



SERV-OR Bulletin

Issue #29: Celebrating SERV-OR Volunteers

May 12, 2023

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2023 Volunteer Activity

Unit	Hours	Deployed Volunteers	Value of Service
State Managed Volunteer Pool	392.75	17	\$21,072.39
Medical Reserve Corps	524.85	290*	\$28,154.96
Total Oregon	917.6	307*	\$49,227.35

**Contains duplicative counts of some members who deployed multiple times.*

News You Can Use

Call for SMVP Volunteer Participants in Southwest Oregon: [Join the Volunteer Incident Command Corps Pilot Project!](#)

[Oregon's Governor Issues Proclamation for National Volunteer Week in Oregon](#)

[CDC Director Rochelle Walensky resigns](#)

[New OHA report details health care spending trends](#)

[FDA Safety Communication: Do Not Use Certain SD Biosensor Pilot COVID-19 At-Home Tests](#)

[News](#) from the National Medical Reserve Corps office

Preparedness Training for Community-Based Organizations [here](#)

OHA's [Behavioral Health Workforce Initiative](#) and [loan repayment program](#)

[Request](#) a SERV-OR member badge

We want to hear your [stories of service!](#)

Get Involved! Become an [MRC Correspondent](#)

[Check out the FINAL installment of "What's New in Treatments and Prevention Therapies?"](#)

What's New in Treatments and Prevention Therapies?

Looking Back at National Volunteer Month

This issue of the Bulletin is dedicated to honoring our volunteers. Last month, the nation celebrated National Volunteer Month. In April, we celebrated those who go above and beyond by volunteering their service. The past year has demonstrated the continued commitment and excellence of all our volunteers, and we want to thank you for dedicating your invaluable skills to help end health and preparedness disparities in Oregon.

In celebration of all of the incredible volunteer contributions to public health emergency preparedness and response efforts, we are recognizing the awardees for the 2022-2023 SERV-OR Volunteer Recognition Awards.

Thank you to everyone who participated through your nominations, and thank you to all the volunteers who have served! See Governor Kotek's [proclamation recognizing volunteers in Oregon for National Volunteer Month!](#)

2023 SERV-OR Volunteer Recognition Awardees

Outstanding MRC Coordinator

Awardee: Velda Handler, RN, Nehalem Bay MRC

"Velda is the mainstay of our local MRC. She coordinated MRC volunteers for the COVID vaccination clinics and worked with the state in running the EVC drill in June. She never lost her beautiful smile and good humor during these events." -Nehalem Bay MRC Volunteer





Honorable Mention: Dianne Bloom, RN, Nehalem Bay MRC

"Dianne really deserves a Lifetime Achievement award. Having recently retired after a 13 plus year period of service, she served in many key roles from boots on the ground vaccine dispensing to administrative organization work, and she embodied the spirit of volunteerism within our MRC unit like few others. Dianne especially excelled at promoting the virtues of serving with MRC and recruiting many, dare I say most, of our NBMRC members, including myself." - Nehalem Bay MRC Volunteer

Outstanding MRC Volunteer



Awardee: Velda Handler, RN, Nehalem Bay MRC

"Velda Handler gives tirelessly of herself to our MRC and community disaster planning. She has maintain this momentum for years with a compassionate and humble spirit and is a true example and credit to her role." -Nehalem Bay MRC Volunteer

Honorable Mention: Ann Russell, RN, Yamhill County MRC

"Ann Russell, retired Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner, became an integral part of the Covid vaccine clinics held in Yamhill County, largely administered through the Yamhill County Public Health Department. Ann often worked every day a public vaccine clinic was held, administering vaccine to all eligible age groups. She tirelessly worked in the cold--day or night--at the local fairground as well as in the outbuildings of local wineries and farms, in grocery store parking lots, churches, community centers, schools, within medical clinics, and in senior community centers. She was often the only Spanish speaking person available to staff and volunteers and those receiving the vaccines. Her energy was inexhaustible, her positive effort contagious. Additionally, she took over the organization of the MRC volunteer lists for Yamhill County to ensure that contact information was updated and accurate. Working with her was a joy and inspiration. Ann deserves much appreciation for her efforts and for being an exemplary role model for us volunteers." -Yamhill County MRC Volunteer

Honorable Mention: Lila Wickham, RN, Cannon Beach MRC

"Lila was able to coordinate a large amount of MRC volunteer members and to train them in multiple disciplines in an area that is challenging to draw volunteers.

