



The Pulse



Official Newsletter of the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps

JULY 2015

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The Pulse is brought to you by the Maryland Responds Medical Reserve Corps State Program, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Preparedness and Response.



Maryland Responds Launches New Brand

With support from the NACCHO Challenge Award, we worked with Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) and schools of public health at Hopkins and Emory. We sought to combine art and health communication strategies. Our goal was to improve recruitment materials for presenting a cohesive community of Maryland Responders.

After months of surveying Maryland Responders, needs assessments, internal audits, examining our old brand, and focus groups, we completed our planning and strategy development phase. MICA then developed campaigns. We're asking everyone to join the preparedness movement to

be **Ready for Anything**. Our new brand – on our posters, postcards, handouts- is a call to action to Marylanders. As evidenced in our work through the Baltimore City unrest, hazmat exercise, and beyond – our essence? Our battle cry? Ready for Anything. Because, when disaster strikes, Maryland Responds.

We're Ready for Anything.

This call to action is for the full community, not just the medical community. As such, we've replaced our past name "MD

Responds" with "Maryland Responds." All Marylanders have a role in promoting public health.



2015 Conference Celebrates 10 Years of Responders

Like many events, lunch was well-received at the Maryland Responds 2015 conference — but the reason was unconventional. Lunch was delivered using a Point of Dispensing (POD) drill.

The lunch-time POD demonstrated potential responder roles during a medical countermeasure response. Attendees chose from lunch options which were "dispensed" to them as they walked through the POD. Thanks to efficient POD operations, 151 lunches were dispensed in the first 30 minutes.

The POD drill was one of many events at the 10 Year anniversary conference of Maryland Responds. Over 250 Maryland Responders, unit administrators, and response partners attended the conference for a day of learning and networking.



Medical Reserve Corps Director, Captain Robert Tosatto, submits his POD form for screening before receiving his lunch.

After opening remarks from Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) Secretary Van T. Mitchell and Office of Preparedness and Response (OP&R) Director Sherry Adams, Captain Robert Tosatto provided a status update of the national Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) network.

Maryland Responds MRC state administrators Stephanie Parsons and Dorothy Sheu then presented a look into the Maryland MRC's 10 years of accomplishments, and an introduction to the new era of Maryland Responds and brand.

Maryland Responders Donna Wells, Jennie Wallace, and Dr. Beverly Bye shared their deployment stories. Responder tools and tips were outlined by unit administrator Cindy Mankamyer, Captain Stephen Formanski, and Dr. Randolph Rowel.

Throughout the conference, Maryland Responder Brandie Armijo led a team to administer acupuncture for mental health promotion.

The conference ended with a best practices showcase during which responders and unit administrators received awards for recognizing their hard work and leadership. See article on next page for more information.

The success of the day rested on a foundation of conference heroes — people who volunteered to help run the conference. Over 50 Maryland Responders and OP&R staff worked together using an incident command system. They "deployed" to assist with registration, speaker sessions, dispensing lunch, packaging materials, exhibits, and so much more!

A group photo of some conference heroes. Thank you to all conference heroes for taking the time to train and "deploy" to assist at our conference!



Maryland Responds MRC 2015 Awards

The 2015 Maryland Responds MRC Awards highlight innovative local practices and achievements by recognizing individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions toward making their communities safer, stronger, better prepared and more resilient. Every year we are inspired by the tremendous work being done by Maryland Responders to prepare their communities for emergencies, or to help their neighbors cope with the effects of a disaster. We know that it is the Maryland Responders, Unit Administrators and response partners who have helped build and strengthen the Maryland Responds MRC network. And for that, they are most worthy of being recognized. Thank you for your service to Maryland and serving as a best practice for all Maryland Responders. Please join us in congratulating the following award winners:



From left to right: Arnold Honkofsky, Kelly Brinkley, Cynthia Anderson, Don Taylor, Rebecca Bergeron, April Tepfer, Sajal Roy, Reid Zimmer, Charmaine Rochester, G. Lawrence Hogue, Maggie Kunz, Shawn Stoner, Giselle Bonilla, Anne Witter, Theresa Laporte, Dr. Laura Herrera Scott.

