

MRC Partnerships: Enhancing the Emergency Response Infrastructure



Medical Reserve Corps
National Leadership
Conference
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What is an AHEC?

The Western Maryland AHEC mission is to improve access to and promote quality in healthcare through educational partnerships.

Allegany County MRC Mission

- **Recruit and train health care and community volunteers to respond to disasters and public health emergencies.**
- **Support the existing community health care infrastructure, enhance the county's emergency response infrastructure, and provide public education.**

Defining Best Practices in MRC Partnerships



- Identifying Key Local Partners
- Building upon an Effective Advisory Committee
- Recognizing the Unique Role an AHEC and MRC partnership can Play; Developing Trust & Credibility
- Engaging Educational Institutions
- Understanding the Evolving Roles of State and Local Government
- Recognizing the Unique Role a MRC can Play in its Community.

Recognizing the Unique Role an AHEC & MRC Partnership can Play Developing Trust & Credibility.

Renewal: embracing a broader perspective.

- Renew relationships with your natural partners!
- Be flexible; it is as important as being strategic!
- Listen to what's happening locally!

Governor's Wellmobile

The Governor's Wellmobile, is coordinated through the School of Nursing, University of Maryland, Baltimore.



Identifying Key Partners & Building upon an Effective Advisory Committee

Partnerships work when we have:

- Clear objectives
- Define membership and roles
- Share resources (share information about funding opportunities, past successes and pitfalls, consult with one another on grant opportunities, etc.)
- Create clear and open communication channels
- Expect mutual accountability
- Promote not only the project but also one another
- Humor!

MRC Advisory Committee & Partners

- **Allegany County Health Department**
- **AmeriCorps - Center for Volunteerism**
- **American Red Cross, Potomac Chapter**
- **Allegany County Office of Emergency Services & Communications (EOC)**
- **Allegany County Health Department**
- **Allegany County Medical Society**
- **Allegany County Board of Education**
- **Allegany County Local Emergency Planning Committee**
- **Department of Natural Resources**
- **EMS Regions 1 & 2**
- **Frostburg State University**
- **Governor's Wellmobile, University of Maryland**
- **Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)**
- **Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS)**
- **Potomac Council Boy Scouts of America**
- **The Salvation Army**
- **Volunteer Center of Allegany County**
- **Western Maryland Health System**
- **Western Maryland Area Health Education Center**
- **Western Maryland Health System**
- **Western Maryland Health System Chaplain Program**
- **Western Maryland Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) Coordinator**
- **Western Maryland Community Crisis Response Team (CCRT) Coordinator**

Bringing an Advisory Committee to the Table is only a Beginning

An effective advisory committee has:

- **Philosophical buy-in/compatible goals**
- **Management/leadership level buy-in**
- **Active time contributions**
- **Well-defined roles**
- **Members feel valued and listened to**

Engaging Educational Institutions



The Allegany County MRC scientific training partner is the Mid-Atlantic Public Health Training Center, under the auspices of the Johns Hopkins Center for Public Health Preparedness and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Colleges & Universities,
Community Colleges

139 Western Maryland public health and health care professionals participated in the March 12, 2004 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS): What Every Public Health Professional Needs to Know training at Allegany College of Maryland. Pictured is featured speaker Rashid A. Chotani, MD, MPH, Director of the Global Infectious Disease Surveillance & Alert System (GIDSA) Center for International Emergency, Disaster & Relief Studies, School of Medicine & Public Health Johns Hopkins University.

Understanding the Evolving Roles of State and Local Government

Allegany County Immunity

1. Request for MRC
2. Control & Direction (Local Tort: Annotated Code of Maryland)
 - a. "A volunteer who, at request of the local government and under its control and direction, was providing services or performing duties."
 - b. Person has to perform duties without actual malice.

Maryland State Immunity

1. Performing services for or to the State
2. Satisfy the State Treasurer's Regulations
 - a. "Volunteer" is performing services to or for the State government...
"(attached, note page 23)
 3. Person has to perform within the scope of his/her duty and not be grossly negligent or malicious.

Recognizing the Unique Role a MRC can Play in its Community.

The First Response to any Disaster is a Local Response!

- Training volunteers to be an Asset in an Event
- Support to the Incident Command Structure