Her ability to draft and be awarded grants is second to none. Lila's ability to stay focused on the objectives of the MRC and the SERV-OR mission." -Cannon Beach MRC Volunteer



Most Hours Served by an MRC Volunteer

Awardee: Velda Handler, RN, Nehalem Bay MRC

Velda completed 795 hours of volunteer service with Nehalem MRC during 2022-2023. Thank you, Velda, for your amazing service!

MRC Mentor Award



Awardee: Margaret Steele, MD, Nehalem Bay MRC

"Margaret Steele has been instrumental in bringing and mentoring several volunteers into the EVCNB organization. Her knowledge of the EVCNB Organization is invaluable to new members joining the organization and current members alike. She is a primary source knowledge to current and new members of the organization." - Nehalem Bay MRC Volunteer

Honorable Mention: Sandra Saltzer, RN, Linn County MRC

"In her retirement, Sandra Saltzer has volunteered for every covid 19 injection clinic at Linn County fairgrounds, she went with a medical team to Poland to work in a clinic for incoming Survivors of Ukraine evacuated and bombed cities. She puts her business management skills mentoring those in our community who wish to establish their own business plan to excellent use. She volunteers for a variety of Brownsville Summer Events such as coordinating efforts for our summer displays downtown of flower barrels and hanging baskets throughout the downtown. She volunteers at our library one day a week. Sandy has a real activist mentality and her volunteer contribution activities are too many to list. If there ever was a 'Can Do' kinda gal, it's Sandy Saltzer." -Linn County MRC Volunteer

Honorable Mention: Robert Wayne, MD, Cannon Beach MRC

"Dr. Robert Wayne has been supporting the MRC and Lila Wickham since the program has started. Dr. Bob is also a member of other teams naming the Cannon Beach CERT, Sunset Empire Amateur Radio Club SEARC, and he is supportive to all disciplines and shows up as a leader and a valued community member." -Cannon Beach MRC Volunteer



Community Response Award

Awardee: Cannon Beach MRC

“The Cannon Beach MRC was able to staff call centers, vaccination clinics, and community events for several months as the COVID pandemic continued. Clatsop County public health would not have been able to provide the service that the county demanded without the Cannon Beach MRC efforts.”



Innovator Award



Awardee: Nehalem Bay MRC

“Their efforts have delivered facilities and supplies to North County for emergency medical shelters, supplies and medically qualified volunteers.”

Outstanding SMVP Award

Awardee: Terri Schmidt, MD, State Managed Volunteer Pool

“Dr. Schmidt volunteered as physician-on-duty for many COVID-19 vaccination clinics. She has always gone above and beyond to share her time, expertise, and experience to support our state's volunteer response efforts especially during the pandemic.” SMVP Volunteer

SMVP Most Hours Served

Awardee: Shanilka deSoyza, MD, State Managed Volunteer Pool

Dr. deSoyza served 1,925 hours from 2022-2023. Among her many, many hours of COVID response, Dr. deSoyza also showed her strength and compassion during the 2022 wildfire season when she deployed

over multiple nights to staff medical needs in a wildfire shelter for citizens who evacuated their homes to seek safe shelter from the Cedar Creek wildfire.

Thank you for your dedication and service.

SMVP Most In-Person Hours Served



Awardee: Gary Arfstrom, LPC, State Managed Volunteer Pool

Gary Arfstrom served 215 hours from 2022-2023! The team at OHA's Health Security, Preparedness and Response program continue to receive messages of appreciation for Gary's support services for personnel at a health facility in Southwest Oregon during an unprecedented surge in COVID hospitalizations. We cannot thank you enough for this service, Gary!

