

NH MRC Meeting
March 12, 2010
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Curtis Metzger (HSEM), Alyson Cobb (CHI, recorder), Shawna Carpenter (Greater Sullivan MRC), Eileen Fernandes (Monadnock MRC), Garrett Simonsen (Derry MRC), Brita Nettleton (Manchester MRC), Katie Kemen (Strafford County MRC), Carole Totzkay (HSEM), Theresa Kennett (Carroll County MRC), Jim Richardson (Franklin/Bristol MRC), Donna Quinn (Plymouth MRC), Gene Heighton (Nashua MRC)

Phone attendance: Kim Coffey-Philbrick (Portsmouth MRC)

10 of 16 MRC Units represented- thanks to all those who participated!

Meeting Minutes:

Unit Updates and Announcements

- **Greater Portsmouth MRC**
 - Kim trying to get settled in
 - Working with Katie and Susan
 - Windstorm- no shelters, involved in some city meetings
- **Greater Sullivan County MRC**
 - Booth at NH EMS Conference
 - April- Human Services Month- full calendar of events with PHN and MRC
- **Greater Monadnock MRC**
 - 1 H1N1 clinic since last meeting
 - PHN thank you dinner for volunteers
 - CERT training this weekend
 - Orientations scheduled in April and May
 - Rescheduling sheltering training
 - Working to update database
 - Windstorm- PHN didn't want to open a shelter because there was no need, state mandated 1 be opened in Keene, no one showed up
- **Greater Derry MRC**
 - Windstorm- MRC activated for intended ARC regional shelter but ARC didn't show up (opened shelter elsewhere instead), MRC/CERT ran on their own with help from Londonderry EMS
 - Over 100 volunteer hours from MRC for shelter
 - Recruited medical director for unit- medical information will still come from state
- **Side discussion on windstorm**
 - Coordinators want to participate in AAR
 - Also want state to follow up with people who participated in AAR with final product
 - Curtis/Carole will make sure PHN and MRC coordinators are invited to an AAR meeting with the state
- **Greater Manchester MRC**
 - Orientation last week with 36 people
- **Strafford County MRC**
 - Cleaning up database- using an online software called Volgistics (<http://www.volgistics.com/>)- \$24.month

- Volunteer Appreciation Reception- not just for H1N1 (trainings, other activations, etc.)
- Windstorm- regional shelter in Rochester never had more than 7 people
 - State said they had to have medical people but locals in charge of the shelter said they didn't need, so had medical people on standby
 - Were never told they were a regional shelter until a few hours before
 - City has to eat cost if not FEMA declared emergency- if state is mandating the shelter, then they should pay for it
- **Carroll County MRC**
 - Working on database
 - Building website
 - Going to offer shorter NIMS training (like Franklin/Bristol's)
 - Working on e-newsletter
 - Debating about making a CERT- Carroll County originally had both and then merged last June, other regions?
 - Franklin/Bristol- CERT and MRC do a lot together but are actually completely separate; people can be on both
 - Strafford County- CERT and MRC are run together under over-arching Citizens Corps, medical people are automatically on MRC and non-medical people are automatically on CERT
 - Monadnock- have 1 MRC and 2 CERTs in region; thinking of combining in to 1 Citizens Corps
 - Still working with HOSA; will be making a presentation about MRC to full HOSA chapter
 - Presenting to other community organizations
- **Franklin/Bristol MRC**
 - Would like a list of all CERT and MRC websites in NH
 - Redesigned website
 - NIMS 700 computer lab at PSU- 10 people attended
 - Will be doing for 100 also
 - Windstorm- Groton shelter request- activated MACE
 - Call from Leigh and ICC to help at ARC Concord shelter (needed medical people)
 - First sent CERT to set up/mobilize (ARC doesn't do)
 - Medical assistance was needed so sent MRC
 - 1 volunteer ended up being there for 36 hours
 - PHN has no legitimate authority so Jim has issues sending people/supplies
- **Greater Plymouth MRC**
 - Have a few new recruits
 - NIMS 700 computer lab
 - Have about 4 members now
 - Have everyone going through ESAR-VHP
 - Still have a few more clinics
 - Working on recruitment and handbook
 - Windstorm- nothing, request for supplies so activated MACE
- **Greater Nashua MRC**
 - Jen Frenette, Curtis, and Alyson attended meeting on 3/11
 - Have 14 regular members
 - Strong relationship with ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service)
 - Gene took Web EOC class
 - Got 3 new applications
 - Trailer updates are going well

- Took the trailer to Pelham MRC's recruitment event at Chunky's (had 20 people show up, 10 signed up)
- Will be recruiting at Rock 'N Ribfest
- Have 14 people signed up on the Communicator
- Windstorm- in communications center at Amherst PD and warming center at Amherst FD- organized by local CERT
- Wants ICS Train-the-Trainer
- MMRS was not involved at state level for windstorm- why?
- **Announcements**
 - Excel sheet (attached to e-mail) with results from Alyson's statewide recruiting thus far- some units seemed to have missed some people so please double check!
 - Sheet with Important Dates (attached) for Coordinators- dates of MRC meetings, training conferences and their registration deadlines, Governor's Conference on Volunteerism
 - MRC Coordinators can attend the Governor's Conference on Volunteerism (May 11th)- \$50 (<http://guest.cvent.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?e=9d65480c-2b72-4ecd-a49c-6932e182600d>)
 - May meeting during Integrated Training Summit- let Alyson know if you have a preference between holding the meeting May 7th or May 21st
 - Going to make an emergency contact list for MRC coordinators so can get in touch with each other- please send Alyson information requested (any phone numbers you would like to include in order, any e-mail addresses, any other contact routes)

Recruitment letter through Professional Boards

- Curtis has started to contact the various boards requested and results have been favorable so far
- Flyer in Home Care Association paychecks?- Curtis will look in to
- Some units will be using H1N1 money to do
- If regions are interested, they should start working on their letter to be sent out while Curtis works on obtaining the databases
- Units will be able to send directly to some professions, while others may have to go through Curtis/board due to board privacy protocol

Badging

- Based on units who already have badges, the important elements to include are:
 - Unit Name
 - MRC Symbol
 - Volunteer's Name
 - Volunteer's Picture
 - Expiration date and/or sticker
- Some units also said a volunteer ID number and color coding for profession/position were also important
- Other comments:
 - The simpler the better
 - Badge numbers should make sense; have a system to them
 - Possibly have a beginning date instead of an expiration date

- Sample badge including all of these elements:



- Comments:
 - Not all badging systems can print on both sides
 - Could replace “Medical Reserve Corps” with symbol to save room

Volunteer Recognition

- What are units doing?
 - Meals
 - Certificates/plaques
 - AAR with recognition dinner to follow
 - Stuffed pigs- \$2.99 each, very popular with volunteers!
- Ideas from listserv:
 - Curtis- gag gifts from thrift stores; tie to something about the volunteers
 - Framed certificates
 - Donated gift certificates
 - Dinner- invite businesses, agencies, government officials
 - Notes to volunteers and to their employers (saying how great their employee is)
 - Letter to paper
 - Gadgets for go-bags

MRC Training Conferences

- 12 people have signed up so far
- Preferable for unit coordinators to attend trainings with their volunteers if they are available
- Still looking for trainers for CDLS and The Power of One if anyone has any ideas or suggestions!