



# The RESPONDER

Okaloosa-Walton  
Medical Reserve Corps

SECOND QUARTER NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2017

## OWMRC CONTACTS

**Katie McDeavitt**  
OWMRC Director  
850-344-0574  
Katie.McDeavitt@flhealth.gov

**Shayne Stewart**  
OWMRC Coordinator  
and Team Leader  
850-344-0575  
Shayne.Stewart@flhealth.gov

**Paige Crawford**  
OWMRC Assistant Team Leader  
850-344-0576  
Paige.Crawford@flhealth.gov

**Kellie Newcomb**  
OWMRC Assistant Team Leader  
Walton County  
850-401-6364  
Kellie.Newcomb@flhealth.gov

## HALF-WAY POINT OF OUR 2017-2018 OKALOOSA-WALTON MRC YEAR



Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a great Christmas and survived the New Year celebrations! Now it's time to get to work on those promised resolutions and reaching for those goals you have set for yourselves!

It has been quite a year so far! Hurricane Irma and Nate responses were our major events in the first half of the OWMRC fiscal year. As we end the first two quarters, I have

to say our MRC has done an outstanding job with your participation in events and in training opportunities. As of this writing, you have provided **694.5 hours** of volunteer time that translates to a value of **\$28,220.21 – OUTSTANDING!** If you remember, your *full-year* amount from the 2016-2017 OWMRC year was 863.25 hours of volunteer time valued at \$35,313.20. If we keep up this pace, our unit could easily break 1000 hours of volunteer time and may top \$45,000 in time value. In contrast, I went back to the 2011-2012 mid-year report and it shows that the total dollar value of MRC Volunteer Services and Donations was \$3,817.33 from 19 volunteers providing 145 hours of service. I hope you all share my excitement over our numbers, and look forward to providing more opportunities for our members to serve the community in Okaloosa and Walton Counties.

Not only have we been busy, but MRC units nationwide has been working hard through multiple natural and man-made disasters and public health threats. Esmeralda Pereira, Acting Director of the Medical Reserve Corps, writes in an email: *"This year has been both an extremely busy year and a year of change for the MRC Program. One of the things that has impressed me the most is your ability to support each other – your fellow MRC units – while at the same time responding to the needs of your communities. This willingness and enthusiasm to step up and help is evident every day as you seek advice and share resources and best practices on our listservs, during the Well Check Webinars, and in discussions with each other. It was also clear this fall as our country responded to a historic hurricane season that left many of our communities devastated. More than 50 MRC units were activated or placed on stand-by to support the response efforts to these storms, and countless others asked how they could help and were prepared to deploy should the need and request arise. Your dedication and support of the network and the MRC's mission and to improving the health and safety of our neighbors is incomparable."*

... continued page 3



Confirmed	37
Confirmed Late	0
Unreachable	0
Not Confirmed	37

On December 20, 2017, we sent out a notification alert for an after hour, unannounced drill. Drills are required to be conducted every quarter, or we use the system to notify our members of emergency activations or community events. Here are the results for the latest notification call for response...

- ▶ 37 Confirmed (50%)
- ▶ 37 Not Confirmed (50%)
- ▶ 0 Confirmed late (0%)
- ▶ 0 Unreachable (0%)

**WE HIT 50% CONFIRMED!  
GREAT JOB MEMBERS!  
THANKS FOR YOUR RESPONSE!**

If you are not receiving a call down from Everbridge and you are listed as a deployable volunteer, we need to update your information. We have members who are not registered. It is important to stay current with your contact info so in case there is an alert or activation to respond, you are receiving the call, email or text. There is also an App for Everbridge!

## Background Screening Update

**Without a current background check, you cannot be deployed or participate in any activation or event.**

Since receiving our budget for background screenings, I have been busy getting new and existing members completed. I have enough funding budgeted for 11 more screenings. So far we have done 11 Level One screenings, and have 6 Level Two screenings in the works! There are a few more new members that are in the process of completing their online training (required for BGS).

I have also been moving those members who have not responded to contacts over to the inactive file.

The re-screening requires your fingerprints to be taken at a location here in Fort Walton Beach and must be scheduled at least one week in advance. We require that you resubmit the Live Scan Information Sheet, a good color copy of your Driver's License or ID and a color copy of your Social Security Card. Indicate on the Live Scan form what day and time would be best for you to get your fingerprints recorded.

Again, if you are unable to continue your service to our MRC, we do understand. We just want you to let us know that you cannot or no longer want to be a part of the OWMRC. Send me an email and I will close your folder and move you to the inactive database.