SMVP Most Remote Hours Served

Awardee: Mary Lyons, MD, State Managed Volunteer Pool

Thank you to Dr. Lyons, for serving 974 hours from 2022-2023! Without Dr. Lyons' support, SERV-OR would not have been able to meet its mission of protecting the health and well being of all people in Oregon – especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have so much gratitude for your service, Dr. Lyons!

Stories of Service: Moji Obiako

Oregon's MRC National Program Office Liaison: A Behind the Scenes Champion for MRC in the Northwest



Provided by Renee' Menkens

Moji Obiako, MPH, began her work in supporting Medical Reserve Corps in 2007 in Hawaii. She started the Kauai Island MRC before assuming the role of State Coordinator. In 2012 she became the MRC Regional Liaison for Region 10 (Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska) and also serves as the NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials) Project Officer. She provides technical and administrative assistance from the federal perspective to MRC Unit Leaders and State Coordinators. She is located in Seattle, Washington.

Ms. Obiako states: “In my role we are the conduit between the national and local offices. Technical assistance can be tailored calls and meetings for unit leaders, on boarding of new units – and managing the unit lifecycle processes – sustainability through de-registration. I work closely with local leaders and MRC State Coordinators.”

MRC units are critical at the local community level and may include medical and non-medical volunteers. These units are an effective resource for local communities so that they do not have to wait for federal or state government support when a disaster occurs. “It is local, local, local...Local programs with local management - the MRC units belong to their communities”. The MRC volunteers are trained to respond to specific needs in their local communities during nonemergent and emergent times requiring medical, health, and logistic support.

According to Moji: “The pandemic really showed us how valuable the MRC program is. The MRC program celebrated our 20th anniversary last year. I hope that we can do more standardized programming and still maintain a local flavor. MRC units need to have the same common core for training and exercises, but still allow each unit to maintain its individual identity. “

Trusted Messenger Resources

HERO Kids



In an emergency, every moment counts. HERO Kids is a voluntary, no-cost, secure registry that lets families and young adults record critical health details that first responders and hospital emergency department providers can quickly and easily access in an emergency. For emergency medical providers faced with split-second decisions, HERO Kids Registry can fill the information gap. The HERO Kids Registry was designed by parents and medical professionals working together to improve the emergency medical experience for **any** Oregon child or young adult through the age of 26.

[HERO Kids Website](#): Presentations, Frequently Asked Questions, HERO Kids Business Office contact info, and more!

Covid-19

- [WHO declares end to COVID global health emergency](#)
 - What You Need to Know: [End of the Federal Covid-19 Emergency Public Health Emergency Declaration](#)
 - [Fact Sheet: End of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#)
 - [Timeline of End Dates for Key Health-Related Flexibilities Provided Through COVID-19 Emergency Declarations, Legislation, and Administrative Actions](#)
 - [When To Test: Covid Risk Quiz](#)
 - [Report At-Home Covid Test Results](#)
 - View Oregon's COVID-19 Data Dashboards [here](#)
 - [CDC Immunization Schedule](#)
 - [CDC Covid Data Tracker](#)
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Seasonal Hazards

- [Oregon.gov](#) current wildfire information and active large fires map
- [Sign up for OR-Alert](#) emergency notifications

Virtual and In-Person Training

Training opportunities are updated regularly [here](#).

Webinars and Independent Study

[Webinar: The Overlooked Role of Physician Trust in Patients](#). What happens if clinicians don't trust their patients? This [webinar](#) will explore the implications—including burnout, less-than-ideal care, and diminished relationships—and approaches to building trust.

