

EMS Bureau Updates for the Statewide EMS Advisory Committee

Greetings All,

Be safe coming to Santa Fe!

Attached please find the updates from the EMS Bureau staff.

Administration Report from Scott Wilson:

Hello to one and all.

The FY 2010 year has been a challenging one for the EMS Bureau in making strides to fulfill its state mission. Administratively, the bureau is down 3 positions, including the most recent resignation of Lauren Pena as the ALS Training Coordinator. Charles Becvarik has taken over the day to day duties associated with this position until a new hire can be identified. The other open positions include the Trauma Registrar, and a Financial Specialist. At this time, due to the States hiring freeze and current fiscal shortfalls, with the possible exception of the ALS Training Coordinator, these positions will in all likelihood remain vacant.

EMS Fund Act: Although never say never, the EMS Fund Act appears to be safe from fiscal cutbacks for the 2010 State calendar year. A recommendation has been made to cut the EMS Fund Act by approximately \$150,000.00 in the coming 2011 fiscal year. This has not been finalized, and changes may be forthcoming based on the States future fiscal picture. We will keep you informed as information comes available. Ann will have more Fund Act information in her report.

Regional Contracts: Regional contracts continue to be maintained at their original funding amount of \$231,200.00 per Region. No cuts have been advised to date; however, as is the situation across all divisions, the State is reviewing all revenue, contract, and other General Fund allocations for possible cutbacks. As of this time, my suggestion is to continue the work you are doing and submit your reimbursement invoices as necessary for payment submission.

One item of possible interest. I am working on an invoice template that could be utilized to standardize all invoice submissions from contract agencies. In the past, contractors submitted invoices in various methodologies. As a result, the EMS Bureau would receive numerous versions of documented work that was completed. Because it would come in so many layouts, it is often difficult to ascertain the scope and detail of work completed. By considering a standard template for invoice submission, it may be much clearer to ascertain exactly the work and details by maintaining a consistent submission process. As this moves along, I would like to get with the various Regional representatives to obtain their input as to what would be feasible for them.

Budgets: The EMS Bureau's budget continues to be very tight. We are making every effort to streamline as many processes as possible without causing harm to the duties we all perform. As the year moves forward, we will be looking at effective ways to make travel, meetings, and overnight stay's as beneficial, yet economical as possible. If there are opportunities to hold meetings via conference calls as opposed to long distance travel, this may be more practical, both for the EMS Bureau, as well as the representatives and agencies as well.

For those who received travel reimbursements for mileage, the State has slightly increased travel reimbursement for mile from \$0.40/mile to \$0.44/mile.

Should anyone have any questions or issues you would like discussed, please feel free to contact me at anytime. I am always available to discuss your concerns.

Enjoy the day, and be safe on your journey home,

Scott

[Fund Act report from Ann:](#)

Greetings All;

Hope everyone is ready for another great year of Fund Act! Activity since my past report includes:

- FY 2011 Local Fund Act applications and Annual Service Reports are all in and accounted for, except for a few that applied for and granted an extension. Most of these were simply trying to secure appropriate signatures on the applications. I will have the total numbers for you at the meeting.
- FY 2011 Special Projects Reviews have already begun at the Regional level. All applications have been sent to the review subcommittee. We will set the 2 day meeting at the SWAC meeting on Thursday. It will occur towards the end of March or perhaps the beginning of April.
- Carryover requests that had their reviews slowed are now being reviewed for Bureau/Division approval. The documentation as to the reason for the carry-over request submitted by several of the services is poor, and this is disappointing. We will discuss this more at the SWAC meeting, but we anticipate getting decisions to the services in the next couple of weeks.

That's about all I can report for now, thank you and I am looking forward to working with you, yet again on another Fund Act year.

*Best Regards,
Ann Martinez*

Licensing Report from Charlie & Ute:

**STATEWIDE EMS ADVISORY REPORT
EMS LICENSING SECTION**

▪ **CURRENT LICENSED PERSONNEL** as of 1/22/10:

EMD = 482

EMS First Responder = 1092

EMT-Basic = 4049

EMT-Intermediate = 1712

EMT-Paramedic = 1345

▪ **TESTING**

BLS/ILS Test Sites

Ute will now be doing one special test site per month. If services require a special test site, they should book her in advance.

The January 30 test site in Clovis is full; the next test site will be on February 20, 2010 in Santa Fe.

▪ **RENEWALS**

Renewals are in full swing, we currently have 863 renewals submitted as of January 21, 2010.

▪ **DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

A full report will be available at the April 2010 meeting

▪ **IMPAIRED PRACTITIONER** = 2 pending

▪ **EMS SERVICE CERTIFICATION RULES** - State Records and Archives has scheduled a hearing to promulgate the rule on Friday, February 19, 2010 at 0930 hrs. The hearing will be at the Runnels Building auditorium, Santa Fe. The EMS Licensing Rule will be slightly amended at this same hearing (primarily the disciplinary/hearings section of the rule).

▪ **NEXT EMS LICENSING COMMISSION MEETING** ON February 9, 2010 at 1000 hrs, NM Gaming Control Board, 4900 Alameda, Albuquerque, NM.