Distinguished Maryland Responder Award

Maureen Chapnick, RN
Maryland Responder, Howard County MDRMRC Unit

Emergency Response Hero Award

Anne Witter, RN
Maryland Responder, Allegany County MDRMRC Unit

Public Health Hero Award

Teresa Laporte, RN
Maryland Responder, Frederick County MDRMRC Unit

Charlene Alliger, RN

Maryland Responder, Howard County MDRMRC Unit

Outstanding Leadership Award

April Tepfer
Maryland Responder, Baltimore County MDRMRC Unit

Unit Administrator of the Year Award

Shawn Stoner
Unit Administrator, Washington County MDRMRC Unit

Innovative Practice Award

Maggie Kunz
Unit Administrator, Carroll County MDRMRC Unit

Behind the Scenes Award

Kelly Brinkley
Worcester County MDRMRC Unit

Rebecca Bergeron, LCSW
Maryland Responder, Baltimore City MDRMRC Unit

Excellence in Volunteer Engagement

Giselle Bonilla
Unit Administrator, Howard County MDRMRC Unit

G. Lawrence Hogue
UMES School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

Barbara Logan
Unit Administrator, Somerset County Health Department.

Outstanding Response Partner Organization

The Maryland Board of Pharmacy Emergency Preparedness Task Force: Sajal Roy, Don Taylor, Janet Seeds, April Tepfer, Arnold Honkofsky, Bart Regan, Charmaine Rochester, Cynthia Anderson, G. Lawrence Hogue, Hoai-An Truong, Jennifer Thomas, LaVerne Naesea, Lynette Bradley-Baker and Reid Zimmer.

For a full description of the awards and award winner narratives, visit: <http://bit.ly/MDRAwards>.

Pediatric Disaster Symposium

Contributed by Dr. Al Romanosky, Medical Director, DHMH Office of Preparedness and Response

The DHMH OP&R in collaboration with Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the Maryland Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, sponsored a Pediatric Disaster Symposium on June 12. This symposium addressed preparedness gaps related to pediatric disaster victim management. Several presenters, well known experts in the field, arrived from across the U.S. to participate. Topics included: pediatric anatomical and physiological vulnerabilities, psychological impact, coalition building, and ethical issues. Of the several positive comments, many related to a desire to conduct a second symposium. Participation was open to all disciplines and several attendees were Maryland Responders.



Dr. Cooper presents on Ethical Considerations in Pediatric Disaster Response.



Dr. Frogel shares lessons learned in NYC during H1N1, Sandy & Ebola.



Dr. Michael Espiritu talks about challenges in NYC NICU during Superstorm Sandy.



Dr. Cindy Hinton shares story of family w/ special needs child that had to evacuate during Katrina.



Dr. Tom Demaria discusses psychological impact of disasters on children.



Dr. Al Romanosky is presenting on the unique vulnerabilities of pediatric disaster victims.

Howard County Responders Strengthen Public Health

Contributed by Giselle Bonilla, MPH, CHEP, Howard County Unit Administrator

Through the Howard County Health Department School Vision & Hearing Program, Maryland Responders helped the local health department successfully perform 13,073 vision screenings and 13,020 hearing screenings during the 2014-2015 school year. Thank you!

Additionally, Maryland Responders deserve recognition for the time and work they donate to the Cancer Control Program and the Clinical Services Section. We do appreciate the many hours they put in assisting with clinical breast exams and breast self-exam education during health fairs, as well as assisting with tobacco cessation classes, performing patient intakes, reviewing charts, filing documents, and entering patients' information into our health database.

Responders Assist Following Civil Unrest in Baltimore City

Contributed by Jennifer Martin, JD, MA, Baltimore City Unit Administrator

Protests in Baltimore City following the death of Freddie Gray turned violent on the evening of April 27th, and numerous instances of rioting, looting, and arson occurred. Multiple pharmacies were looted and destroyed, and others in the affected area closed to protect their staff and property. The community was left without 13 pharmacies, leaving local residents without access to prescription medications.

Residents who were affected by the closed pharmacies or in need of mental health services were asked to call 311. The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) and its partners fielded requests from the community to help residents gain access to prescription medications and to provide mental health services to groups and individuals.

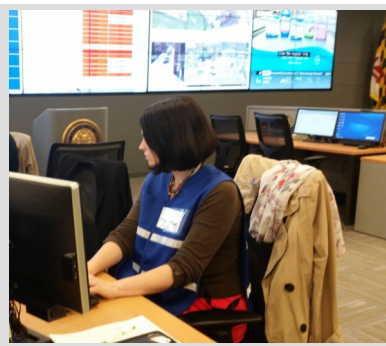
Because of the uncertainty regarding the potential number of requests for mental health services and

assistance with prescription medications, BCHD sought support. They reached out to DHMH and Maryland Responds for volunteers who were willing to be on standby to assist with response efforts in case existing BCHD and Behavior Health Systems Baltimore (BHSB) resources were overwhelmed.

