to volunteer to help with language capabilities during a disaster? We would love to have you serve on a language team. This team does outreach in the community year round through participation in festivals and training. We meet on a semi annual basis. Next Team Meeting will be: Summer, 2014. Email notification will go out to volunteers signed up on the language team.

POD Team:

A POD, or Point of Dispensing, is a method of response in a public health crisis requiring the widespread distribution of medication. In the event of such an emergency, multiple PODs may be set up throughout the community to offer medication to many people. Clinical volunteers such as pharmacists, nurses, paramedics, and physicians are encouraged to join as well as non-clinical members in a support role. POD team members can participate in several trainings, drills and exercises per year. Completion of POD101 online is a requirement. <http://www.volunteermrc.com/training.html>