- COMMUNICATIONS – [Gerald Keene, EMSB Communications Coordinator](#)

EMS Communications

1. A letter has been posted on the web site that provides field radio standards and the radio narrow band implementation. Additional standards for base stations and repeaters is in the works and will be posted as well.
2. The EMS Bureau Communications Coordinator has been chosen to represent the Secretary Dept. of Health on the Interoperability Planning Commission and has attended the initial meeting.
3. The SICWG has issued their decision on the request for air-to-ground radio frequencies for public safety LZ operations:
 - a. VHF Public Safety Mutual Aid and Common Channel VFIRE23= 154.2950 MHz
 - b. 800 Mhz National Mutual Aid 8TAC93D= 867.5125 Mhz

Note- A final decision on a UHF channel is pending. MED8 Direct (463.175 MHz) has been suggested.

EMD Training and Operations

1. We are currently collecting the training and certification material from our four EMD vendors for a planned evaluation during the State EMS Conference. The evaluation will provide; best practices and will help establish minimum standards for EMD training, certification and operations.
2. An EMD certification course is being considered as part of the State EMS Conference.
3. A study of state wide EMD operations is being conducted in order to establish how many Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) use EMD and which agencies would benefit from using EMD.

[EMS Program – Peggy Hesch](#)

Good day SWAC members, I hope this email finds you well.

At this time the EMS Operations Section is working on the following items,

The PHHS Block Grant is pending its annual report and success story submission, which is due March 1, 2010. The CDC has released yet a new version of the system for submission and Peggy Hesch is attending those trainings. In addition, the ongoing grant management of the nine funded programs continues with moderate turn over this year and the contact continues to be Peggy Hesch. Additional grant opportunities are always being researched.

The Rescue Regulations are to be promulgated soon and once that is finalized, Charles Becvarik and Peggy Hesch will manage the kick off the program.

With the retirement of Lauren Pena, Charles Becvarik and Peggy Hesch have been fielding calls. We ultimately hope to have a replacement for Lauren (if possible) and are working with the division to check into the possibilities.

The licensing division is up to its neck in renewals at this time of year, but Charles Schroeder can report more on that.

We are watching the efficacy of the Community Health Paramedic program, which was initiated in Minnesota and Alaska but originated from the Red River program years ago. At this time, we are in a monitoring state and will keep folks abreast of developments.

That is it for now, if you do not see me at the meeting, it is because I will be in Haiti with the NM Disaster Team.

Take care,

Margaret W. Hesch

Data and NMEMSTARS Update – Stuart Castle

January 28, 2010

- To date 280 (80 %) EMS and Fire services are submitting data. The system contains over 327,000 run reports.
- Applications for the EMS Fund Act have been received and are being reviewed. The applications require services to report the number of runs entered into NM EMSTARS for the time period 10/1/08 – 9/30/09. Initial review of a sample of the applications indicates that approximately 58 % have complied with this requirement. Another 39 % have reported numbers that are inconsistent with what is in NM EMSTARS and 3 % have no runs entered into NM EMSTARS.
- An Epidemiology and Response Division newsletter on NM EMSTARS is being prepared for publication next month. This newsletter, *New Mexico Epidemiology*, is widely distributed to approximately 3,300 recipients, including most primary care practitioners. Hard copies of the newsletter will be mailed to SWAC members.
- The focus in 2010 is going to be on data quality. NM EMSTARS data will be analyzed and services notified if they have a high percentage of missing values on the 42 NM required data elements.
- The Bureau needs to identify \$46,000 to pay ImageTrend for data hosting and technical support in FY 11. An application for these funds has been submitted to the EMS Fund Act.

Stuart Castle

[Stroke Program - Kevin McFarlane, Stroke Program Manager:](#)

Stroke update

I have been working with Region II EMS on a fund act application for a stroke and neurosurgical telehealth pilot project. This project, if funded, will provide a rural hospital in each of the EMS region with a video link to 24/7 stroke neurology and neurosurgical coverage. Physicians from UNMH and Lovelace have agreed to cover three hospitals for a one year pilot project at no cost to the rural hospitals.

I am participating the American Heart Associations South Central Affiliate (New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma) we are reviewing the major stroke assessment tools available to EMS providers and will be providing a recommendation to the states on standardization of one assessment tool after all of them are reviewed.

I am working with the folks from Central ReTrAC and Region I to identify possible need for stroke center diversion criteria. I think we are not quite ready to take this on fully but we are discussing what UNMH's stroke center designation means to prehospital providers particularly in the Bernalillo County area.

Working with the folks from American Heart Association is working on developing a STEMI advisory group to assist in their national rollout of Mission Lifeline. This group is planning to meet in February and I will keep this group up to date with the information coming out of that group as well.

Kevin McFarlane RN, CEN, EMT-I I/C

Trauma Program

[Liana Lujan – Trauma Program Manager, will give a “live” report at the SWAC Meeting.](#)

Medical Direction

Scope of Practice

On going review of the Scope of practice over the coming months. Expect to submit for approval by the meeting at the state conference. Have completed an analysis of the State scope of practice and comparison with the National Scope and will anticipate some changes. Am developing a special needs protocol that will help address situations around individuals with unique or extensive management problems that should help overcome the requests for additional protocols for these situations. Currently have started a review of the use of Racemic Epinephrine.

Trauma

The Trauma system continues with its development. Have begun collecting data for the Traumatic Brain Study with the Neurosurgical service with the goal of developing guidelines for the management of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury within the state. The long term goal of this project is to morph it into the development of guidelines for the various trauma categories that can ultimately be used as a best practice guideline.

Haiti

The response to the earthquake remains fluid. Currently the NM Task Force 1 with USAR is on standby. The DMAT is anticipating a response but nothing concrete at this time.

George Kennedy MD FACEP
EMS Bureau Medical Director

Once again, I look forward to seeing all of you at the meeting. Take care, and Be Safe!!



Kyle L. Thornton