

Somerset County Department of Health Medical Reserve Corps



Building Surge Capacity: “Innovative
Community Partnerships Formed to Enhance
Public Safety”

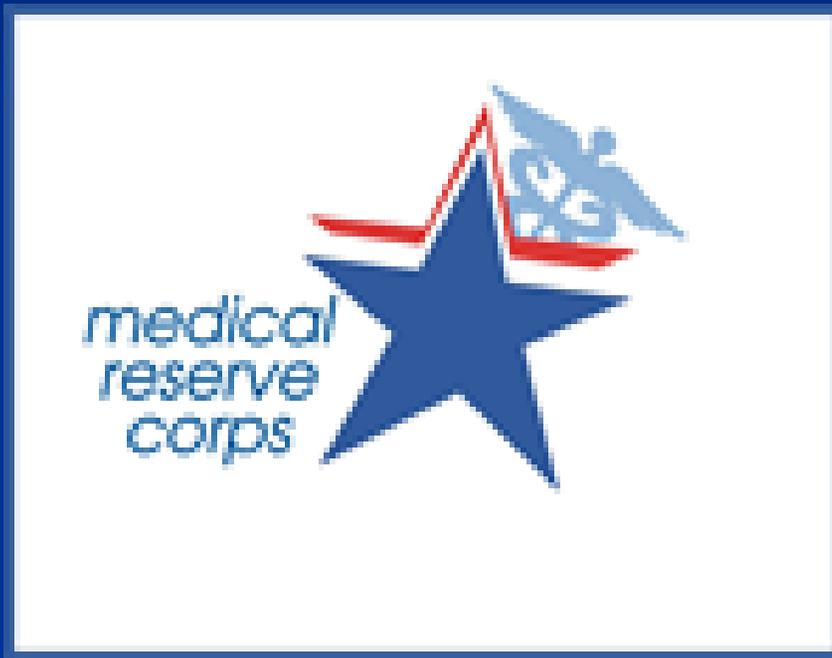
Lucille Young-Talbot, MPA
MRC Coordinator
(908) 231-7155 ytalbot@co.somerset.nj.us

The Citizen Corps Initiative



- CERT
- Neighborhood Watch
- VIPS
- Medical Reserve Corps

Somerset County Medical Reserve Corps Mission



- To assist essential personnel and first response professionals and facilities in the event of any large scale local public health or medical disaster.

Goals

- To recruit a cadre of professional volunteers who will be trained to work safely and effectively during emergent situations.
- Improve overall health and well being of communities during and after a disaster.
- Increase surge capacity during emergent situations.
- Reduce or minimize physical or environmental damages as a result of disaster.