Baltimore City Health Department would like to thank Maryland Responders for their support during the response to the civil unrest event. Thank you to the responders who took the time to fill out their profiles and prepared themselves for possible deployment.

Special thanks to Tony Gesualdo, Pharmacist, and Monique Turner, Pharmacy Technician, who assisted our prescription drug access operation at the BCHD Health Department Operations Center.

State Response to Public Health Requests During Unrest



DHMH Office of Preparedness and Response staff member and Maryland Responder Sara Barra coordinating public health requests at the State Emergency Operations Center.

There existed uncertainty if the Baltimore City unrest would overwhelm local resources. Thus, the local health department reached out for support from the state, specifically Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Maryland Responds.

In partnership with local unit administrators, the state program prepared responders. As a surge of new volunteers registered for Maryland Responds, the state program also real-time verified new re-

sponder profiles and licenses. State Program administrators fast-tracked their readiness steps so that they could join the pool of Ready Responders to help county unit administrators. Additionally, pharmacy volunteers deployed while mental health Maryland Responders were put on standby.

Even more, Office of Preparedness and Response employees staffed the health and medical desk 24/7 at the state emergency operations center. Among many other requests they processed, they coordinated a prescription waiver for the city so that residents could get higher quantities of their medicine in the event that the unrest stretched over a long period of time.

A strong network supports Maryland Responders. The state program will continue to support those who utilize Maryland Responders, and thus improve Maryland's ability to meet public health needs.

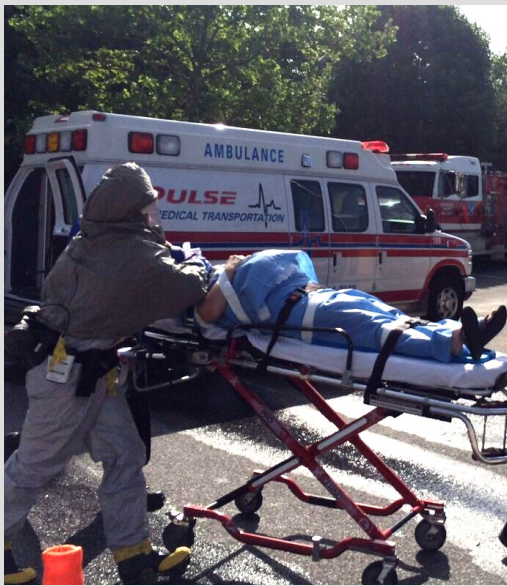
Northwest Hospital Hosts Mass Casualty Exercise

Ericka Gray Wylie, MBA, Emergency Management Coordinator, Northwest Hospital

This is ONLY a drill. With fake blood and bandages to simulate injuries, Maryland Responders pretended to display respiratory issues, fatigue, or broken bones. They were then secured to a board and washed down with water.

Northwest Hospital simulated a fictitious scenario in which a bus and gas tanker led to an 8,000-gallon fuel spill at the gas station in Randallstown. Maryland Responders acted as victims while Baltimore County Fire Department and HAZMAT units responded to the scene.

By playing the role of disaster “patients,” Maryland Responders enabled hospital staff to practice personal protective equipment protocol, triage, decontamination, and use of their incident command system. Maryland Responders not only helped test existing emergency plans, but also provided valuable feedback at the end. Baltimore County’s unit administrator, Terry Sapp explains, “the nice thing of having medical personnel as volunteers is that their feedback as patients also had a medical bend.”



Multiple agencies interacting while taking care of patients.



Simulation of head trauma from bus collision.

This exercise’s purpose was to ensure efficient and safe handling of hazardous materials during an emergency with the ability to minimize damage to involved first responders, clinical and/or non-clinical personnel, and equipment, while reducing risk to exposures. As explained by Northwest Hospital’s Emergency Management Coordinator, this exercise successfully met this purpose: “The beauty of this exercise is that Northwest Hospital identified areas we are proficient as well as areas that need to be developed.”

Thank you Maryland Responders for your help:

- Michtta Andre
- Linda Conner
- Maria Esquela
- Amaka Nwankwo-Igomu
- Jumoke Omisore
- Ruth Schelhaus
- Elysabeth Stuehrmann
- Mary Turner
- Brianna Williams

Community partners from Baltimore County Fire/Police/EMS, Baltimore County Office of Homeland Security, Maryland Responds, Maryland Governor’s Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and PULSE Medical Transportation also participated in this exercise.

Maryland Responds Orientation — In Class

The 2015 Orientation for the Maryland Responds MRC is underway. Different from previous years, we have enlisted county Unit Administrators to teach classes. Classes throughout the state cover updated curriculum on the Maryland Responds network, your Road to Readiness, and deployment protocols.

