



Spring/Summer 2004

## Broome County Medical Reserve Corps Newsletter



### From the Director's Chair - Claudia Edwards

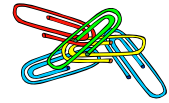
Many thanks to all of the MRC volunteers for their participation in meetings, activities and training sessions. Your volunteer efforts have been recognized both statewide and nationally. It was an honor to be at the National Conference in July and hear the U.S. Surgeon General, Richard Carmona, praise Broome County's Medical Reserve Corps for participating in public health activities related to chronic diseases.

The interest and enthusiasm demonstrated by our volunteers has ensured our success as an MRC, and we're grateful for their participation and support.

**Reminder:** All MRC volunteers must take the online course for "Incident Command System 100" at: [www.fema.gov/emi/is195.htm](http://www.fema.gov/emi/is195.htm).

The HIPAA (Health Information Portability and Accountability Act) video must also be viewed, which can be mailed to volunteers or obtained at the Health Department (see Cindy Sullivan or David Spicer in MCHD).

### Coordinator's Clips - Cindy Sullivan



Claudia Edwards, our Public Health Director, attended the Medical Reserve Corps National Conference in Maryland during July 2004. During his opening remarks, Richard Carmona, United States Surgeon General, highlighted Broome County's MRC for addressing chronic diseases. Our volunteers assist the Healthy Living Partnership grant by making follow-up phone calls for their various programs. Claudia was asked to speak at a workshop about the training programs we've provided to the MRC volunteers during the past year.

Shirley Moehring, our Leadership Volunteer, provided outreach and education sessions to the Home Care Association and the Parish Nurses in hopes of recruiting additional people for the Medical Reserve Corps.

### Volunteer Database Update

The NYS Department of Health is developing a physician database. It will be deployed to counties the last week in October and counties will be able to query physicians in their county for their local recruitment efforts. Notice via email will be sent to all County Health Department Commissioner/ Public Health Directors and MRCs with a link and directions for accessing the database. The nurses' database is not available to the counties currently but will soon be available.

If a physician or nurse is listed on the NYSDOH volunteer database and activated and deployed by NYSDOH, they are covered under NYS Public Officer Law 17. Protocols for activation and deployment are being developed. If an individual is not in the NYSDOH volunteer database, liability protection is afforded by the jurisdiction of the county.

### Interesting Websites Related to Bioterrorism:

CDC Bioterrorism: [www.bt.cdc.gov](http://www.bt.cdc.gov)

NYS Department of Health: [www.health.state.ny.us](http://www.health.state.ny.us)

Johns Hopkins Center for Civilian Biodefense: [www.hopkins-biodefense.org/faq.html](http://www.hopkins-biodefense.org/faq.html)

NYC Department of Health: [www.nyc.gov/health](http://www.nyc.gov/health)

US Department of Health & Human Services: [www.hhs.gov/smallpox/index.html](http://www.hhs.gov/smallpox/index.html)

Broome County Health Department: [www.gobroomecounty.com](http://www.gobroomecounty.com)



### MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

To provide a structure for recruiting, organizing, and training volunteer health professionals to augment and strengthen existing county health and emergency response services during a public health crisis.

### BROOME COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT VISION STATEMENT

Leading the community to the promise of a healthy future.



Mari Yourdon presents an inservice to MRC volunteers about communicable disease surveillance and contact tracing. Pictured left to right: Charlotte Pastore, Art Lester, Sandra Shaw, Mari Yourdon, Sally Connelly



MRC volunteers receive CPR/AED training (L to R) Ruth Fillo, Jeanette Castiglione, Carol Hofmann, and Rose Marie Boehlert observe Marie Shafer, PHN

Ruth Fillo, RN practices Smallpox vaccine technique with Cindy Sullivan, MRC Coordinator



Charlotte Pastore helps during National Public Health Week

### MRC VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

#### April 2004

Volunteers participated in National Public Health Week by staffing the MRC table at our Health Department displays at the Oakdale Mall.

MRC volunteers made follow-up phone calls to remind people of appointments for the Healthy Living Partnership program.

Six MRC nurses attended the NYS Department of Health Smallpox training at the Health Department and learned clinic functions, regulations and the administration of Smallpox vaccine.

#### May 2004

Public Health Director, Deputy Public Health Director, and MRC Coordinator attended Region II meeting at West Point – met federal and regional MRC Administrative staff and shared “best practices” with other MRC’s.

A volunteer meeting was held at the Health Department. Broome County Communicable Disease Public Health Nurse presented an inservice to eighteen volunteers about surveillance and contact tracing.

#### June 2004

Three MRC nurses, one physician, one nurse practitioner, and two paramedics attended the Advanced Hazmat Life Support training in Rochester June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

MRC volunteers participated in the June 5, 2004 County-wide emergency response drill by staffing phones at the Health Dept. Broome County EMS offered a CPR re-certification course for volunteers.

#### July 2004

Volunteers helped staff the medical tent at the Broome County Air Show on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

A tabletop strategic national stockpile drill was held August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Volunteers participated as observers and offered observations and suggestions afterward.