

REGION 4—EASTERN CONNECTICUT

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

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HONORING H1N1 HEROES

On May 8, 2010, the three Region 4 Medical Reserve Corps units hosted a breakfast at the Norwich Inn and Spa, Norwich, CT, to honor Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and other public health volunteers for the many hours that they selflessly dedicated to containing the spread of H1N1 influenza. Dubbed “H1N1 Heroes”, fifty volunteers from throughout eastern CT attended. These volunteers were nurses, physician assistants and doctors, individuals with expertise in behavioral health and security, and other dedicated individuals. The MRC unit leaders emphasized that no one profession or group of individuals, singularly, was responsible for the success of the H1N1 immunization campaign, but that it was the synergy and collaboration of individuals and organizations who brought the many and various skills and talents to each clinic.

State Senator Edith Prague, 19th District, and State Representative Kevin Ryan, 139th Assembly District, presented an official citation from the Connecticut General Assembly to the individual units of Connecticut Region 4 Medical Reserve Corps. These citations recognized the efforts of the region’s volunteers to vaccinate over 15,000 residents of eastern Connecticut during the 2009-2010 H1N1 influenza vaccination campaign, successfully impacting the progression of the H1N1 influenza pandemic. The citations were presented to representatives of the three Medical Reserve Corps units: the Ledge Light Health District, the Northeast District Department of Health, and the Uncas Health District. All H1N1 volunteers at the breakfast were presented with a Medical Reserve Corps certificate of appreciation. For those who were unable to attend the breakfast, certificates of appreciation were mailed to approximately 300 other H1N1 Hero volunteers.

In honor of National Nurses Week, all H1N1 volunteer nurses were presented with a key chain in recognition of their dedication to their profession. All Medical Reserve Corps volunteers who participated in the H1N1 immunization campaign received an *H1N1 Hero* lapel pin, which was provided by the National Office of the Medical Reserve Corps. *H1N1 Hero* pins were mailed to all Medical Reserve Corps H1N1 volunteers who were unable to attend the breakfast; additionally, the nurses received key chains.

Senator Prague and State Rep. Kevin Ryan



LLHD MRC Volunteers Ira and Ginny Haas



NORTHEAST CT MRC

A Community Response to a Community Need

Despite being a new organization that began recruitment and orientations only in June of 2009, the Northeast Connecticut Medical Reserve Corps (NECT MRC) now has an enrollment of over 60 members. These volunteers were a critical part of the successful delivery of 68 free vaccination clinics held in Northeastern Connecticut which protected over 5,000 people from H1N1 influenza.

Volunteers served in many essential roles at the clinics. They welcomed people to the clinic, provided direction and assistance, and helped review medical paperwork. Some NECT MRC volunteers also served as nurse vaccinators or as vaccinator assistants. Over the course of six months they worked in many community venues including town halls, senior centers, and in the schools of our twelve northeastern towns.

In April, NECT MRC held an after-action meeting of clinic staff to gather their input about what went well at the clinics, and what areas could be improved. Their feedback provided valuable lessons learned to be incorporated into future pandemic planning.

The time donated by each of our wonderful volunteers made the clinics run smoothly and their service was truly an example of a community response to a community need. We are very grateful for their service and we simply could not have done it without them.

Derek May, NECT MRC Director



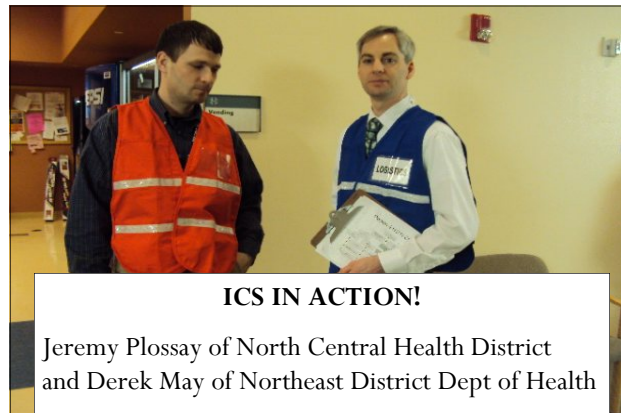
Sue Beer and Ruth Randolph at the Regional H1N1 Clinic



Customers waiting for their H1N1 shots at the Regional H1N1 Clinic in Norwich

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM

Many of you saw the Incident Command System (ICS) in action at the H1N1 clinics. ICS is a standardized, on-scene, all hazards incident management approach that enables a coordinated response among various jurisdictions and functional agencies, both public and private. ICS 100 and ICS 700 are required training for MRC volunteers. If you have not attended such training, you can go on line to MRC Train and take on-line training in the comfort of your home! www.mrc.train.org



ICS IN ACTION!