Our first offering was in Silver Spring, Md., at Holy Cross Hospital. We will continue to coordinate more opportunities throughout the year. As schedules become available, they will be updated here: <http://bit.ly/MDRcalendar>.

Our next offering is (pick one): July 18 and July 22 in Kent County. For more details, click here: <http://1.usa.gov/1dbyY35>.



A Look Ahead

Take CPR Pro Classes

Contributed by Giselle Bonilla, MPH, CHEP, Howard County Unit Administrator

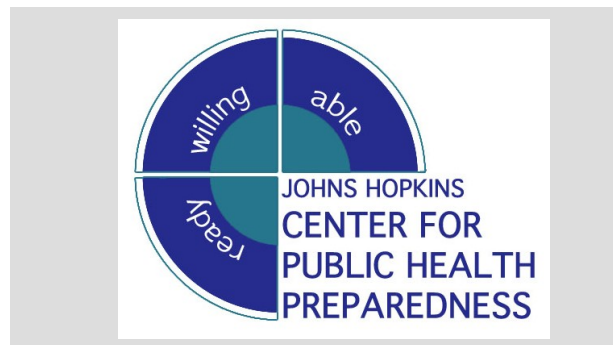
The Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services (DFRS) provides CPR Pro classes for health care professionals to health department staff and volunteers. The classes are held twice a year at the Public Safety Training Center located at 2200 Scott Wheeler Drive, Marriottsville, MD 21104. The next class has been scheduled for July 8, 2015, from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. To register, please contact Giselle Bonilla at gbonilla@howardcountymd.gov. Advance registration is required.

Think Inside the Box

"THINK INSIDE THE BOX" is an interactive workshop where participants will gain practical information on the importance of personal and family preparedness.

This session will enhance awareness and skills in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a variety of public health emergencies that may occur in the region.

The workshop includes game-based and hands-on activities to aid participants in the process of creating an emergency preparedness kit and family communication plan. Participants will even have the opportunity to access resources and supplies to build their kits.



Our next offering of Think Inside the Box will be July 13, 2015, 1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. in Worcester County. Registration is free, but required by July 4, 2015. Space is limited, so register early!

Learn more here: <http://1.usa.gov/1GmAtcq>

What's Your Responder Status?

As a Maryland Responder, you are part of a national community of Medical Reserve Corps volunteers. Maryland Responders receive emergency alerts, preparedness information, and access to many of our free trainings.

To deploy for emergency responses or participate in exercises, we must ensure your adequate preparation and credentialing. All Maryland Responders, regardless of professional background, must meet our minimum requirements to gain Ready Responder status.

To Reach Ready Responder Status:

- ✓ Complete 100% of your responder profile.
- ✓ Sign and submit your confidentiality and liability forms.
- ✓ Complete minimum training requirements.
- ✓ Obtain your Responder ID badge (New! As of June 19, 2015).

For detailed instructions, please refer to this checklist: Bit.ly/MDRMRCDeploy.

ROAD TO READINESS

Are you ready to deploy with Maryland Responds? Complete the steps on the Road to Readiness to ensure you're ready to deploy and **READY FOR ANYTHING.**

- 1 Sign up to volunteer with Maryland Responds.
- 2 Complete your Responder Profile. Keep it current and up to date.
- 3 Complete the Ready Responder training courses.
- 4 Submit your ID Badge photo.
- 5 Receive your Ready Responder Kit.
- 6 Be a Maryland Responder. Be **READY FOR ANYTHING.**

MARYLAND RESPONDS
READY FOR ANYTHING

As of June 19, 2015, all Ready Responders will receive a responder kit. Responder kits contain (L to R, not to scale): backpack, water bottle, first aid kit, uniform shirt, ID badge, and more!



	VICKY VOLUNTEER		MARYLAND RESPONDS Medical Reserve Corps
	Issue Date: 6/19/2015 Status: Responder Unit: Harford County License #: 12345 Profession: Social Worker		

Volunteerism & Tax Deductions

Congratulations on completing your taxes for the 2014 year. Thinking ahead to next year's taxes? Below you will find some commonly asked questions and answers about volunteerism and taxes. Please note, Maryland Responds administrators are NOT tax experts. Please consult the below IRS Publication 526 for official IRS guidance.

Question: Are volunteers eligible for tax breaks?

