A nationwide network of organized volunteers strengthening the health and safety of their communities.
The Medical Reserve Corps was created along with Homeland Security in response to the devastating events on September 11, 2001 and the anthrax scare that shortly followed. It is the mission of the National Medical Reserve Corps to train, prepare, and mobilize teams of volunteer civilian medical professionals to respond during emergencies and disasters. Locally, the Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps does this by providing education, trainings, exercises, and mobilization events within the community.

During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, the Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps has experienced tremendous growth and service opportunities; membership has increased by 65 percent. Some exciting highlights include participation in the Feast of the South Indigenous Women Drum Circle Event, Bay Medical Center’s Carnival Cruise Ship Full Scale Exercise, The Bays Medical Society Spring Symposium, The American Red Cross Emergency Preparedness Expo, as well as the Women’s Expo.

The Bay Area Medical Reserve also planned and executed the “Know Your Numbers: Florida Health Spring Tour.” During this mass prophylaxis preparation exercise, MRC volunteers as well as Florida Department of Health in Bay County staff screened over 1000 individuals for diabetes.

We have strengthened partnerships with the Emergency Operations Center, the Bays Medical Society, local hospitals and the American Red Cross. New partnerships have been established with the Civil Air Patrol, Gulf Coast State Collage Nursing Program, the Community Health Task Force, and the Teen Outreach Program.

Kyle Merritt
Bay Area MRC Coordinator

Don Rich
Preparedness Planner

Doug Kent
FDOH Bay County Administrator
GOAL I - Recruitment

Recruit 200 prospective members by June 30 2013.

GOAL II - Community Awareness

Establish and build new partnerships with substantial community organizations.

GOAL III - Activity

Increase participation of Bay Area MRC volunteers in community and training events.

GOAL IV - Improve Database Integrity

Badge 45 members in the 4th Quarter
GOAL 1 - RECRUITMENT

The Bay Area MRC increased potential membership this year by 65 percent. 60+ individuals registered to be a part of our unit. This was achieved through public awareness campaigns, print media, holding MRC planned events in our community, participation in and sponsorships of other community events, conducting trainings for MRC and community members, and establishing partnerships with local governmental and community organizations. Other effective recruitment tools used were simplified education and recruitment packets. We have exceeded our recruitment goal.
GOAL II - COMMUNITY AWARENESS

In order to strengthen the health and safety of the communities we serve, the Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps feels it is important to extend the arm of public awareness as far as it can reach. We have done this by partnering with substantial community organizations such as: the Civil Air Patrol, Gulf Coast State Collage Nursing Program, the Community Health Task Force, Bay County Government, the Teen Outreach Program, Freedom 180 Positive Youth Development Program, Children’s Medical Society, Healthy Bay Program, The American Red Cross, Bay Medical Center, Gulf Coast Medical Center, Healthsouth Medical Center, Village Health Center, Big Bend of North West Florida, The Bays Medical Society, Florida State University, Wal-Mart, Walgreen’s, the Panama City Mall, Northstar Church, and various local businesses. Other ways we have completed this goal is by attending health fairs and community-wide events.
GOAL III - ACTIVITY

It is important to the Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps that we keep our members active in our communities and current in education and training. This has been accomplished by holding multiple monthly events and education initiatives. This Year's events include:

Freedom 180 Summer Camp
American Red Cross Women's Expo
American Red Cross Emergency Preparedness Expo
Florida State University - Panama City Campus Health Fair
Training with the Civil Air Patrol
MRC Rural Recruitment and Training in Gulf County
Panama Commons Apartment Homes Diabetes Screening Day
The Bays Medical Society Spring Symposium
Carnival Champion Full Scale Exercise
Feast of the South: Indigenous Women's Diabetes Screening
Florida Health Spring Tour: Know Your Numbers Diabetes Screenings
Diabetes Screenings Trainings
MRC Training Day at Gulf Coast Community College
Florida Department of Health MRC Training
Bay County Emergency Operations Center Preparedness Training
Florida Department of Health Family Preparedness Day
Panama City Marine Institute Youth Mentoring Program
Bay Area MRC and Special Needs Shelter Inventory Week
Back to School Shots Clinic
Veterans Stand Down Day
The Bays Medical Society Expo
Veterans Dental Clinic
GOAL IV - DATA INTEGRITY

