VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4 SEPTEMBER 2011

MONTGOMERY APC E-UPDATE
A QUARTERLY BULLETIN

Montgomery County, Maryland Department of Health and Human Services

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- "Tool Talk"
- End of PY 2011-Starting PY 2012
- Upcoming APC Webinars
- Final Evaluation Report for RX4Prep.org

The 2011 APC Line-up

- Montgomery, MD APC
- South Carolina Region 7 APC
- Toledo-Lucas, OH APC
- Tarrant County, TX APC
- Mesa County, CO APC
- San Francisco, CA APC
- Multnomah County, OR APC
- Seattle-King County, WA APC

Find all of the APC sites here!

Friend us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter (@MontgomeryAPC)

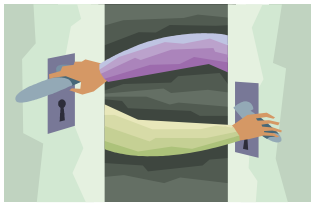
"TOOL TALK"

Each quarter we will be highlighting a local health department, community organization or other group that has used a Montgomery APC Tool that we are titling **"Tool Talk".**

This quarter we are showcasing the Clinic Planning Model Generator tool and the Ledge Light Health District encompassing Southern Connecticut.

Wrapping up Project Year 2011 and Starting Project Year 2012

Montgomery APC is ending our project year 2011on September 29 and will be transitioning over into project year 2012.



For project year 2012 we will be evaluating four Montgomery APC tools and would like to hear feedback from local health departments who may be interested in implementing one of these products.

Plan to Be Safe: Training Modules for Emergency Operations of Dispensing and Vaccinations-A Guide for Public Health Program Planners: Designed by public health emergency planners as a 101 on public health clinic operations for training public health staff by offering different training modules which can be used either as a series of trainings or as individual trainings.

Emergency Response Planning for Child Care Providers: A collaborative effort between the child care community and public health, this toolkit is designed to plan and prepare child care providers for emergency events and to assist in the recovery effort by helping children cope with traumatic events.

Emergency Preparedness Checklist for Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities and Group Homes: Developed to assist facilities in planning for emergency events this checklist covers training, planning and assessment of emergency planning efforts.

Clinic Planning Model Generator:

Mass prophylaxis clinics are a primary function of the response of a major public health event. The Clinic Planning Model Generator (CPMG) is a downloadable Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet computer model which will help public health emergency planners to determine staffing and estimate capacity and congestion of mass prophylaxis clinics.

If you are interested in helping Montgomery APC improve these products through your feedback, please contact us.

Stay in the Loop!

APC CONNECTOR SITE UPDATE

Palm Beach County, FL Health Department has wrapped up their final evaluation of the RX4Prep.org site Montgomery APC developed last year. To read the final report go to RX4Prep.org webpage.

UPCOMING WEBINAR

San Francisco APC will be participating in an upcoming webinar about the Infectious Disease Emergency Response Toolkit (IDER) on Wednesday, September 28 at 1:00 CST. Click here to register for the webinar.

To find Montgomery APC tools and resources check out the website www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apc or go to NACCHO's APC website to search for tools.

Questions?? E-mail us!

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Clinic Generator Computer Model for Planning CRI Medication Clinics

Imagine this. You're an epidemiologist by training, new to public health. You've been in your job less than a year, and your boss hands you an assignment: plan a response to a bioterrorist attack that requires dispensing medications to a population of over 120,000 within 48 hours—with a staff of 3.

Welcome to Russell Melmed's world. Melmed serves the Ledge Light Health District, a local health department comprised of five towns in southeastern Connecticut--New London, Groton, Ledyard, East Lyme, and Waterford.

"I'm an epidemiologist, not an emergency planner," Melmed said. "We don't have a staff person who is specifically an emergency planner. We have a public health nurse and epidemiologist, with support from our deputy director of health—that's our emergency planning team."

Melmed went to NACCHO's APC website (apc.naccho.org) looking for help. There he found the perfect tool to meet his needs—the Clinic Generator computer model, developed by the Montgomery County, Maryland, APC in collaboration with the University of Maryland's School of Engineering.

The model allows users to conduct advance planning of mass dispensing clinics based on the size of the populations and the timeline for treatment. When the user enters variables such as desired through-put, process times, and walking distances, the model output provides details about staffing levels and clinic performance--including a breakdown of cycle times, average queue lengths, and station utilization.

"If I had all the time in the world, I could have created something like this myself," Melmed said. "But none of us have enough time to do all we need to do. APCs can help a lot."

Melmed first learned about the APC program at the Public Health Preparedness Summit this past February. He reports that his first reaction was, "Wow these APCS are amazing!" He started exploring what the APC Program is all about.

Melmed found the Clinic Generator quite fortuitously, while browsing other APC tools. But the Montgomery APC tool gave him just the help he needed. "One thing the Clinic Generator told us was that our plans were unrealistic," he said. "Before I started using the tool, my estimated staffing numbers were ridiculous." But the Clinic Generator showed that to achieve his desired level of medications dispensed, he would have to increase the number of PODs as well as the number of people required to staff them.

"To shell out 150,000-plus doses of antibiotic, you need a lot of people," he said. "The model demonstrated what type of staff was needed and where they would fit into the overall POD plan." Melmed added that the tool's findings demonstrate the need for volunteers to staff the PODs. "It emphasizes the need to coordinate with volunteer organizations," he said.

Melmed says he eventually plans to use the Clinic Generator to conduct drills on his mass dispensing plans, but they are not yet at that point. "Right now we're just in the early stages of planning," he said. But he recommends that other health districts use the Clinic Generator tool to develop their plans.

"Understanding what APCs can do and how they can help was a big step forward for us," Melmed said. "We thought we were on our own. But APCs have done a lot of the groundwork for us. By creating these tools, there are parts of the plans that we don't have to create."

"If people aren't using APC tools, they're doing a lot of the groundwork themselves. And if you're doing the groundwork yourself, you're going to be challenged to do the best job that you can do with planning. There's just so much to complete."

If you have an example of how you or your organization has implemented a Montgomery APC tool, contact us to be a part of our "Tool Talk" article. We would love to hear from you!

To find Montgomery APC tools and resources check out the website www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apc or go to NACCHO's APC website to search for tools.

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