Answer: The only tax break for volunteers would be in the form of itemized deductions. Unfortunately, there is no deduction for time spent volunteering, but volunteers can take a charitable contribution deduction for out-of-pocket money spent on volunteering, like miles driven for charity or bus/taxi fare to location. IRS Publication 526 has more information about what is deductible and what kind of records volunteers should retain: <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p526.pdf>. See page 5 in particular.

Question: If a volunteer deploys to help and they want to claim deduction for miles driven, do they need a certificate or some paper trail from Maryland Responds?

Answer: They are not required to submit any certification with the return. Documentation is only really necessary if the amount being deducted is more than \$250. Even then, the instructions for Schedule A tell the taxpayer to keep the documentation for their records (<http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1040sca.pdf> - see p. A-9). The instructions for the documentation of contributions of over \$250 is more applicable to cash or property donations. Volunteers should keep records of their mileage, public transit costs, etc., but it is only needed if the return is selected for audit.

Responder Spotlight

Want to read about what it feels like to deploy? To learn about what series of events to expect? The Maryland Responds state program is working on "Responder Spotlights" — a new initiative that showcases volunteer experiences. To view our Responder Spotlights, visit:

<http://mdr.dhmh.maryland.gov/SitePages/News%20and%20Resources.aspx>.

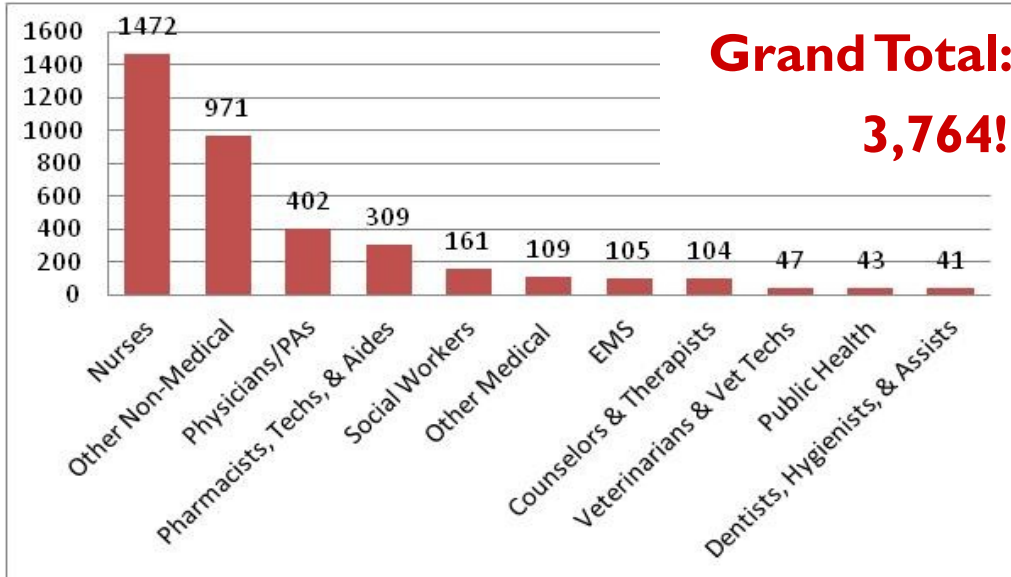
Stay tuned for our upcoming Responder Spotlight from Maryland Responds Emergency Response award winner, Anne Witter, R.N., on her deployment to BWI's Lebanese Repatriation.

Check out the clip below:

"The first flight carried 160 passengers who endured going from a cruise ship to a war-zone to then multiple plane delays in Europe. They were anxious, exhausted and hungry... The passengers were escorted to the staging area where their needs could be met: A private medical assessment for special needs or treatments, staffed by our nurses and a doctor. Emergency medical service/fire personnel on standby for acute events. A pharmacist for any medication questions. Social workers for mental health issues."

YOU COUNT! Membership Totals as of 6-30-15

Maryland Responders by Professional Group



Quarterly membership counts by occupation subgroups can be found here: <http://bit.ly/MDRCOUNTS>.

Maryland Responders by County Unit

County	Percent of Total Membership	County	Percent of Total Membership
Allegany	2%	Harford	4%
Anne Arundel	8%	Howard	7%
Baltimore	15%	Kent	2%
Baltimore City	9%	Montgomery	16%
Calvert	1%	Prince George's	9%
Caroline	1%	Queen Anne's	2%
Carroll	3%	Saint Mary's	1%
Cecil	1%	Somerset	2%
Charles	1%	Talbot	3%
Dorchester	1%	Washington	2%
Frederick	5%	Wicomico	3%
Garrett	1%	Worcester	1%

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Feedback

What can we do better?
Do you have any suggestions?
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