



# The RESPONDER

Okaloosa-Walton  
Medical Reserve Corps

THIRD QUARTER NEWSLETTER • JANUARY - MARCH 2018

## 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

**Kirk Webb**  
OWMRC Team Leader  
850-344-0577  
Robert.Webb@flhealth.gov

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has a page on  
Facebook!

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The Everbridge System is used to notify our members of emergency activations or when there may important information that needs to get out to our membership. We did not perform a notification test this quarter, but will return to sending out our test call in the 4th Quarter.

If you are a new member and have not received a email message from Everbridge, please let us know. We are looking to get everyone into the system. The Florida DOH through the Health Alert Network (HAN) uses it to poll statewide for assistance like during Hurricane Irma.

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!

## LEAN ON ME PROJECT TO BE PRESENTED AT HEALTHY AGING SUMMIT IN DC

Back in January, we received an email from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) who were identifying local health department initiatives that relate to optimal living for seniors across a broad array of topics. Since we had received the 2017 MRC Challenge Award that supported seniors and other vulnerable populations in our service area, they wanted to know if we would share our project at the 2018 Healthy Aging Summit in Washington, DC. The Summit is scheduled for July and is sponsored by Health and Human Services and the American College of Preventive Medicine.

We had a strict timeline and the abstract had to be in by the first week of February. As with most Abstracts, it had to tell the story and the importance of our work for the community in just 400 words. Below was our submission:



*The Lean On Me Project was born from the observations of OWMRC member Peggy McDeavitt during one of Florida's very active hurricane seasons. She witnessed first-hand that the elderly population in her neighborhood did not have a viable disaster plan. She felt that, with help from other volunteers in the OWMRC, a project could be developed to perform community outreach to this and other vulnerable populations in our service area.*

*Hurricanes are not the only reason for having our elderly and vulnerable populations prepare disaster plans. We have been impacted by freezing temperatures accompanied by snow and ice storms. There are major transportation corridors through our area that pose the risk of hazardous materials accidents, and there are flooding concerns in the many river systems that flow in our counties. In addition, we are home to one of the largest military bases in the country.*

*The Lean On Me Project has developed local preparedness materials that address some of our area's unique issues. These materials, along with information from state and federal response agencies, were combined into a comprehensive client resource book. Volunteers provide the book during a visit performed in the person's home or meeting place. Volunteers perform a hazard risk assessment, looking for fire hazards or mobility problems. If there are issues, Lean On Me volunteers assist by preparing specific disaster plans developed by the volunteers based on the client's health acuity and identify resources available to help the client. The visit ends with clients receiving a NOAA Weather Radio, small first-aid kit, and a file box to gather and store important paperwork and resource lists. We use a database developed from our visits to reach out to these clients in the event of a severe event in our area.*

*In the first 12 months of the Project, volunteers have performed over 40 visits and have interest forms for 20 more. We have partnered with local faith based organizations and churches to provide the training, curriculum, and materials for their congregations to prepare for both natural or man-made disasters.*

*We believe that the Lean On Me Project is providing piece of mind for our clients, strengthening the whole community, reducing the burden on first responder services to the community during disasters, and helping to make recovery from these events less stressful for vulnerable populations because they are better prepared before a disaster strikes.*

... continued page 3

## Background Screening Update

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

Background Screenings have been going strong and we are working hard to get those who require rescreening completed, and those who need their first BGS completed in the works. I have also been moving those members who have not responded to contacts over to the inactive file.

Some of the re-screening is done through Central Office, as long as we have had a Level 2 screening performed within the last 4 years. For those beyond that timeframe, 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. New members are required to have those initial fingerprints taken and submitted for review.

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 us an email and we will close your folder and move you to the inactive database.

## Please Welcome Our New Members

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

**Clerra Allen-Spraggins**  
**Anastassia Challis**  
**Deanna Butts**  
**Timothy Butts**  
**Dreama Crowder**  
**Teddy Scott, Jr.**  
**Dale Bounds**

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!

## Meet Kirk Webb OWMRC Team Leader

I wanted to take this time and introduce myself. My name is Robert "Kirk" Webb and I am the new Planning Consultant for Florida Department of Health in Okaloosa County, in the Public Health Preparedness section.

I am originally from Jackson, Mississippi, but have called Alabama home for the past 25 years. I am married to my high school sweetheart and we have four children. My oldest son recently graduated high school and will be joining the United States Army where he will be a Cavalry Scout. We currently live in Andalusia, Alabama. We also have three dogs (2 American Staffordshire terriers and 1 Chocolate English Labrador retriever) and three cats (just three regular old cats).

I enlisted in the United States Army in 1996 and was stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia for four years as a M1A1 tank crewman. I am now a Staff Sergeant and have been a member of the Alabama Army National Guard for 14 years, having deployed to 6 natural disasters (Hurricanes Ivan, Dennis, and



Katrina/ tornadoes in Oak Grove, Enterprise, and Tuscaloosa, AL), deployed in 2002 in support of Operation Noble Eagle (Fort Benning, Georgia and Camp Merrill, Georgia) and in 2007 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (FOB Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq).

I graduated from Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, AL. I obtained my Bachelor of Science in Emergency Management, with a minor in Homeland Security, in 2013. After graduation, I accepted a position in Brazoria County, Texas with a nonprofit organization. Within this organization, I was responsible for recruiting, training, and managing Brazoria county's volunteer program. I trained these volunteers in CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), MRC (Medical Reserve Corps), and Fire Corps. In addition, I was also working a second position as the Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator for Brazoria County's Public Health and Emergency Preparedness division of their Department of Health.

I enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, shooting, and woodworking. I am an avid Mississippi State University fan, HAIL STATE!



## Healthy Aging Summit . . . continued from page 1

We received word on April 5th that our submission was accepted for oral presentation at the Summit. What a great honor! Our Lean On Me Project accepted for presentation to a national audience. With some help from NACCHO and our Health Department Director Dr. Karen Chapman, our OWMRC Unit Director Katie McDeavitt will be traveling to



Washington, DC on July 16-17, 2018 to present our project and take questions.

Katie is excited to carry our message and show that preparedness is for all ages, from the very young to our seniors. No matter the event, a good plan is worth having and knowing where to start is what our Lean On Me Project is all about.

## Tax Free Holiday

The 2018 Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday begins on Friday, June 1, 2018, and ends on Thursday, June 7, 2018. During this sales tax holiday period, qualifying items related to disaster preparedness are exempt from sales tax. Visit: [https://revenue.law.floridarevenue.com/LawLibraryDocuments/2018/04/TIP-121704\\_TIP%2018A01-05%20FINAL%20RLL.pdf](https://revenue.law.floridarevenue.com/LawLibraryDocuments/2018/04/TIP-121704_TIP%2018A01-05%20FINAL%20RLL.pdf) for more information!

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS 2018 SALES TAX HOLIDAY

<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #00a651; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>\$10 or less</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Reusable ice (reusable ice packs)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #00a651; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>\$50 or less</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tarps (tarpaulins)</li> <li>■ Visqueen, plastic sheeting, plastic drop cloths, and other flexible waterproof sheeting</li> <li>■ Ground anchor systems</li> <li>■ Tie-down kits</li> <li>■ Bungee cords</li> <li>■ Ratchet straps</li> <li>■ Radios (powered by battery, solar or hand crank)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Two-way</li> <li>■ Weather band</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #00a651; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>\$20 or less</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Any portable self-powered light source                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Flashlights</li> <li>■ Lanterns</li> <li>■ Candles</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #00a651; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>\$750 or less</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Portable generators used to provide light or communications, or to preserve food in the event of a power outage</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #00a651; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>\$25 or less</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Any gas or diesel fuel container, including LP gas and kerosene containers</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #00a651; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>Always Exempt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bottled water (unflavored, uncarbonated)</li> <li>■ Canned food, including meats, vegetable, fruits, peanut butter, and other nonperishable items</li> <li>■ First aid kits</li> <li>■ Prescription and non-prescription medications (all Rx and most over the counter are exempt)</li> <li>■ Baby food and formulas</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center; background-color: #00a651; color: white; padding: 5px;"><b>\$30 or less</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Batteries, including rechargeable batteries, listed sizes only (excluding automobile and boat batteries):                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ AA and AAA-cell</li> <li>■ C-cell</li> <li>■ D-cell</li> <li>■ 6-volt</li> <li>■ 9-volt</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Coolers and ice chests (food-storage, nonelectrical)</li> </ul>	

June 1-7

Visit [floridarevenue.com/disasterprep](http://floridarevenue.com/disasterprep)

## Summer Feeding Program

Summer BreakSpot provides nutritious meals at no cost to children 18 and under while school is out for the summer. Many meal sites are located at places like school cafeterias, parks, libraries and churches and offer breakfasts, lunches, snacks or supper. To find a location, text "FoodFL" to 877-877 or dial 2-1-1 when schools begin releasing for the summer break. Or, go to <https://www.summerbreakspot.org/> for more information and an interactive map with local locations, dates and times for the feeding programs.

Currently, there are 30 sites listed for Okaloosa County as summer feeding sites. **\*\*Disclaimer-the texting option did not list any feeding sites when it was tested-but it did provide a toll-free number to a hunger hotline. \*\***



Your OWMRC now has a page on **FACEBOOK!**

Join and LIKE US Today!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/449740222113537/>

# In Memorium

## OWMRC Assistant Team Leader and DOH Planner for Walton County

# Kellie Newcomb



It was a little over 7 years ago, I walked into the Okaloosa County Health Department for the first time as an employee. As a fresh, out-of-college graduate, I had just been hired to be the new Team Leader for the Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps (OWMRC). With my limited experience, I nervously walked past the unfamiliar view of conference rooms, cubicles, and offices, where I found my desk. It was then I met my office neighbor, Kellie and my fear began to allay. Kellie had recently been promoted from the job I was now filling, was the backbone of the OWMRC, and she promised me she'd see me through it. And that she did.

Over the next year, Kellie and I, alongside of our supervisor, Elaine, found ourselves in the throes of public health preparedness. Together we taught CPR classes, conducted

training drills, role-played as angry clients, assembled hundreds of cots, wrote and reviewed plans, dreamt up solutions to the worst possible scenarios, and attended countless meetings together.

It was during that time, I (we) learned a lot about Kellie. She was the mother of two beautiful children, Zoey (now 12) and Christian (now 23). Kellie had open arms and an open heart for anything with four-legs or a tail. She had several rescued fur babies (so many, that I can't recall the number). Kellie always had a witty answer or joke and never failed to make us laugh. Just when we didn't think she could get any happier she met the love of her life, Corey. Corey was finishing his Air Force career and shortly after their marriage, he swept her away to Japan in September of 2012.

Kellie and the kids spent the next two years exploring Japan, eating sushi and falling in love with Japanese culture, with Corey (yes; somehow, she got all her pets on the plane too). A lot changed in the Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps staff and I found myself without the original group. But alas the Newcomb family returned to the area in 2014. Kellie eventually found herself back in public health preparedness in Walton County, and was again serving as the Assistant Team Leader for the OWMRC. As the Walton Planner, she did a lot of work conducting plan reviews, purchasing and setting up response trailers with supplies, conducting active shooter trainings, practiced suiting up for Ebola, taught children how to keep mosquitos out of their yard, and a "Who Flu the COOP" tabletop exercise.

Kellie's passion for public health preparedness was apparent through her years as part of our OWMRC family.





The entire Region 1 Public Health Preparedness family felt it the day we lost Kellie. We are a close group and over the years we've commiserated over the hard work and shared joy in our achievements. A little over 7 years ago, I met an extraordinary person, a mentor and a friend for life – Kellie will be missed by so many who feel the same way I do.

– Katie McDevitt



**Thank you Corey, Christian, Zoey, and Brenda Blich for the wonderful pictures of Kellie!**

## Okaloosa-Walton Medical Reserve Corps SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER EXERCISE

As we are approaching Hurricane Season, we find ourselves ramping up our training, exercises, and preparations. In March, over the Spring Break holiday for Okaloosa Schools, the DOH-Okaloosa staff and MRC volunteers practiced our Special Needs Shelter plan with a full set-up of the Davidson Middle School Gym, our updated location. In the past, the SpNS was located in the classrooms of one of the hallways of the school. It was not the ideal situation for a special needs sheltering plan. We were able to work with Emergency Management and Okaloosa County Schools to move our shelter to the Gym and associated hallway and classrooms. This was a much better layout for the shelter and those charged with staffing it.

We cannot do this job alone. As Hurricane Irma taught us, the needs vastly outweighed



clerical folks for registration and facilities team members to help around the shelter. We normally (and that is when hurricanes stick to script) have about 48 hours notice to get the shelter up and ready to begin receiving clients within 24-36 hours pre-landfall.

