



PULSESD



South Dakota Office of Rural Health Emergency Medical Services

September 2016

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Director’s Welcome

By Marty Link—EMS Director

Greetings from the Office of Rural Health/EMS Program! It is hard to believe school is already in full swing—it amazes me how quickly the summer months pass. The Office of Rural Health/EMS Program continues to march forward on a series of ventures. All of them exciting, each of them requiring some change, all of them working together for a common goal—to help Emergency Medical Services in South Dakota succeed.

Socrates said it best, “The secret of Change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new.” Opportunity for actual change is so plentiful; we are fortunate to have leaders around South Dakota who are willing to partner in a continued effort to improve out of hospital emergency medical services. We hope you have kept up with the Stakeholder document located at ems.sd.gov under EMS Stakeholder Group. The Recommendations Working Document is a living breathing document which is updated regularly. If you are looking for the latest surrounding EMS, this is a great place to start. Of course Lance has been doing an exceptional job with PULSESD—if you have friends or coworkers that would like to subscribe, please pass the information on.

In South Dakota, we have approximately 124 ground ambulance services and some 60 hospitals that we communicate with regularly. Oftentimes, we rely on one contact per organization to ensure information is appropriately communicated to key stakeholders within the organization. Communications are sent via email, newsletters, websites, EMT Thoughts articles, phone calls, and hard copies. We want you to know key information is being shared with your service director. Please make sure he/she is passing that information to all members of the ambulance service. As EMS personnel, it is important that you keep up to date on current activities. Our website, EMS.sd.gov is a great resource to ensure you have the most up-to-date information available. Please also do not be afraid to pick up the phone and call with any questions!

Sincerely,
Marty





New EMS Trauma Program Manager / EMS Specialist

By Marty Link — EMS Director

Rebecca Baird has joined the Office of Rural Health / EMS Program as Trauma Program Manager. She will also be working as an EMS Specialist assisting EMS agencies in the eastern part of the state.

Rebecca is a registered nurse who worked for Sanford Medical Center in Critical Care and Cardiovascular Short Stay Units. Most recently she worked as an analyst for the MyChart application at Sanford. Prior to her nursing career, Rebecca obtained a degree from Black Hills State University in business administration and marketing and worked in the hospitality industry.

Rebecca began her new duties on July 11th and works in the Sioux Falls office.



Drivers Group

By Marty Link—EMS Director

I wanted to extend a special thank you to each member of the Drivers Group who worked tirelessly ensuring the new “Driver Competencies” met all of the requirements of Senate Bill 27, which became effective July 1, 2016.

These competencies can be found at <http://doh.sd.gov/providers/ruralhealth/EMS/DriverCompetencies.aspx>.

Please remember existing drivers are grandfathered; only new drivers working for your service will need to complete the competencies; albeit, it would be encouraged as a great refresher. A competency driver checklist is available through this website. Service directors—please keep a copy on record for each driver.

Education Group

By Marty Link—EMS Director

In the last edition of PULSESD, I mentioned the formation of an Educational Group. The focus of this group was to explore alternative EMS education models from the current monthly training platform, provided by grant dollars, to a more sustainable model. This move was predicated by federal grant dollars that will no longer be available in the coming years. This is perhaps one of the biggest changes EMS providers have faced in a long time.

Thankfully, continuing education opportunities are plentiful. Please note, additionally, there is no one silver bullet away from the currently monthly training model but many “tools” in a much larger “toolkit.” The Education Group identified EMT conferences, mini-conferences, SIM trainings, EMT classes, canned courses such as PHTLS, online content and/or locally instructed content.

As one example, the Office of Rural Health has been making preparations to develop lesson plans, Power Points, and sample videos that ambulance services can use for free. There are a number of free or low cost alternatives that ambulance services can explore as well. Lance Iversen in the EMS Program would be a great contact to help in this arena.

Continuing Education Opportunities

By Marty Link—EMS Director / Travis Spier—Sanford Health

As we work to transition to a new platform for EMS continuing education, the Department of Health is spearheading efforts to develop a toolkit of opportunities to assist providers in maintaining certification requirements. This toolkit will consist of resources and contacts ranging from online PowerPoint presentations, refresher course contacts, hospital symposiums, etc. The goal of this toolkit is to be able to support providers from all services, no matter how big or small. We will be highlighting various 'tools' available to you over the coming months. The first tool to bring to your attention is Sanford Health's new online program which is slated to begin October 1, 2016. If you are interested in taking part in this opportunity, please contact Travis Spier.

Sanford Health to offer NEW Monthly EMS Education Program Starting October 1, 2016

Recognizing the need for continuing education and the complexities of EMS schedules requires a convenient option for fulfilling recertification hours by EMS professionals across the state.

Starting October 1st, 2016 Sanford Health will offer an education program that focuses on sustaining the intent of hosting monthly education in each EMS community across South Dakota. Participants in the program will receive 2 hours of live video broadcasted education from a team of instructors spanning the state. The two hours of live education will follow the National Registry and South Dakota Department of Health's EMT recertification topic list. Live broadcasts will be offered four nights each week giving sites the ease and flexibility of participating in sessions that match existing agency schedules.

