



MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEER CORPS

Newsletter

OFFICE OF PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

FALL 2007

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

John M. Colmers
Secretary

Michelle A. Gourdine, MD,
*Deputy Secretary for
Public Health Services*

MISSION STATEMENT

Maryland Professional
Volunteer Corps
consists of health care
professionals working
together to provide
emergency care by
responding to
catastrophic events.

DHMH Office of
Preparedness and
Response
201 West Preston Street
Suite 315
Baltimore, MD. 21201
410-767-7772

Staff:

Cathy O'Neill,
Emergency Operation Manager
'coneill@dhmb.state.md.us'

Mark Bailey,
Volunteer Director
'mbailey@dhmb.state.md.us'

Chris Plummer,
Behavioral Health Coordinator
'cplummer@dhmb.state.md.us'
Program Funding Support
Center for Disease Control

MESSAGE FROM MARK BAILEY, New Volunteer Director

Each of you has made a conscious career choice that allows you the opportunity on a daily basis to assist someone in need. You are part of the fellowship of men and women engaged in the helping professions. You have the opportunity each day to have a positive impact on someone's life. Those who you treat come to you in pain or distress and you answer the call to ease their discomfort. Beyond this daily commitment and dedication, you have also chosen to enroll in the Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps. Your participation in this organization provides a chance to extend yourself even more, to potentially assist others in another community or region affected by an emergency situation. This is a noble cause; you are to be commended for your willingness to extend yourself. September is National Preparedness month. Thank you for being one of the national resources that supports this effort.



MAKING POSITIVE CHANGES TO STRENGTHEN A VITAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

- New staff/contact information
- Revising program training, curriculum and format
- Strategic Plans for recruitment and program implementation.
- Networking with other agencies to provide more support to the deployed volunteers and offer resources
- New badges- with color codes for security and accountability
- Newsletter distribution electronically and via Web site.
- New MPVC Web site with more information and resources

In this Issue.....

- Message from new Volunteer Director
- Changes to MPVC Program
- Special Thank you to our committed MPVC's from the Governor and Secretary of DHMH
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- Professional Licensing Boards, committed and critical partners
- Volunteer Counts
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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Life changed for all of us six years ago when hijacked planes slammed into New York's World Trade Center buildings. It was a seminal event that impacted the psyche of Americans in profound ways. We recognized how vulnerable we are to those looking to disrupt our way of life.

Life changed again two years ago when Katrina's fury was unleashed upon our mainland. To those of you who answered the call to help Katrina victims, you know better than most our vulnerability to the forces of nature and the inherent challenge in rebuilding from this type of devastation.

Each of these events brought an outpouring of support that was almost instantaneous, and its impetus is sustained to this day. We have learned to be better prepared as individuals, communities and as a nation. An important element of this readiness has been the development of a corps of volunteer health professionals poised to respond to the next disaster or critical need that may arise. The corps represents a variety of disciplines, including medical, nursing, dental, pharmaceutical, mortuary, veterinary and mental health.

As a member of this elite group, you have expressed a willingness to offer your professional expertise when called upon. You have demonstrated an invaluable commitment to provide comprehensive health related services to those in need. September is National Preparedness Month. It is a time to renew our shared security imperative by examining our progress, raising awareness and preparing for the challenges of tomorrow.

As a member of the Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps, you stand at the vanguard of that core mission. While we pray the need to deploy you never arises, it is reassuring to know that thousands of citizens like you have the experience, training and courage to respond. As a state, we want to thank you for your willingness to give of yourself to protect and improve the lives of our community.

I thank you for recognizing how important it is to be prepared and for being such a vital part of this critical service.

Sincerely,
Martin O'Malley
Governor, State of Maryland

September is
National Preparedness Month

SECRETARY'S NOTE

Greetings,

I am writing to convey my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your willingness to serve as a member of the Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps. As Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, I know how critically important it is to have you and your colleagues as essential elements of Maryland's preparedness team. Health professionals in general have always been willing to answer the call when needed and give back to their communities, but you have gone a step beyond by registering with the volunteer corps.

I know some of you answered the call in 2005 to assist those devastated by Hurricane Katrina. I am hopeful that the need to deploy you never rises again, but it is reassuring to know you are willing and available to respond.

Representatives of the professional health boards affiliated with DHMH have done a remarkable job in recruiting volunteers like you who are willing to offer their professional services should a disaster occur or significant community need arise. The good news is we currently have more than five thousand registered volunteers. The great news is this number continues to grow.

The citizens of Maryland and your fellow Americans are fortunate to have dedicated professionals like you. We have learned that catastrophic events can overwhelm local resources. It is essential that communities know they can count on support from near and far to address overwhelming circumstances.

Thank you again for your commitment and concern.

Sincerely,
John M. Colmers
Secretary, DHMH

DEDICATED PROFESSIONALS

MIR 3 NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR ACTIVATING MPVC

What MIR 3 can do for the MPVC activation:

- Database (Professional Volunteers) can be sorted by: Board, (specialty, region, zip code, willingness to deploy out of state).
- Notification is secure access only with one password per Board.
- Eliminates initial phone calls, second call backs and reduces time to contact large numbers of people.
- Message will be sent to the recipient's contact information until there is a response.
- The Board initiator will have a report on who responded and who responded in a positive way.
- All Professional Volunteer contact information maintained by the Board is imported monthly into MIR 3, ensuring accurate information.
- Three types of methods: broadcast– disseminate information, first response– solicit a single volunteer, and call-out-solicit multiple volunteers.

