

**McHenry Western Lake County EMS System
EMS Coordinators Report
November 23, 2021
Cindy Amore, RN, BSN**

IDPH Update:

- IDPH COVID Vaccination Survey- in progress
- EMS Assistance Grant Applications due 12/2/21
- State Ambulance Inspector vacancy-
- SAFE-T and CESSA Act- Implications to EMS response discussion
- Recruitment/ Retention-Staffing Work group
- **UPCOMING MEETINGS:**
 - EMS Forum- Hosted by ICEP Thursday, December 3rd- Webex- 1pm-3pm**
 - State EMS/ Trauma Advisory Council Joint meeting- Thursday December 9th via Webex- 11am-1pm**

Region IX Update:

- The September meeting was cancelled. No further SOP discussion
- EMS Educator work group- CE program objectives are in development to better align content among our EMS Systems moving into 2022;
- Regional Discussion on Refusals and Restraint policy moving forward. Concerns exist related to current changes in IL legislation impacting law enforcement civil immunity and ability to engage with force. EMS agency discussion has begun locally.
- **Next meeting: Tuesday, December 14th- 9am via ZOOM – invite pending**

Region IX Healthcare Coalition- Continued efforts focus on the COVID 19 response along with Planning for the HPP goals and grant spending for FY 22. COVID response continues to be a focus; Recent regional Surge Census including COVID monitoring continues to be a focus of concern.

- **Next Meeting: Region IX RHCC Meeting- TBD**

System Update:

- **McHenry/Huntley OB Consolidation:** The consolidation of all OB/ Neonatal services to the Huntley Hospital is anticipated to be complete by the end of December. The McHenry ED will still be able to provide for the emergency care of an unstable laboring mom or emergency care of the pregnant patient involved in a trauma. The ED staff is in the process of completing additional OB emergency training, along with training in emergency support for the neonate. The focus would be to stabilize and transfer the patient to the most appropriate inpatient OB facility. Huntley hospital will continue to provide onsite OB Hospitalists, Neonatology, and specialty services through Lurie's Children's hospital.
- **EMS CE Calendar –** Respiratory Illness CE in progress; Next Optional CE packet will focus on a review of BLS Medications
Planning for the CY 2022 CE Calendar- In progress with a delay to engage the new EMS CE Educator in the planning process

EMS Staffing Update:

- **Full-time EMS Educator:** There are 2 excellent candidates for the open EMS Educator position. The final candidate interview with the team is today. We hope to select and extend an offer for hire to the preferred candidate by December 1st.

