

5th Annual

2007 Medical Reserve Corps National Leadership and Training Conference



FORGING POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS



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Providence, Rhode Island



Medical Reserve Corps As a Unique Asset in Serving Special Needs Populations

A Model for Missouri

Three Statewide Organizations in Missouri

*Missouri Voluntary Organizations
Active in Disaster*

- Missouri Interfaith Disaster Response Organization
- Disaster Recovery Partnership

DRP

- Exists by Executive Order of the Governor
- Membership includes:
 - Federal and State agencies
 - Voluntary and faith-based agencies
- It is “the Governor’s Human Services arm” in emergency response

Special Needs Population Task Force

- Initiated by the DRP
- Co-lead state agencies:
 - Department of Health and Senior Services
 - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

(DVR now being replaced by Department of
Mental Health)

Goals

- Define Special Needs Population
- Develop a Task Force Committee Structure
- Assure participation of a broad spectrum of interested groups and individuals
- Identify special needs populations and their disaster related needs
- Develop a comprehensive special needs population emergency response strategic plan

Definition

Any individual, group, or community whose age, physical, mental, emotional, cognitive, cultural, ethnic, socio-economic status, language, citizenship status, or any other circumstance creates barriers to understanding or the ability to act/react in the manner in which the general population has been requested to proceed during all phases of emergency management.

- This is approximately 51% of our population.
- Sub-groups have varying needs related to emergency preparedness and response.
- For a discussion of MRCs' roles in working with this population, focus is on persons with disabilities and medical needs.

Main Issues

- Mitigation & Preparedness
- Registries
- Response
- Sheltering

Mitigation & Preparedness Activities

We know this is where our focus must be:

- The more people prepare to sustain themselves, the greater likelihood resources will be available when needed.
- Key is to get information into every SN household.
- Can MRCs “adopt” a geographic location for this activity?

Registries

- “Registry of registries” concept covers those affiliated with a service provider
- An outreach program is necessary for those not already affiliated
- Can organizations like MRCs “adopt” a geographic area of responsibility for outreach?

Response

Can MRCs be incorporated into some special needs individuals' response plans to:

- Do health and wellness checks in response phase?
- Provide needed transportation?
- Bring needed supplies?

Function-based Sheltering

- MU Schools of Health Professions, Nursing, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine to be lead
- Other Universities as partners
- Medical Reserve Corps as staff
- Hospitals to develop “shelter-mission” MRCs

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