- Thursday, May 18, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

[Examining the Working Definition for Long COVID](#)

- June 22-23

[Preparing for the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency To End](#) (Recording)

In-Person Training

[Managing the Message: Crisis Communication Workshop Series](#)

- May 24-25, Pendleton, OR

L-0970: All-Hazards Position Specific Supply Unit Leader Course

- June 26-30, Portland, OR

ICS 300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents

- July 24-26, Portland, OR

ICS 400: Advanced ICS Command and General Staff- Complex Incident

- June 21-22, Hermiston, OR
- August 8-9, Portland, OR

G-0191: Incident Command System/Emergency Operations Center Interface

- October 17-18, Portland, OR

L-0958: NIMS ICS All-Hazards Operations Section Chief Course

- October 23-26, Portland, OR

Visit the [SERV-OR Training page](#) for links to the foundational training series for Disaster Medicine and Public Health Core Competencies, FEMA Incident Command courses, and more!

Volunteer and Job Opportunities

- [OHA Board and Commission Member Opportunities](#) (multiple listed)
- Become an American Red Cross Mental Health Volunteer [here](#)
- [Oregon State Hospital is hiring](#)

New job postings from Healthcare News

- All Healthcare News Job postings [here](#)
 - [Therapist - Kolpia Counseling in Ashland, OR\(License not required\), Ashland, OR](#)
 - [Therapist - Children \(License not required\), Grants Pass, OR](#)
 - [Therapist- Children \(IIBHT\), Grants Pass, OR](#)
 - [Older Adult Specialist, Grants Pass, OR](#)
 - [Therapist - Youth and Family \(License not required\), Medford, OR](#)
 - [Therapist - Case Management \(License not required\), Grants Pass, OR](#)
 - [Therapist - Adult Outpatient, Grants Pass, OR](#)
 - [Therapist - ACT \(Assertive Community Treatment\), Medford, OR](#)
 - [Children's Care Coordinator - Master's Level, Medford, OR](#)
 - [Clinical Supervisor - Forensic Services, Grants Pass, OR](#)
 - [Clinical Supervisor- Children's Outpatient \(CRT\), Grants Pass, OR](#)
 - [Therapist - Adult Outpatient \(License not required\), Medford, OR](#)
 - [Therapist- Mobile Outreach, Medford, OR](#)
 - [Clinical Supervisor - Crisis Resolution Center \(CRC\), Grants Pass, OR](#)

- [Clinical Supervisor - Residential, Grants Pass, OR](#)
 - [Crisis Specialist, Grants Pass, OR](#)
 - [Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Grants Pass and Medford, OR](#)
 - [Integrated Behavioral Health Clinician \(LCSW\), Bend, OR](#)
 - [Radiologic Technologist - Advanced I \(CT & X-Ray\), Astoria, OR](#)
 - [Physical Therapist, Astoria, OR](#)
 - [Respiratory Therapist, Astoria, OR](#)
 - [Hospice Aide, Salem, OR](#)
 - [Behavioral Health Consultant \(LPC, LMFT, LCSW, PsyD, PhD\), Bend, Redmond, Prineville, or Madras, OR](#)
 - [Dentist, Madras, OR](#)
 - [Medical Technologist \(MT\) or Medical Laboratory Technician \(MLT\), Astoria, OR](#)
- [RDPO Weekly Update](#), contains information on current job openings. (Application closing dates vary depending on week)
 - [Oregon Health Authority State and County jobs](#) (Dates vary depending on openings)
 - For more volunteer opportunities, events, and petitions near you check out [Made to Save](#)

Contributors to this bulletin include Enola Mercer, Renee Menkens, Jeff Rubin, Mark Dodge, Gabriella Korosi, Paul Kaplan, and Sophie Miller-Desart. Thank you so much to this team for all their efforts!

SERV-OR Mission

The mission of the State Emergency Registry of Volunteers in Oregon (SERV-OR) and Oregon's MRC network is to ensure health and well-being, educate, and protect all people in Oregon.

We will accomplish this through recruiting, registering, training, exercising, and deploying licensed volunteer health professionals to support public health initiatives, health and medical needs during public health crises, and by improving access to preparedness education and resources for all individuals and communities.

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