Goals

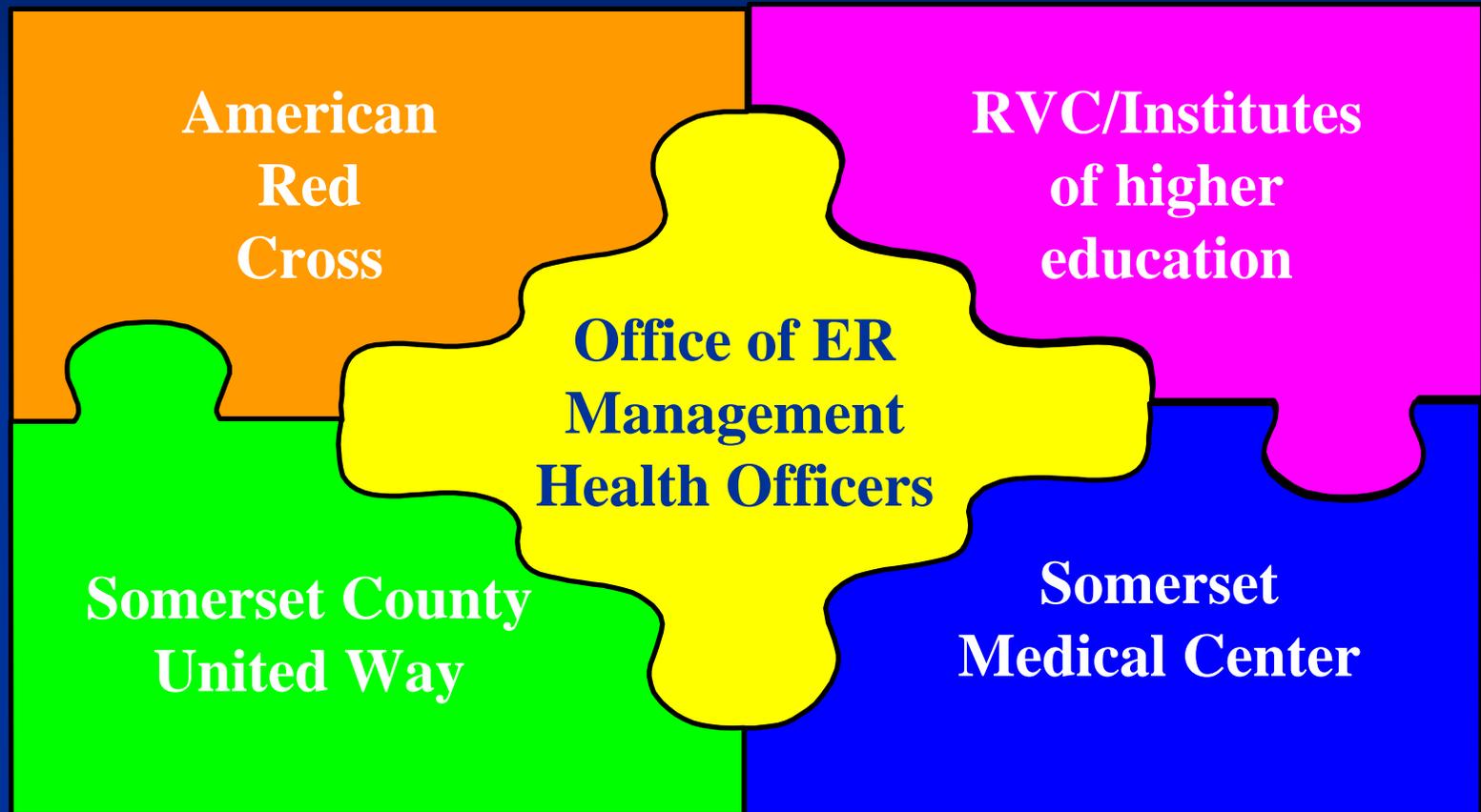
- Provide an opportunity for community members to be prepared during emergencies at home first and then be able to help with local community response efforts.
- Respond to emergencies in an effective organized framework within a command and control structure

Many pieces needed....



- Points of Distribution (PODs)
- Supplies
- VOLUNTEERS
- Training

Community Partners



Somerset County Parish Nurse Association



Parish Nurse Key Roles..

- Mass disease prevention efforts
 - Medication distribution - such as antibiotics during anthrax scare
 - Vaccination - in the event of a flu pandemic
 - Quarantine / isolation - should SARS / other disease affect community
- Liaison to community

- MRC/RVCC
Recruitment and
Awareness Day
4/2/04



SC Pharmacists Association





Basic Training

- Introduction To Disaster
- Biological Agents
- Home preparedness
- Overview of Blood Borne Pathogens
- Case Scenario
- Roles/Responsibilities



Training continued

Ancillary Issues

- Identification
- Liability Issues
- Licensure/security clearance
- Deployment/Facilities



Basic Training Lessons Learned and Volunteer Feedback

- Need Detailed Volunteer Descriptions
- Create check Lists for Volunteers
- More training that includes Simulations/Case Scenarios
- Local focus vs. State focus
- Personal Identity to MRC
- Satisfied with liability issues
- 90% willing to volunteer out of town
- 26% willing to volunteer out of county
- Deployment and notification issues
- Medical vs. Non-Medical training

Future Volunteer Recruitment Efforts

- United Way Corporation Volunteer projects
- Somerset County Patriots Baseball project
- Presentations to local community groups
- Newsletters to professional organizations
- Sustain and Increase Media Coverage
- Recruit County employees

Volunteer Retention Efforts

- Respond to requests for additional training
- Utilize Volunteers to assist with educating community
- Invite Volunteers to provide training in areas of expertise
- Utilize Volunteers to assist with future projects
- Communication through **LISTSERVE**

Ounce of Planning...

Pound of Cure

Ensures:

- Rapid volunteer mobilization
- Prepared trained volunteers
- Stronger medical response capacity
- Improved surge capacity at the community level
- Rapid communication with residents
- Empowered volunteers to work effectively and safely during emergency situations