## Changes in DOH-Okaloosa and OWMRC Leadership

There are some changes at DOH-Okaloosa that I want to make you all aware of. As announced last quarter, David Brinkley left the Health Department and moved closer to his family in North Carolina. David served our OWMRC first as the Team Leader when he was first hired, and then as Coordinator when he moved into a different planner position. Since he has vacated the position, I have transferred into his position and will become the Coordinator. A new person will be hired for my position at the CHD and will be working as the OWMRC Team Leader.

However, Katie McDeavitt, our OWMRC Director feels that it is in the best interest of our group that some of the responsibilities that I currently have within the structure of the unit be continued. I will have the big picture look of our organization, continuing the strategic planning and overall operations of the group. I will still be publishing *The Responder* Newsletter, and continuing to work to grow our membership through recruitment events and community partnerships.

When our new planner is brought on board, you will have the opportunity to meet him or her at our mid-year meeting and share your expectations with the new Team Leader then. I know that consistency is important to our group, and we will be working to maintain that consistency and continuity during the change. Please be patient with us!

## Please Welcome Our New Members

The Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps welcomes the following new members that have joined this quarter:

**Terri Beck**  
**James Wallace**  
**Katherine "Lynn" Holt**  
**Janet Huckabee**  
**William Haik**

We have others who are currently in Researching Status and hope to have them on board soon. Upon completion of all training requirements and background screening, a new member receives a "Go-Pack" filled with response swag and reference materials, ID badge, T-shirt and Polo Shirt.

If you know anyone who would like to join us, please give them my email address and have them contact me, or forward this newsletter to them with the interest application on the back page. I will send them the information that will get them on the way to becoming a deployable OWMRC member! We need you and we need them!

## OWMRC MISSION STATEMENT

To engage health care professionals in helping the community prepare for, respond to, and mitigate health and medical emergencies, natural or man-made disaster and other urgent public health needs by providing a group of trained, readily available volunteer professionals to supplement the local health and medical response system.

## Half-Way Point . . . *continued from page 1*

In early December, the “MRC:2017 Year in Review” was released. It is an excellent document and can be found at this link: <https://www.naccho.org/programs/public-health-preparedness/medical-reserve-corps/mrc-network-profile>. The publication has some great statistics on the many accomplishments of our nationwide MRC units made during the year. In addition to the fifty units that activated for the hurricanes, there were more than 25 units that supported community viewing events for the total solar eclipse over the summer; 12 MRC units supported wildfire efforts in Northern and Southern California; attended or hosted approximately 125 “Until Help Arrives” or “Stop the Bleed” training events; and MRC units across the country participated in more than 300 activities related to combating the opioid crisis (community education and outreach, Naloxone distribution and training, and safe prescription drug disposal).

And something many of you may not know... 2017 is the 15-year Anniversary of the Medical Reserve Corps. Organized in 2002 after the September 11th attacks, the MRC has become a valuable member of the response community during times of public health emergencies and disasters. Many MRC units are specialized with specific duties like veterinarian services, disaster behavioral health teams, specialized rescue teams, and others.

Closer to home, we continue to provide preparedness services to our many vulnerable populations through our Lean On Me Project, providing training to faith-based partners on the LOM curriculum to assist with further outreach, expanding our membership in order to carry-out our missions if deployed, providing training to the community through the “Until Help Arrives” curriculum and train additional OWMRC members to be able to deliver the class as needed.

I am very proud to report that we have 70 deployable members, and have 28 in Researching Status. I continue to work on getting those in Researching Status moved over to Deployable. If you are not sure what your status is, please contact me and I will let you know. Many of you know that we are waiting on a new badge printer, and because you many not have a OWMRC ID

Card, doesn’t mean you cannot be deployed. We will get those to you as soon as possible.

Also, if you are unable or no longer wish to be a part of our MRC unit, please let me know via an email so I can close your file and remove you from our active database. Many folks move, or get orders to another area. If you have moved from the Okaloosa or Walton County area and are interested in joining another MRC unit close to where you now live, I can get you the contact information for the closest unit to you. There are just under 1000 MRC units nationwide. And like ours, I’m sure they can always use you in their organization. If you know someone that is looking for a volunteer opportunity and feel like they would be a good fit in our membership, give them a copy of this newsletter and have them contact me via my email or have them fill out the form on the last page and mail it back or scan and email. I will get them the information needed to sign-up and get started.