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Take this opportunity to educate your patients or clients about preparedness. Print out some of the handouts, forms and activities for kids on this Web site:

'<http://www.ready.gov/america/index.html>'

Encourage them to make an emergency plan with their families or co-workers and practice it.

Also the Ready to Respond Manual, published in 1999, provides a strong framework for volunteers to prepare for disaster situations.

'<http://www.pointsoflight.org>'

EXTRAORDINARY NEED, EXTRAORDINARY RESPONSE:

"Communities came together during these times of need. It was people helping people in the purest of ways. The response to the hurricanes was the largest recorded volunteer effort in U.S. history. More than 140,000 volunteers responded, giving nearly six million hours of time"

Reference from Points of Lights Foundation, Report on Volunteer Response to the 2004 Hurricanes



MIR 3 (no acronym) Company information:

Clients include The US Air Force, Homeland Security's National Medical Response Teams, The Red Cross, LA County Department of Health, and the County of Orange, California, with 3.5 million recipients integrated into MIR3 Intelligent Notification. Visit their Web site for more information.

'<http://www.mir3.com/index.php>'

PROFESSIONAL BOARDS MAINTAIN DATA BASE IMPORT INTO MIR 3

Do you know what goes on behind the scenes of your professional Board and their partner, the Office of Preparedness and Response at DHMH? When your contact information is collected and maintained by your Board, it is submitted monthly to OP&R to update the main data base then imported into MIR 3 along with the other 10 participating Boards. These monthly updates are confidential and critical in order to use the notification system to its fullest capability. So remember to update your information on a regular basis. Thank you!

CURRENT VOLUNTEER COUNTS

•Board of Physicians =	669
•Board of Nursing =	3,089
•Board of Pharmacy=	540
•Board of Veterinary=	117
•Board of Dentistry =	72
•Board of Social Work=	713
•Board of Professional Counselors=	217
•Board of Psychology=	122
•Psychiatric Physicians=	31
•Psychiatric Nurses=	36
TOTAL=	5413

VALUED PARTNERS COMMITTED TO ONE MISSION

MPVC Partners:

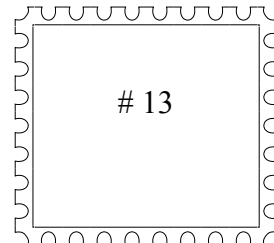
Licensing Boards of:

Nurses
Physicians
Pharmacy
Dental Examiners
Veterinary
Social Work
Professional Counselors
Psychology
Psychiatric Physicians
Psychiatric Nurses

The Maryland Licensing Boards are committed to a successful partnership with the Office of Preparedness and Response. Like you, they see a critical need to provide their expertise in the event of a state disaster or emergency. Board representatives like Lisa Varholy from MBON, Pam Genco-MBP, Summar Goodman-MBOP, Robert Hergenroeder & Dr. Fred Magaziner– retired from the MBD, Dr. Jacob Casper– BVMA, Chuck Bond and Laura Copland– MHA and other mental health boards participate in two hour planning meetings to assist in developing and implementing new strategies for recruitment, training volunteers, updating and revising documents and resource materials to provide support to a critical service program.

FOR THAT AND SO MANY OTHER REASONS DHMH THANKS THEM FOR COMMITTING THEIR TIME AND EFFORTS TO THE MPVC MISSION.

"The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others." ~Ghandi



Office of Preparedness
and Response, #315
201 W. Preston Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
Phone: 410-767-7772
Fax: 410-333-5555
E mail: *'mbailey@dhhmh.state.md.us'*



☆☆

☆ Visit our new MPVC Web site >>>>>> '<http://bioterrorism.dhmh.state.md.us/volunteer.htm>' ☆

☆☆

"You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give."--Winston Churchill

Do we have your correct contact information? Look over this check list

- ✓ Have you recently provided your Board with change of name, address or contact number? Have you given them sufficient information in order to notify you in the event of a disaster or emergency for deployment? (personal cell, pagers, and very importantly e-mail address) All of your devices go into their data bases so MIR 3 can alert you at anytime and anywhere.
- ✓ Have you attended any disaster trainings or taken on-line courses from National Incident Management System and did you notify your Board to document this for the MPVC program?
- ✓ Are you interested in participating in any MPVC activities such as community outreach for public awareness and recruitment, drills and exercises, serving on a committee for developing/implementing new ideas for the program or speaking at a new volunteer training? If so, contact 'cplummer@dnhm.state.md.us'
- ✓ Have you notified your Board to cancel your involvement in this program?
- ✓ Do you need to request a new badge for name or identity purposes?
Or have never received one? Contact: 'cplummer@dnhm.state.md.us'
- ✓ Would you like this MPVC Newsletter continued to be mailed to you? If so send a request to 'cplummer@dnhm.state.md.us' It will be 'e-mailed' starting with the Winter issue unless requested otherwise.
- ✓ Would you attend an annual MPVC conference for refresher courses, professional Area of specialty disaster training, speakers, seminars for CEU's, engagement opportunities such as table top exercises, drills and networking with other Professional Volunteer Corps members?
- ✓ Do you have any first hand deployment experiences or something to share?
Your input is appreciated. Contact 'cplummer@dnhm.state.md.us' or 410-767-0959