It is our continuing effort to increase communication with our volunteers through updates in the ServFL system. This quarter we have focused on creating and distributing badges to members that have completed all of their credentials. We set a goal of 45 in the fourth quarter, due to malfunctions in the ServFL system we were able to badge 18. While it is not as many as we had hoped for, it is a start and is an area that has room for improvement!
KNOW YOUR NUMBERS: FLORIDA HEALTH ON TOUR
LARGEST SCREENING IN STATE HISTORY

Diabetes has become one of the most common and fastest growing diseases, yet polls have shown that awareness of this disease is surprisingly low. As such, addressing the health needs of Bay County residents today is fundamental. The need for coordinated diabetes screenings and education for Bay County residents places upon the Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps a critical responsibility to assess the health of the county. Through this unique approach to serving community members with free diabetes screenings, the efforts of this event will effectively care for the health of residents in Bay County.

The Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps held free Diabetes screenings to any resident over the age of 18 at 29 locations across Bay County. The screenings took place on Friday, April 5, 2013 from 10:00 am—2:00pm. To raise awareness of Diabetes Education the Bay County Board of Commissioners signed into action a proclamation declaring April 5th as “Know Your Numbers: Diabetes Awareness Day.”

This event is modeled after the Mass Prophylaxis Preparedness Plan developed by FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security. Recognizable components include a greeter, a triage area for testing clients, and an education/exit information position. The protocol for this event was modified for diabetes screening, also taking considerations from other similar events, and specialists in Diabetes prevention and education.

Training for this event was sponsored by the Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps. The plan is recognized by the Florida Department of Health in Bay County Administrator to be an official exercise for a mass human vaccination plan. Justification for the event plan is based upon the alarming statistic that nearly 60,000 Bay County residents may be unaware that they are at risk for Type 2 Diabetes.

The Florida Department of Health in Bay County Administrator, Doug Kent has set a long-term goal of screening 5,000 residents.
Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps, Florida Department of Health in Bay County, and Gulf Coast State College Volunteers

127

Number of Residents Screened for Risk of Diabetes

1050

(that is 262 people an hour, one person every 14 seconds)

Percentage of screened clients at risk

10%

Estimated Value of Services Provided by Bay Area MRC and Local Businesses

$24,850.00
KNOW YOUR NUMBERS: FLORIDA HEALTH ON TOUR
LARGEST SCREENING IN STATE HISTORY

Proclamation
Bay County
Board Of Commissioners

Diabetes Awareness Day
Know Your Numbers

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are nearly 40,000 Bay County residents who may be unaware that they are at risk for Type II Diabetes; and

WHEREAS, diabetes has become one of the most common and fastest growing diseases, yet polls have shown that awareness of this disease is surprisingly low; and

WHEREAS, addressing the health needs of Bay County residents today is fundamental to the future of Bay County, Florida; and

WHEREAS, the need for coordinated diabetes screenings and education for Bay County residents pieces upon the community a critical responsibility; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that a day should be set apart each year for the direction of thought towards diabetes awareness; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Health in Bay County, through its unique approach to serving community members with free diabetes screenings, is effectively caring for the health of residents in our county; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Bay County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim April 5, 2012 as Diabetes Awareness Day.

[Signatures]
FEAST OF THE SOUTH

It is a little known fact that diabetes is the second largest cause of death in Native Americans. In response to this alarming fact, 500 Native Americans congregated from many parts of North America to form the “Feast of the South” gathering. These indigenous women’s drum groups feel it is imperative to provide their culture with the tools and education needed to prevent or counteract diabetes and heart disease by teaching diet, portion control and exercise.

The Feast of the South gathering is held in many places across the United States. The Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps was fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in the event held May 4 & 5, 2013 on Panama City Beach, Florida. The Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps brought a team of six to provide Diabetes and blood pressure screenings to event participants. Kyle Merritt, local MRC Administrator collaborated with the Florida Department of Health in Bay County, Healthy Bay Coordinator, Lisa Rahn to provide two nurses for HIV and Hepatitis C screenings as well.