- Open EMS Educator-Registry Position- Rusty Dinsmore has supported our MCC program and AHA CPR Instructor program for many years. He has retired as of the end of October. The position he has vacated is in the process of being posted for replacement. This role will provide additional support to our EMS CE Educator in planning and presenting programming moving forward into CY 2022. Information regarding the position will be posted to the Career tab on the www.nm.org website, associated with McHenry Hospital
- EMS Manager/System Coordinator: Full time Clinical Manager: I have made the decision to retire at the end of January 2022. The replacement for my vacancy will be open shortly for applicants. This is for the role of EMS Manager, EMS System Coordinator. I have had an amazing experience in leading our EMS system, and look forward to supporting the transition to a new leader. Information regarding the position will be posted to the Career Tab on the www.nm.org website, associated with McHenry Hospital
- CMS COVID vaccination mandate – IMPACT TO EMS STUDENTS: On November 4th, the federal agency-CMS who oversees the distribution of Medicare/Medicaid funds enacted a mandate for all healthcare agency workers to be vaccinated against COVID 19. As of 12/5- all employees, volunteers, onsite vendors, and students will be required to have completed at minimum the 1st vaccination for COVID 19. If not, compliant they will not be allowed to work within the facility. This will apply to all EMT and Paramedic students currently enrolled. All employees, volunteers, onsite vendors, and students will be required to be fully vaccinated as of January 1, 2022. EMS Students who are not in compliance will be advised to withdraw from their MCC EMS Course. MCC and NM have communicated these Federal requirements to the students and offered options for withdrawal without penalty.
- **COVID SOP reminders!!!- Positivity rates continue to increase!!!:**
 1. EMS should treat all patients as potentially COVID infected. EMS PPE should be N95 masks and eye protection on ALL PATIENT CONTACTS. All patients must be masked upon bedside contact with EMS; Treat all patients as potential COVID infected to insure the safety of all EMS providers and ED staff. Isolation rooms in the ED- remove PPE before leaving the room; new PPE will be provided if needed to insure your safety in cleaning and redressing your cot
 2. COVID Cardiac arrest SOP – remains in effect. Contact with OLMC can be made if not response to interventions after 10 minutes of Asystole- with decision by OLMC if resuscitation can be withdrawn
 3. Emphasis on discretion in aerosol generating procedures is also important. *The current CPAP does have an additional HEPA filter, but when administering a HHN or suctioning please use caution, and appropriate PPE. Nebulizer therapy is best delivered via face mask which can then be covered with a surgical mask to reduce the spread of droplets through aerosolization. Please remember your due diligence in post transport cleaning of the patient compartment.*
- Narcotic Discrepancy Audit-. Data continues to demonstrate good compliance. We will continue to monitor the documentation compliance of these fields as a component of our QI program. The use of the waste documentation in Imagetrend is key in compliance documentation. An Update to the “GREEN SHEET” has been made to support the documentation of the administration/waste process.
- Patient Identity- We are seeing more incidents of errors in registration based on incorrect information when EMS arrives to the ED. The following practices are implemented:
 - Registration will ask the patient for proof of ID to confirm legal name status
 - If a patient is unresponsive they will work to gain confirmation from family

- If a patient is a transfer from a long-term care facility- the Face Sheet provided to EMS will be used to support confirmation; **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EMS TO INSURE THE FACE SHEET THEY RECEIVE IS THAT OF THE PATIENT THEY ARE TRANSPORTING!**
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- EMS Supply access changes: The medication Pyxis system will be changing to a new system-OMNICELL; this is the system in place at Good Shepherd hospital. Cindy Tabert and I are working on the orientation process to the new system. We expect to be able to provide an online tutorial on how to access the new OMNICELL. Cindy T. is coordinating the password access process. This transition will occur over the next few months. The McHenry EMS room will transition to the Kanban stocking system as the pyxis transition occurs.
- Equipment update: In follow-up to discussion in the Chest/Abdominal Trauma CE related to Pediatric fluid resuscitation with “push/pull” approach, we are adding 3-way stopcocks to the inventory list. Cindy Tabert will be coordinating the distribution

NEXT EMS COUNCIL MEETING: 2022 Schedule EMS Council- TBD;

MCC Report:

NREMT Testing Results: Spring 2021

EMT– 13 students registered 9 tested; 5 achieved licensure; 4 pending retest

Paramedic: 22 candidates registered: 17 are licensed; 4 pending retest; 1 pending remediation to re-apply for candidacy.

FALL 2021: Semester ends the week of 12/6

EMS 105: 3 Sections-

EMS 110 2 Sections

EMS 120- 1 Section -22 students

SPRING 2022: Semester begins Tuesday, January 18th

EMS 105- 2 sections + High School Program

EMS 110- 2 sections

EMS Advisory Committee: Next meeting scheduled- November 30th 9am- Focus for discussion- Updates to EMT and Paramedic curriculum;

Fire Science / EMS Chief Forum- A meeting was conducted at MCC on Wednesday, September 22nd. Focus open discussion on program structure, IDPH and NREMT expectations and planning to meet future needs for local employers as related to MCC programming. The EMS /FRS program will continue to collaborate with the local EMS agencies to support the ongoing demand for EMS licensed personnel. We are investigating opportunities to expand our EMS 110 program into the FRS Academy schedule for Fall 2022; and we are also looking at ways to support communication of the vacancies and hiring process for the area agencies to recruit students from our programs- EMT and Paramedic.