Jeremy Plossay of North Central Health District and Derek May of Northeast District Dept of Health

UNCAS HD MRC

Twenty medical/health care provider volunteers and four non-medical providers from the Uncas Health District Medical Reserve Corps covering Mass Dispensing Area 38 answered the call to assist with implementing H1N1 immunization clinics throughout the northern tier of New London County. Beginning in October 2009 through April 2010, they helped to vaccinate over 3,500 people. Working side-by-side with public health and behavioral health volunteers, as well as security personnel., they staffed nearly 50 clinics in a variety of settings. These volunteers represent advanced practice nurses, a physician assistant, registered and licensed practical nurses. The organizational skills of the non-medical providers were invaluable to keep the clinics running smoothly. The Uncas Health Health District Medical Reserve Corps volunteers were indispensable to the success of the H1N1 immunization campaign. We could not have done it without you!



Thank you to Deborah Buxton-Morris ,the MRC Regional Lead and Connie Capacchione from Uncas Health District for all the planning they did for the H1N1 Hero Breakfast at the Norwich Inn and Spa.

LEDGE LIGHT HD MRC

Ledge Light Health District owes its success at offering the most H1N1 vaccines of any health department/district in Connecticut to their volunteers.

- Over 11,000 vaccines provided at more than 23 large public clinics and 24 small clinics
- 30% of the volunteers were MRC volunteers
- 125 volunteers: aged 16-83 years of age
- 40% of the volunteers were nurses
- 47 nurses and 10 physicians were volunteer vaccinators at the clinics



Mike Mader, a new MRC volunteer, helped out at 11 clinics for Ledge Light and the Regional H1N1 clinic in Norwich. Thanks Mike!

HOTWASH

Over 50 people attended a dinner program in April to participate in a “hotwash”, an after action discussion, on the H1N1 Clinics. There was great input from every attendee that will help Ledge Light to improve their mass dispensing plans. An introduction to the MRC was provided after the HOTWASH. We are pleased to welcome 7 new MRC Volunteers that include a RN, pharmacist, business owners, EMT and software engineer! A wonderful, diverse group that will bring much to the organization.



H1N1 Hero Breakfast at the Norwich Inn and Spa

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THE REGION 4 MRC IS DEDICATED TO PROVIDING TRAINED VOLUNTEERS TO RESPOND DURING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND SUPPORT THE U.S. SURGEON GENERAL'S PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES.

**Those who can, do
Those who can do more,
volunteer!**

**WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS
STAYS IN VEGAS**
EXCEPT FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS THAT MAY BE LEFT BEHIND

CONNIE'S NOTES FROM THE 2010 INTEGRATED MEDICAL, PUBLIC HEALTH, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE SUMMIT IN LAS VEGAS

...however she is sharing some information!

Individuals that have limited English language skills pose challenges in emergencies. Emergency instructions that are being broadcast on radio or by reverse 911 technology need to be in several languages. One also needs to keep in mind that undocumented immigrants may have a distrust of authority, and need to be assured that in seeking help for themselves or their families that they will not be deported. **If you speak another language and are willing to help with translating preparedness materials before an emergency happens, please contact your MRC coordinator.**

Connie was impressed with one presentation on an organization called evacuteer.org. The purpose of the organization is to help people who are unable to self evacuate, get out of New Orleans safely during an evacuation. One of the things stressed is the use of social marketing techniques to get out messages. For more, go to www.evacuteer.org.

Some web sites that might be of interest: www.diversitypreparedness.org

www.disasterrecoveryworkinggroup.gov

www.nyc.gov/health/bhpp



REGIONAL ICS DRILL A SUCCESS

Reprinted from the National Association of County and City Health Officials Website Blog :

The Incident Command System (ICS) has played an important role in the response to H1N1 nationwide. This tactic helped a local health department in implementing an efficient vaccine clinic while reinforcing community partnerships.

On March 6, 2010, the Ledge Light Health District (LLHD) Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Connecticut participated in a regional exercise at the Region 4 vaccination clinic which included participation from local health departments, the Mohegan Tribe, and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction. The purpose of the drill clinic was to reinforce ICS, the coordination of resources, and reinforcement of the regional plan. This was the first time all the health departments and the MRC worked together as a region. The clinic lasted three hours, and 100 citizens were vaccinated, with the help of 27 participants. MRC volunteer vaccinators and assistants from LLHD, Northeast District Department of Health, and the Uncas Health Department attended the clinic. "The drill was a success because it allowed the LLHD MRC volunteers to observe the ICS in action and meet regional partners to see what different best practices were being used," said MRC coordinator, Kris Magnussen, RN-BC, MSN of LLHD. The LLHD MRC plans to conduct and participate in future exercises in the region.



MaryAnn Duchene RN, MSN
A volunteer vaccinator at the
Regional H1N1 clinic