

Douglas County Medical Reserve Corps



From left to right:
(Upper) **Gwen Whitebread, Ingrid Hartman, Barbara Starrett, Nora Murphy, Willard Epling, Mary Tye, Barbara Bailey, Capt. Jose Belardo** and **Charles Baars.** (Lower) **Mary Lou Strong, Paula Hladky** and **Charlie Bryan.**



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Agency thanks MRC volunteers

One of the most valuable gifts we can give is to make our volunteers aware of the difference they make. On Dec. 9, MRC volunteers, Health Department staff and the Douglas County Emergency Management Director gathered for the annual volunteer appreciation and holiday party. The theme for the evening was "Celebrating the Gift of Service." Volunteers received certificates of appreciation and volunteer service for their 2010 contributions of time and talent.

The featured speaker for the event was Capt. Jose Belardo, JD, MSW, MS. Belardo is a Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) and serves as the Acting Regional Health Administrator for Region VII of the Department of Health and Human Services. As the Acting RHA, Belardo has responsibility for managing five programs, including the Medical Reserve Corps.

Following the catastrophic 7.0 January 12, 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Belardo was among ten USPHS Officers deployed aboard the U.S. Navy's USS Bataan to assist with international relief efforts in Haiti. This mission, known as Operation Unified Response, was the subject of Belardo's presentation.

In addition to certificates, each volunteer received a hand-decorated MRC ornament, a box of chocolates and a thank-you card from Health Department staff. Volunteers who participated in H1N1 vaccination clinics were also provided an H1N1 Hero pin from the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps.

Volunteer Opportunities

- ★ Instructors needed for the FEMA IS-22 "Are You Ready?" personal and family preparedness course. Volunteers who have completed Douglas County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training preferred.
- ★ Social Media Specialists needed to support social media properties (Facebook, LinkedIn, Lawrence Marketplace, etc.) of Douglas County MRC, including daily monitoring, posting and content development.
- ★ Database Manager needed to support volunteer management system, including contact information maintenance, scheduling, activity and training tracking, and interests and skills assessments.
- ★ Help needed to maintain vulnerable populations agency database for Together Prepared.

To learn more, contact **Charlie Bryan** at cbryan@ldchealth.org or 785/856-7357.

2010 Year In Review

Active Volunteers - Years of Service

Aynsley Anderson - 5 years	Paula Hladky * - 5 years
Charles Baars *	Donna Ketchum - 4 years
Barbara Bailey - 3 years	Melissa McCormick - 2 years
Janet Cairns - 3 years	Nora Murphy * - 5 years
Nick Ens - 4 years	Chris Nguyen *
Willard Epling * - 5 years	Rhetta Jo Noever - 5 years
Eileen Fitch - 1 year	Patty Quinlan - 5 years
Paul Gottesburen	Cathy Rooney Howland - 3 years
Sarah Haavik *	Barbara Starrett * - 5 years
Ingrid Hartman * - 1 year	Mary Lou Strong *
Phillip Hauptman *	Mary Tye - 5 years
Margie Hinrichsen - 3 years	Gwen Whitebread - 2 years
Barbara Hinton * - 3 years	Tiffany Woods

* Provided eight hours or more of service in 2010
Participated in Medical Reserve Corps Quarterly Meetings

Activities

- ★ Baldwin Wellness Festival
- ★ Blood Pressure Screening Clinic
- ★ Center for Domestic Preparedness Training on Pandemic Flu Planning
- ★ Dad Days Community Festival
- ★ Disaster First Aid for Citizens and First Responders
- ★ Douglas County Free Dental Day
- ★ Douglas County Public Information Center Open House
- ★ Drive-through Influenza Vaccination Clinic
- ★ Forum for Community Based Organizations on Severe Winter Weather
- ★ H1N1 Influenza Vaccination Clinics
- ★ Haskell Health & Wellness Fair
- ★ Health Care Access Move
- ★ Healthy Hearts Fair
- ★ Human Services in Disaster Summit
- ★ KS-HAN notification test
- ★ Lawrence Memorial Hospital Health Fair
- ★ Medical Reserve Corps Quarterly Meetings
- ★ Quail Run Health Fair
- ★ Severe Weather Forum
- ★ Severe Weather Training
- ★ Social Media Club of Lawrence

Changes in 2011

In the coming year, several important changes are planned. These changes reflect best volunteer management practices and guidance from the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps (OCVMRC), which is headquartered in the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General.

The following change will be implemented over the course of 2011:

- ★ Quarterly notification drills will be used to assess the responsiveness of MRC volunteers
- ★ K-SERV (Kansas System for the Early Registration of Volunteers) will be used to improve credential verification of MRC volunteers
- ★ The online KS-TRAIN learning management system will be used to assign and track completion of MRC Core Competency requirements of MRC volunteers
- ★ The Kansas Offender Registry administered by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) will be used screen MRC volunteers convicted of certain sex, violent and drug offenses.

Meetings in 2011

MRC meetings are held quarterly, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., in Meeting Room AB on the Second Floor of the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, located at 200 Maine Street in Lawrence. The 2011 meeting schedule is as follows:

- ★ Tuesday, Mar. 29
- ★ Tuesday, Jun. 28
- ★ Tuesday, Sept. 27
- ★ Tuesday, Dec. 6

MRC volunteers support drive-through flu clinic

Nearly 400 people were vaccinated against seasonal influenza on Saturday, Oct. 16, during Lawrence's first drive-through vaccination clinic.

