



Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Office of Preparedness and Emergency Management

MRC MINI GRANT REPORTING FORM

For units who received an MRC mini grant in BP4, please complete this form as part of the end of year reporting.

Project General Information:

MRC Unit Name:	Berkshire MRC
Point of Contact Email:	Corinne Mckeown
Name of Project:	<i>COGS in the Wheel: Strengthening Partnerships and Systemizing MRC Specialized Response Teams - A Model of Capacity Building and Sustaining</i>
Person Completing Report:	Corinne McKeown
Date:	7/28/16

Project Description - Please write a brief narrative (1 to 2 paragraphs):

Through this award Berkshire MRC built on the success of a past NACCHO-funded regional training project and leveraged partnerships to build the capacity of two specialized response teams: Mediator's Response Team and Children's Response Team. Berkshire MRC worked with The Mediation and Training Collaborative to establish best practices for the deployment, support and demobilization of the teams within the context of MA Responds/ MRC Unit enrollment.

We focused primarily on the Mediators Response Team, with the intent of using the best practices drafted as a model for the Children's Response Team. This resource/capacity building model is being shared with MA Unit Leaders through the MAMRC website, as well as the National MRC Network of Unit Leaders (through the NIH.Gov Listserve) so that the reach of OPEM's funding may be perpetual.



Berkshire is also providing guidance for unit leaders throughout the region to ensure efficient and systematic welcoming and placement of Specialized Team Member Recruits. Through OPEM's support of this project, County Coordinators, Unit leaders and Team Member Recruits are being introduced to policies, best practices and next steps.



Project Details:

<p>Project Rationale: How did you choose this project? (Related to AAR, or other gaps)</p>	<p>During multiple regional sheltering events, MRC functional exercises, and other disaster related activities; MRC units in our region have documented significant gaps in their ability to work effectively with children, individuals with functional and access needs, and adults with behavioral health needs. Regional gaps were also identified through a recent access and functional needs assessment ascertained by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. We also see the value of building on past successes where skilled professionals find a natural entrée to the Emergency Response system, and producing a model that can be used by other MRC's.</p>
<p>PHEP Capabilities that your project addressed: http://www.cdc.gov/phpr/capabilities/</p>	<p>#1 and #15</p>
<p>Objectives that your project addressed.</p>	<p>Objectives: Increase community preparedness and resiliency through education, volunteer management and disaster response - and enhance our ability to recover swiftly as a region, in some cases preventing disaster related trauma from impacting the recovery and future health of those we serve.</p>
<p>Project Planned Activities: What deliverables, products, or outputs were expected? Did you meet those outputs? Where different outputs achieved?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct Conflict Resolution Training for MRC Volunteers (12 of the projected 15 trained – including a new recruit!) • Conduct meeting with 10 mediation practitioners to develop Concept of Operations, and Standard Operating Guide for



	<p style="text-align: center;">Mediators Response Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of Team as group in MAResponds • Test MAResponds/SRT Communication capability • Integration of SOGs and Resource materials to MAMRC website and WMMRC.org • Post SRT Model resource on NIH Listserve <p>Most of these outputs were met, with the exception of the following: 1. The Mediators meeting was a smaller group than projected, but this turned out to be a benefit to the project as we could go more in depth with conversation 2. the testing of communication through MAResponds. Because of the short time frame to complete the project, we are not ready to do this yet – but we will!</p> <p>Every County Coordinator in Region One has now attended and experienced the Basic Conflict Resolution Full Day Training for MRC Volunteers – and we look forward to including this into our regular curriculum in our respective counties.</p> <p>I opened the training to the community through print ad and we recruited a new volunteer who took the training, is MAResponds registered and is being vetted)</p>
<p>Funding Associated with this project: (Please provide a narrative of the costs incurred with this project).</p>	<p>Approximately half of the funds were used by project coordinator to implement the oversee the project, implement the training sessions, and work closely with The Mediation and Training Collaborative leadership to write the SOGS, and MAResponds coordinators to maximize efficiency for team applicants. Much of the remaining funds covered Trainer, venues, food and materials for the project.</p>



	Funds were also dedicated to recruitment through materials and networking.
Other feedback or comments to share about your project?	Berkshire County greatly appreciates the OPEM support that allowed us to continue an incredible project and build on past success. We are still working on it – but this project is worth it!