The work is hard, but very rewarding. If we open a shelter during the 2018 Hurricane Season, we will need your help. Don't worry if you didn't make the training exercise, we will have Just In Time training for you as the shelter operations are ramping up. Shifts are about 12 hours long during the operational period. If you are interested in learning more about work in the Special Needs Shelter, contact Kirk, Shayne, or Katie and we can help you with any questions. We hope not to need this vital service, but if we do, can we count on you to help us provide care to those who need it most?

the supply of help. Irma was unlike any storm Florida had experienced in the past. In Irma, more SpNS were open than in the entire 2004 hurricane season (115 vs 111). The actual maximum census in Irma (12,107 in 115 shelters) was nearly twice the size of the previous largest event, which was Hurricane Frances in 2004 (7,365 in 74 shelters), and over four times larger than Hurricane Matthew in 2016 (2,338 in 53 shelters).

Our shelter will need your help. The Walton County Special Needs Shelter (located at Freeport High School) will need your help. If you work in the shelter, your family is welcome there and will be in an area away from the Gym, that way you know they are safe and close by. Your pets can be sheltered at our DOH-Okaloosa Pet Shelter (registration required) and they will be well cared for. There will be need for the Set-up and Tear-down team, for RNs and LPNs, Health Support Techs,



## 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!**

## STOP THE BLEED Train-the-Trainer Class



One of the most important things that people can do to help save a life (besides knowing CPR) is to learn how to stop a person from bleeding out in the event of a traumatic injury. During the 3rd quarter, DOH-Okaloosa and the OWMRC hosted a "Stop The Bleed" Train-the-Trainer Class. The class was well attended by OWMRC volunteers, leaders from other area MRC units, and DOH-Okaloosa employees.



This valuable class was taught by Chris Missler from Fort Walton Beach Medical Center. Chris covered different scenarios and techniques needed to stop bleeding in arms and legs, as well as bleeding in areas where a tourniquet cannot be placed. Knowing how to "Stop the Bleed" is an important skill to know in the event of a single injured person or mass casualty event.



Be A Local Hero!

**VOLUNTEER**

**TODAY**

NEW  
PHONE  
NUMBER

**850-344-0575**

Florida Health Alert Network

<https://floridahealthalertnetwork.com/mrcvolunteer>



**YOU ARE THE HELP  
UNTIL 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. We are still working to bring this program to our community. FDOH requires some prerequisites and your leadership is working with other area MRC units to gather enough trainers to hold the mandated Train the Trainer class before the program is allowed to be offered. Please stay tuned to our messages via email or on our new Facebook page for more information.



No matter how rapid the arrival of professional emergency responders, bystanders will always be first on the scene. A person who is bleeding can die from blood loss within five minutes, so it's important to quickly stop the blood loss.

Remember to be aware of your surroundings and move yourself and the injured person to safety, if necessary.

**Call 911.**

Bystanders can take simple steps to keep the injured alive until appropriate medical care is available. Here are three actions that you can take to help save a life:

#### 1. Apply Pressure with Hands

EXPOSE to find where the bleeding is coming from and apply **FIRM, STEADY PRESSURE** to the bleeding site with both hands if possible.



#### 2. Apply Dressing and Press

EXPOSE to find where the bleeding is coming from and apply **FIRM, STEADY PRESSURE** to the bleeding site with bandages or clothing.



#### 3. Apply Tourniquet(s)

If the bleeding doesn't stop, place a tourniquet 2-3 inches closer to the torso from the bleeding. The tourniquet may be applied and secured over clothing.



If the bleeding still doesn't stop, place a **second** tourniquet closer to the torso from first tourniquet.



The Stop the Bleed campaign was initiated by federal emergency responders convened by the National Security Council Staff, The White House. The purpose of the campaign is to build national resilience by better preparing the public to save lives by taking awareness of basic actions to stop life-threatening bleeding following everyday emergencies and man-made and natural disasters. Addresses made by federal ministers and researchers at emergency response conferences and have been obtained the role of the original authors as well as the facilitation of knowledge base. This is intended for the benefit of the general public. The Department of the Defense owns the "Stop the Bleed" logo and phrase - trademark pending.

### 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 Kirk Webb at [Robert.Webb@flhealth.gov](mailto:Robert.Webb@flhealth.gov)

or mail to: Robert "Kirk" Webb  
OWMRC Team Leader  
221 Hospital Drive, NE  
Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548



**Okaloosa-Walton  
Medical Reserve Corps**