Forty cars were waiting in line when the clinic opened at 8:45 a.m. — 15 minutes earlier than scheduled — in



Catherine Bird, a nurse from the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, watches as volunteer **Tiffany Belland**, a student in the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy, prepares a flu shot during Lawrence's first drive-through flu shot clinic.

Kansas University's Park and Ride Lot at the northwest corner of Clinton Parkway and Iowa Street.

There were about 70 people who volunteered or worked during the clinic, which ended at 10:30 a.m. It was a public health emergency training exercise for Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department staff, the Douglas County Medical Reserve Corps and community partners. Additional volunteers were provided by Douglas County Emergency Management, the University of Kansas School of Pharmacy and the Washburn University School of Nursing.

The average time from entering the clinic to leaving was 24 minutes. In an effort to save time, consent forms were available online and were filled out by



Patty Quinlan, a nurse from University of Kansas Student Health Services and volunteer with the Douglas County Medical Reserve Corps, gives a shot at the drive-through flu clinic.



Paula Hladky, a volunteer with the Douglas County Medical Reserve Corps, directs traffic at the drive-through flu clinic.

55 percent of people before they arrived. The average time it took people to get vaccinated (from the time the car pulled up to the vaccination station until it left) was three minutes.



The youngest member of the Flake family enjoys a sticker after receiving his flu shot at the drive-through clinic held Oct. 16 in Lawrence.

MRC volunteers encouraged to attend summit

The State of Kansas Medical Reserve Corps will host a statewide leadership and training summit for volunteers of Kansas MRC units. This two-day summit will focus on how volunteers assist in preparedness, response and recovery to work together to support the State of Kansas. Kansas MRC volunteers will have the opportunity to take place in informational sessions, build partnerships, continue to establish sustainable teams and much

more. The State of Kansas MRC has applied for Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) credit.

The training will be held at the Kansas Highway Patrol Training Academy.

*April 8-9, 2011
Kansas Highway Patrol
Training Academy, Salina, Kan.
Registration — Free*

Hotel room reservations can be made for \$69 per night at the Salina Ramada, located at 1616 West Crawford Street. Contact Ramada at 785/823-1739 by March 7, 2011. Rooms are being held under the name, "Kansas Medical Reserve Corps Training Summit."

Registration will be available soon through KS-TRAIN soon. For more information, contact Emily Nickel at 785/296-5201 or enickel@kdheks.gov.

US Surgeon General letter to MRC volunteers



Vice Admiral Regina M. Benjamin, MD, MBA, the 18th Surgeon General of the United States.

Dear MRC Leaders and Volunteers,

As the 18th Surgeon General, it is an honor and privilege to know that I can count on our Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) for support as we build a stronger, healthier and better prepared nation - one community at a time. As "America's Doctor," I am responsible for the health of 300 million patients. This is a big task, but I am inspired by each

of you, who give so generously of yourselves to serve others, knowing you are there to help.

Like many of you, I was an MRC volunteer. I was also on the board of our local organization that helped establish our MRC unit in Southwest Alabama. The inspiration I received from my fellow MRC volunteers - men and women like you - is something that continues to give me strength and pride. The willingness of MRC volunteers to give their best efforts to help make our communities safer and healthier reflects a determined, generous spirit that I believe is our nation's richest resource.

You continue to provide assistance and depth to our local emergency response systems. All of us - individuals, family members and communities - need to be better prepared. To accomplish this, we must continue to forge partnerships among emergency management, law enforcement, health professionals and the uniformed services. Everyone needs to be aware of potential health threats, and we need to be trained to meet those

threats in an effective, coordinated manner.

In addition, prevention is the foundation of our public health system and it is the foundation of my work as Surgeon General. I hope you will use your skills and enthusiasm to help promote our public health initiatives in your community, especially those that address prevention. Some of my prevention priorities include: obesity and overweight, violence (youth, domestic, gender and workplace), mental health, HIV/AIDS, tobacco use and health disparities.

Again, I thank you for your service and commitment. Each of us has a role to play in helping America meet its challenges. I look forward to working with you to help us become a Healthy and Fit Nation.

With sincere thanks,

Regina M. Benjamin, MD, MBA
VADM, USPHS
United States Surgeon General

Message from the National MRC Program Office

Dear MRC Leaders, Volunteers and Colleagues,

This has been another exciting year for the MRC. We have continued to grow and now have more than 930 MRC units and 200,000-plus MRC volunteers. MRC volunteers continue to be involved in an extraordinary number and variety of activities every day to support and promote the health and safety of their communities. In fact, this year MRC leaders reported over 7,500 activities as part of their unit profiles!

It truly is at the local level where MRC leaders and volunteers demonstrate the real vitality of this program. The

initiatives supported, promoted and hosted by MRC units this year has positively affected countless lives. For example, hundreds of thousands of Americans received their H1N1 immunizations, and many more learned about flu prevention and care, from MRC volunteers. This continued with the "normal" flu season this Fall. MRCs were also asked to assist with activities and initiatives such as flood evacuations, community preparedness events, Let's Move, and disease prevention and screening. The list could go on and on. Through the actions of MRC leaders, volunteers and partner organizations, public health was strengthened, local vulnerabilities were

reduced and communities grew more resilient.

The year-end holidays are always a good time to reflect and focus on gratitude and giving. All of you give of yourselves every day. Without your efforts at the local, state, regional and national levels, this program would not succeed. I am truly thankful for all that you do! I am also very proud of, and honored to represent, the MRC.

I wish you safe and happy holidays and the best for the New Year.

CAPT Rob Tosatto
Director, Office of the Civilian
Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps