

MRC Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Staff Spotlight
- Volunteer Spotlight
- Resources for Working in the CPACS
- Courses and Learning
- Joke of the Day
- FAQs
- Contact Us

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Our Infection Control Nurses at the CPACS are some of the first people our volunteers spend time with for training. Jenny Taranto and Nakia Wheeler teach volunteers how to don (put on) and doff (take off) their personal protective equipment. As they are both an integral part of the medical team at the CPACS, we wanted to tell you about both of them. These Masters Prepared Public Health Nurses both view Florence Nightingale as a hero for her boldness and commitment to patient care.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT (CONTINUED)

Nakia Wheeler started out wanting to be a labor nurse, but quickly found her passion in public health nursing due to its emphasis on disease prevention. Under normal circumstances, Nakia would be doing home visits for new moms and babies. She is currently studying to get her Nurse Practitioner's License. Nakia loves old movies, her favorite being Casablanca because it deals with everything — war, love, friendship, loyalty, and deceit. She was hesitant to admit it, but it makes her cry every time she watches. Her free time is filled with activities like hiking, camping, and trying to learn guitar. Kona, a Queensland Heeler/Border Collie mix, and Zoe, an Australian Shepherd, are Nakia's beloved companions that have been with her for over a decade. When asked what she would like to say to the volunteers, Nakia replied, "We look forward to seeing their smiling faces here at the CPACS."

Starting as a Quartermaster in the Army and transitioning to a medic, Jenny Taranto has served in the Army, the Air force, and the National Guard. She manages the county's Reproductive Health Clinic Program. The time she spends with her two sons is her favorite. They enjoy watching Marvel movies together. The blend of the spectacular fantasy of the movies and the shared experience with her sons makes the movies special to Jenny. If you were to walk outside her home, you would see that her garden is astounding; it boasts vegetables, fruit trees, herbs, and more. The five family chickens complete the scene. Betty, Bobby, Oscaloosa, Hennifer, and Goldie Hen are adored by Jenny and her family. Jenny wanted to tell the volunteers that she is glad they are here, and that it is valuable to hear their unique experience and perspectives.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

When you hear about someone travelling across the world to provide medical care, you probably think of a doctor travelling to treat people. Well, Bonnie Markoff has travelled across the globe (with focus in Mongolia and Africa), but not to treat human patients. Bonnie is a veterinarian who has worked with Christian Veterinary Mission to help change people's lives by helping their animals. In San Luis Obispo, she is the owner of Animal Care Clinic in San Luis Obispo, treating dogs and cats. In her free time, she enjoys doing yard work, hiking, participating in trivia at cider houses, and reading her favorite book, the Bible. In her experience overseas, she saw that veterinarians can be helpful with human care. She joined the MRC to help should our healthcare system become overwhelmed. She would like to tell her fellow volunteers, "Stay calm, stay hydrated, and wash your hands!"



RESOURCES FOR WORKING AT THE CPACS

NEOGOV is a human resource workforce management software which the County utilizes to recruit and onboard candidates. During this pandemic, NEOGOV has opened their resources to the recruiting and onboarding of volunteers. You may have seen a link in your email or spam from donotreply@neogov.com. This is the link to complete your volunteer onboarding paperwork – all online and from the comfort of your own home! By logging in and signing your forms ahead of time, we are eliminating in-person contact and will have volunteers ready should they need to serve the community!

In NEOGOV, you will see forms such as the MRC Code of Conduct and the Disaster Service Worker (DSW) Registration, which allows volunteers to be covered by the State as they serve in our community. For medical staff specifically, we have added a video training for PPE donning and doffing procedures at the CPACS.

If you attended a CPACS orientation or Just-In-Time training, and have received an onboarding link, or are having trouble accessing an existing link, please email hr_alternate_care_site@co.slo.ca.us. We are happy to assist you in completing your online paperwork!

COURSES & LEARNING

This week we encourage our volunteers to check out these two trainings available from FEMA:

- [IS-120: An Introduction to Exercises](#)
- [IS-520: Introduction to Continuity of Operations Planning for Pandemic Influenzas](#)

IS-120 walks through the basics of emergency management exercises similar to our current Just-in-Time training drills being conducted at the CPACS. This class includes a 2-hour online learning broken into sections, and a certificate is given upon successful completion of the final exam.

In addition, IS-520 is a concise overview of the characteristics of a pandemic influenza, the effects that a pandemic influenza has on every facet of our society, and the steps organizations may take to minimize the effects of a pandemic. The high level overview of how organizations plan for and work through a large scale pandemic like COVID-19. It is a great refresher for all levels of our county response.

All of you are our "boots on the ground" during events like the COVID-19 pandemic. Understanding the full structure and plans for continuity of operations as well as how to get the most out of exercise drills leads to a more seamless response.

JOKE OF THE DAY

Courtesy of our Infection Control Nurses:

Why do nurses bring red magic markers to work?

In case they have to draw blood.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Do mental health professionals who would use telehealth need to come to the Just-In-Time training at the CPACS?

Our Just in Time training is primarily focused toward medical professionals who will be working in the "Red Zone", providing direct patient care. Any professional seeking to help by providing telehealth services does not need to attend one of these in person trainings, as much of the information will not be relevant to them.

Q: Are there going to be more trainings in the future?

We will be continuing Just-In-Time (JIT) training for select medical volunteers four days next week. A separate email with sign-up information will be sent out to the target groups today.

Q: Why was I called to volunteer but the CPACS isn't open?

Even with our extensive modelling and estimations, the COVID-19 pandemic remains far from predictable. We want our County to be as prepared as possible for the worst case scenario that we may never see. You may feel like you aren't contributing yet, but by signing up and making yourself available in the chance that the CPACS opens to patients you are serving your community through preparedness.

Q: What is the difference between the California Health Corps (CHC) and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC)?

The MRC and the CHC are two separate entities that use the same website (Disaster Health Care Volunteers (DHV)) to manage volunteers. The CHC is a state-run volunteer organization, while the MRC is a National Program run through the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response that has local units across the country. You may join both the CHC and the MRC, but be aware that the CHC may deploy you to another area during a time when the MRC is requesting volunteers. MRC volunteers will be able to serve their local community.

CONTACT US

If you have a joke for the next newsletter, want to nominate someone for a volunteer spotlight, or have any questions or concerns, send us an email to hr_alternate_care_site@co.slo.ca.us or call us at (805) 781-1722.