In the remaining two quarters, we will have a lot of opportunities for service. The mid-year meeting at the end of January or first part of February, Special Needs Shelter Set-up and Tear Down and Operational Training around Spring Break, Feed the Need Meal Preparation Event in May, and Hurricane Preparedness events in May and June. We will continue our Lean On Me Project visits and the team can use more help. Please consider contacting our Lean On Me Project Coordinator Peggy McDeavitt and see where you can be of most assistance. Into the summer, I want to try and get our folks involved early in our back-to-school immunization clinics. Needed training and scheduling will have to be accomplished ahead of time so we can seamlessly integrate into the systems and procedures.

We will need to start thinking about election of Board of Advisors members at the end of this fiscal year. This will give us about six months to identify those members who would be able and willing to serve on this important board. Current Board Members are certainly eligible for Board nomination and continued service.

Personally, I want to thank all of you for your continued commitment to the OWMRC and our mission of service in times of need.

## Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps Community Events

# Give Where You Live!



The OWMRC participated in the inaugural **"Give Where You Live"** volunteer opportunity event at The Landing in downtown Fort Walton Beach. The event, organized by Fort Walton Beach Fire Marshall Glen Guarin, was held on the afternoon of November 11, 2017. Veterans Day was the backdrop for this outreach of the many organizations located in our area who rely on volunteers to help do their good work for our citizens and visitors.

Pictured (L-R) are Ester Molder, Terry Eisler, Peggy McDeavitt, and Craig Boydston. The event brought out about 300 people from the community to The Landing to learn about our OWMRC and the other groups that took part, listen to live music, and enjoy the plentiful sunshine.

We informed the folks that visited our table about the good work our OWMRC performs during disasters and public health emergencies, and also shared information about the Lean On Me Project. We are looking forward to next year!

## DOG DAZE 2017

October 14 brought out hundreds of four-legged furry citizens and their humans to the annual Dog Daze 2017 Event at Liza Jackson Park in Fort Walton Beach. The OWMRC teamed up with the DOH-Okaloosa Environmental Health Section and the Epidemiology Section to promote Pet Preparedness, Rabies Awareness, and Disease Prevention.

The annual event, sponsored by The City of Fort Walton Beach, Friendship Veterinary Hospital, and the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce, provides an opportunity for our OWMRC to showcase our work in the community and importance of preparing pets in the event they need to evacuate with their humans. Members provided tips and information on what to take when evacuating, importance of vaccinations, locations of pet friendly shelters, reducing stress on your pet, and preparedness information for humans too!

OWMRC Members Ester Molder and Craig Boydston participated at the DOH-Okaloosa booth during the first half of the day. Pictured to the right is DOH-Okaloosa staff Christine Syfrett and Trisha Dall in the afternoon.



## OWMRC Volunteer Spotlight

Noelle, is a Northwest Florida native and a Certified surgical technologist for the past 8 years.

She joined the MRC to be better prepared in the face of disaster and overall to a better neighbor/resource for her community.

Noelle says volunteerism is incredibly important to her and that is because it shows the community that you are there, and you are ready and willing to help. Neighbors come together when it's most needed, but we are here during any crisis, no matter how big or small.

She would love to see MRC members become active in more non-clinical volunteer opportunities such as Feed The Need or Lean On Me – even volunteering to pass out water during local runs and races would be great. Being visible volunteers in those areas will show potential new members that you don't necessarily have to have a medical background to be a valuable member of the MRC.



**Tony Labonte**

Tony is a Health Education Specialist who joined the OWMRC in 2012 after moving to Shalimar from Ohio. He was interested in volunteering in a capacity that could utilize his experience and skill sets to help the community. Tony is a veteran of the armed forces, he served for 23 years in the USAF with extensive experience in both aerospace medicine and public health. After his military retirement he continued his medical career by both managing medical practices and teaching college courses in health sciences.

Tony feels that volunteering is a great way to get connected with the community. It's a great opportunity to get to know the people in our community while also helping out where needed. In the future Tony would like to see increased visibility of all the fantastic services and work the OWMRC provides for the surrounding areas.



**Ester Molder**

Ester Molder is a Registered Nurse in the Medical Care Unit/Cancer Care Center at Fort Walton Beach Medical Center. She has her Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN) and is ONS/ONCC Chemotherapy Biotherapy Certified. Ester serves as a preceptor on the unit, training new nurses and orienting them to the nursing profession. After 2.5 years in oncology, Ester will be starting in the Intensive Care Unit at FWBMC in the coming weeks!

She joined the OWMRC to give back to the community in a different way; providing a different level of healthcare services to our local residents. She says it is a nice change of scenery from the hospital setting :)

Ester feels that it is important to perform volunteer service in the community. It helps her stay current on what our community needs, allows engagement with colleagues in public health, and engagement with the community. She hopes the OWMRC continues to grow our outreach with the Lean on Me project and get the general public (not just at-risk) educated and prepared for emergencies. She also hopes that the OWMRC gets involved in more public health preparedness activities like disease prevention and improving health literacy.

## Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps FIRST AID TENT AT TOYS FOR TOTS RIDE

Every November, the Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) and Children In Crisis (CIC) hold their annual Toys for Tots Motorcycle Ride that begins at Sam’s Club In Fort Walton Beach and ends in Niceville at the Mullet Festival Grounds. The ride is co-sponsored by Emerald Coast Harley Davidson, and each year it brings out in excess of 500 bikes with their riders, passengers, and of course a sleigh full of toys for their organizations.

For the past two years, our OWMRC has had the privilege of providing a first aid tent at the end of the ride. The event grounds after the ride become active with riders vying for prizes during various “motorcycle games” and socializing for a good cause.

This event is a great opportunity to show



off our capabilities. One of our Mission Ready Teams is the First Aid Booth or “BooBoo Booth”! This capability can be used at various events in our service area, like 5K races, festivals and other large public events.

Pictured above (L-R): Trisha Dall and Katie McDevitt from DOH-Okaloosa; and Robin Culbertson, OWMRC Volunteer, Registered Nurse, and lead instructor at the Okaloosa Technical College (OTC) Licensed Practical Nursing Program. Not pictured was Barry Ratcliffe, OWMRC Volunteer. Please consider your involvement for the next time we are requested to support an event.

We are happy to report that there were no injuries that required our services, but our team was ready!

Medical Reserve Corps units are community-based and function as a way to locally organize and use volunteers who want to donate their time and expertise to prepare for and respond to emergencies and promote healthy living throughout the year. MRC volunteers supplement existing emergency and public health resources.

The year 2017 marks the 15th anniversary of the creation of the National Medical Reserve Corps, which was announced during President George W. Bush’s 2002 State of the Union address and officially launched as a demonstration project in July of 2002. In the first 10 years, the program grew to over 200,000 volunteers in almost 1,000 units across the country—ready to respond to emergencies and building resiliency in thousands of local communities through prevention, preparedness and public health activities.

## Training Website Links

Interested in some additional training? Want something to do when you can't sleep? Want to learn more without having to sit in a classroom? Consider checking out these Training Websites to get your learning on!

SERT TRAC: <https://trac.floridadisaster.org/TRAC/loginform.aspx>

MRC TRAIN: <https://www.mrc.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx>

FEMA: <https://training.fema.gov/>

You will need to register to get access, but it's free. Almost all classes you see are free to attend or take online. All you have to provide is your time! **HAPPY LEARNING!**

## Until Help Arrives



This is a new program that has taken the place of the Active Bystander Training program. *You Are The Help Until Help Arrives (Until Help Arrives)* is designed to educate and empower the public to take action in emergency situations and provide lifesaving care before professional help arrives.

### OWMRC's Role Promoting Until Help Arrives

Our MRC will play a critical role in promoting the Until Help Arrives program and educating the public in communities nationwide. Linda Epperson has attended the seminar from the FDOH about Until Help Arrives training resources. We will be looking at providing the training for additional instructors here for our OWMRC and our communities. Stay tuned to your email for announcements from the OWMRC leadership for this great opportunity to serve your fellow citizens!

Be A Local Hero!

**VOLUNTEER**

**TODAY**



**850-344-0575**

Florida Health Alert Network

<https://floridahealthalertnetwork.com/mrcvolunteer>

## Santa Claus Visits DOH-Okaloosa

On December 21st, the Jolly Ole Elf himself made a quick appearance at the Okaloosa County Health Department's WIC Section for a quick visit. He also checked on the staff to make sure they had all been good boys and girls!



### OWMRC Interest Form

Name (Last) (First) (Middle)

Mailing Address City State Zip

Work Telephone / Home Telephone / Cell Phone

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

What type of volunteer position are you interested in? \_\_\_\_\_

List any professional license, registration, or certificate you currently possess (include certificate/license number):

List any special skills, interests, or hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

List any special considerations or needs: \_\_\_\_\_

List your most recent volunteer or employment experience: \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about the OWMRC? \_\_\_\_\_

Scan and email this form to OWMRC Team Leader Shayne Stewart at [Shayne.Stewart@flhealth.gov](mailto:Shayne.Stewart@flhealth.gov)

or mail to: Shayne Stewart  
OWMRC Coordinator  
221 Hospital Drive, NE  
Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548

