

Newsletter

May 2024



Welcome to our new MRC Program Assistant



My name is Carla Taylor and I have been a Putnam County resident for the last 23 years. Throughout the years I have made an effort to give back to my community by volunteering with various organizations, most recently with the Reed Library and the Mid-Hudson Library System. I have many hobbies that I enjoy, including knitting, crocheting, sewing, gardening, and hiking. My family and I enjoy the ocean and try to visit at least once each year. I can usually be seen walking my dog Roxie in my neighborhood or on the bike path.

MRC Annual Conference - April 16, 2024

Putnam County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers gathered at Centennial Golf Course in Carmel on Tuesday April 16th to hear from experts in the field of emergency preparedness and management. The all-day training conference kicked off with a welcome by County Executive Kevin Byrne, as he greeted nearly 50 attendees, including representatives from the Putnam County Legislature, the Child Advocacy Center, Putnam /Northern Westchester BOCES, Putnam's Bureau of Emergency Services, and the New York State Department of Health.



Welcome and opening remarks featured Connie Bueti, MPH, the emergency preparedness coordinator at the Putnam County Department of Health, Dr. Michael J. Nesheiwat, Interim Health Commissioner and the County Executive Kevin Byrne



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Shannon Fisher, Emergency Manager at the Orange County Department of Emergency Services, was the first presenter of the day. She told of the lessons learned during her county's response last fall to the catastrophic Farmingdale bus crash on Route 84. The incident involved dozens of injured school musicians, the death of two educators, and five other buses following in a caravan filled with young students who bore witness to the event.



Kathy Percacciolo, BSN, RN, supervising public health nurse at the health department, updated the crowd on the recent re-emergence of measles which stands as a potential and serious threat to public health.





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The afternoon session was packed with action: a training for volunteers as “preparedness ambassadors,” that involved an interactive exercise in message development, and a game of “Emergency Preparedness Jeopardy.” Meeting the target audience where they are is the foundation of any effective message. Savannah Usher, MPH, a public health graduate fellow at the health department and John Ohnmacht, EMT, a retired radiographer with more than 50 years of healthcare experience, provided a look at understanding one’s audience. “Consider both the demographics and psychographics, and the behaviors and needs of your audience,” said Usher. “This is paramount, alongside selecting the most suitable communication channels.”

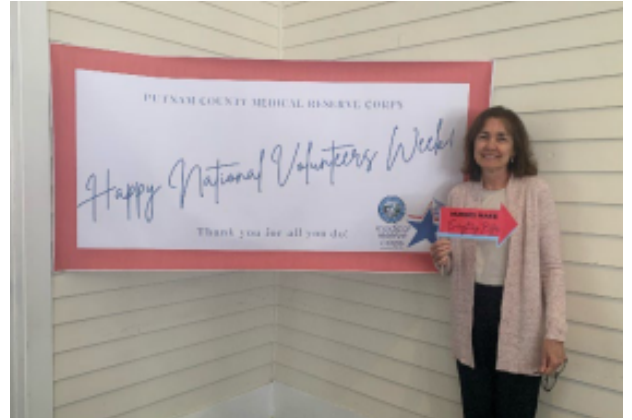


Presenter Jack Porter rounded out the day’s events. After a 32-year military career, Mr. Porter now works in the New York State Department of Health’s office of health emergency preparedness as both the NYS volunteer program coordinator and MRC state coordinator. He noted that among the nearly 300,000 MRC volunteers nationwide, more than 130,000 of them assist in non-medical, support positions.

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MRC Volunteers and Emergency Management Staff crafting an emergency training message



Janet Eisig



Legislator Amy Sayegh and Dr. Michael J. Nesheiwat



Jo Maxino, Carla Taylor and Vickie Maxino



Connie Bueti, Shannon Fisher and Jack Porter



Kevin Byrne and Shanna Siegel