The results showed what tends to be the standard during screenings; Ten percent were at risk for diabetes. After registration and assessment, clients move on to the education portion of the screening. They receive information regarding free and low-cost clinics, as well as tips for healthy eating, and diabetes preventative steps. MRC volunteer contributions for this event equate to over $1000.00 in free services. To date, through the coordinated efforts of the Bay Area MRC over 1000 people have been screened for diabetes in Bay County.
CARNIVAL CHAMPION FULL SCALE EXERCISE

On May 9, 2013 the Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps participated in the Carnival Champion Full Scale Exercise under the direction of Otis Gatwood, Security Administrator at Bay Medical Center in Panama City, Florida. Other Partners in this exercise include: Gulf Coast Medical Center, Healthsouth Medical Center, Tyndall Air Force Base, Bay County Emergency Response, Bay County Coast Guard, and the Florida Department of Health In Bay County.

The purpose of this exercise was to identify roles in the Incident Command System and assess how Bay County emergency services should adequately respond to an event of this magnitude.

A cruise ship has become immobile two miles from the shores of Panama City, Florida after a strange but non-lethal fire. The passenger responsible for this fire has been taken in to custody by the local Coast Guard and has been determined to be of no serious threat. During the cruise, many passengers have shown symptoms of Norovirus believed to be contracted from kitchen staff. A quick decision is made that medical attention is needed immediately for the 200 + / - individuals that may have contracted this virus. At that point the Emergency Operation Center was initiated and plans were made to transport passengers from the vessel by uses of water and land public transportation to three area hospitals: Gulf Coast Medical Center, Healthsouth Medical Center, and Bay Medical Center.

Bay County High School students played a major role in this exercise as the incoming patients to the hospital. This was possible through the coordinated efforts of Kyle Merritt, Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps Administrator and Bonnie Steelman, Bay Area MRC member and Teen Outreach Program Coordinator. Forming this partnership provided an invaluable resource for both the Bay Area MRC and the Teen Outreach Program. It has strengthened community relationships for the MRC between local emergency and medical services, established a chain of command and the Bay Area MRC roles in this type of event. This exercise gave high school students the opportunity to explore the medical field, and get acquainted with the MRC early on as to insure MRC growth and awareness for years to come.

This full scale exercise achieved the purpose set, and painted a clear picture of strengths, weaknesses, roles in the Incident Command System, communication between agencies and emergency planning and response. Overall it was a grand success.
FAMILY PREPAREDNESS DAY IN TALLAHASSEE, FL

On May 14, 2013, the Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) participated in the Florida Department of Health Family Preparedness Day Event at the Department of Health headquarters in Tallahassee, Florida. The purpose of this event was to educate those in attendance on emergency preparedness best practices through literature and free material distribution, conversational instruction, and interactive displays.

The Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) was given the opportunity to represent the statewide MRC during the Family Preparedness Day by staffing a MRC and First Aid booth. Educational materials provided at the MRC booth include information on creating "Go Kits", Department of Health Emergency Preparedness Guides, First Aid check lists, Preparedness Tips bookmarks, “Ready, Set, Prepare!” Disaster Preparedness coloring books for children, and information on joining the MRC. Bay Area MRC volunteers educated attendees in the following areas: MRC history, membership, and community involvement, as well as creating Go Kits and a family disaster plan. Volunteers at the first aid booth took care of minor medical needs, presented literature on first aid, and provided first aid coloring books to children.

Being prepared during an emergency can mean the difference between life and death. It is important to pursue creative methods to increase public involvement in and awareness of these issues. Florida Department of Health Family Preparedness Day plays an integral role in preparing Floridians for disasters and emergencies.
### Contributed Services

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The Bay Area Medical Reserve Corps has a strategic plan to increase member involvement and community outreach in the upcoming months. We plan to add a partnership component that will encompass monthly meetings for MRC members, healthcare professionals, community leaders, local business leaders, and other civic and professional organizations. We feel this will strengthen the health and safety of our communities to better promote a unified message of public preparedness.