Each month one live session will be recorded and uploaded to the online portal for access by users from their individual participant accounts. The individual user accounts allow for the ease and flexibility of completing education courses from the comfort and convenience of their home. Access to online courses assures individuals that they can fulfill the education topics required by the National Registry and South Dakota Department of Health. Additional course titles identified as local or state mandates within the required topic list will be available from the library of courses listed in the online system. Individuals will be able to complete the sessions from the comfort of their home that matches their personal needs and schedules. Individual users will be able to view a live training certificate that lists educational accomplishments within the system and monthly program. The individual user transcript allows participants the ability to add outside courses and classes to their education record displaying a cumulative view of their education hours.

Ambulance Directors were contacted by phone or email to update them on the options within the new program. The NEW education program will offer over 40 course topics that match or exceed National Registry and State requirements. Ten live sessions will be offered annually to EMS agencies participating in the program. The two open months allow for agencies to complete or participate in local educational needs.

Individual user accounts are available for an annual fee of \$100.00 per person or a cost of only \$10.00 per month. Based on the topic list of over 40 available sessions it equates to a price of less than \$2.50 per course title. Cumulative course credit available within the system exceeds 35 hours of continuing education annually.

For more information feel free to call 605-328-6389 or email emsservices@sanfordhealth.org or travis.spier@sanfordhealth.org.

Zika Virus—Intelligence Bulletin for Emergency Services

By Jon Groen—DPS—Office of Homeland Security / SD Fusion Center

Is the end of Zika nigh? How populations develop immunity

The Zika outbreak, arriving on the heels of Ebola and just in time for the Rio Olympics, has challenged global health agencies to respond rapidly and effectively. Determining the appropriate response is far from straightforward, though, as there is much we don't yet know about the Zika virus.

A pair of papers published recently in the journal *Science* has reviewed current evidence about the spread and control of Zika. These studies use mathematical models to help understand how the virus may spread. Insights from these models can help to prioritize efforts to control Zika and minimize the harm it causes.

One conclusion from these models is that little can be done to contain the current Zika outbreak in South America. Vaccines are under development, but may arrive too late to have a substantial impact on this outbreak. Long-term control of the mosquitos that transmit Zika, among other diseases, remains an ongoing challenge.

Despite this, the models suggest the outbreak will die out of its own accord in around three years from now. After that we may not see further outbreaks for at least a decade.

How do populations become immune?

When we are exposed to a pathogen, our body produces an immune response to defend itself. This immune response not only clears the pathogen, but often provides protection against further infection even after we recover, so we're not susceptible to being infected again.

Infectious diseases spread when a pathogen (a virus, bacteria or parasite) is transmitted from an infectious person to a person who is susceptible to infection. During an outbreak, lots of people can become infected in a short time and develop immunity.

As a result, the number of susceptible people left available to be infected is reduced, making it harder for the pathogen to keep spreading. The number of new infections declines and the outbreak ends, without it being necessary for everyone to have been infected. The current models suggest this will occur with the Zika outbreak over the coming years.

After a large outbreak has run its course, there may no longer be enough susceptible people in a population to allow a further outbreak to occur. Even if an infectious person enters this population, most people they meet will be protected, due to past exposure, and the disease won't be able to spread very far. This inability for the pathogen to spread then provides indirect protection for those who remain susceptible. This population-level phenomenon of protection is known as "herd immunity".

While we usually aim to achieve herd immunity through vaccination, in the case of Zika the models predict that herd immunity will be achieved through natural infection.



Elder Abuse Task Force—Mandatory Reporting

By Marty Jackley—SD Attorney General

Dear South Dakota Healthcare and First Responders,

As many of you are already aware, an Elder Abuse Task Force was created by the South Dakota Legislature to address the growing problem of abuse and financial exploitation of the elderly and vulnerable adults in South Dakota. The task force returned several recommendations to the Legislature, which then adopted several new laws and updated several more. I write to you today because some of those laws specifically pertain to people in your chosen professions.

The concept of mandatory reporting is often associated solely with child abuse. South Dakota has taken reporting requirements a step further, because financial exploitation and abuse of the elderly and vulnerable adults often goes unreported. The most common reason that these types of crimes are not reported is that the only people aware of the crime are the victim and their abuser. This is where individuals in your professions can help.

There is a long list of people who are required to report the suspicion of elder or vulnerable adult abuse or financial exploitation. The list includes physicians, dentists, doctors of osteopathy, chiropractors, optometrists, podiatrists, religious healing practitioners, hospital interns or residents, nurses, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and many more. This report must be made within twenty-four hours to the Department of Social Services, the local State's Attorney Office, or local law enforcement. Failing to report elder or vulnerable adult abuse or financial exploitation is a criminal offense for mandatory reporters.

Because protecting vulnerable adults is of such importance, the Legislature has directed that every report received by the Department of Social Services, State's Attorneys, and law enforcement shall be transmitted to my office. I have appointed an Assistant Attorney General and Criminal Investigator whose primary focus is investigating and prosecuting offenders who abuse or exploit the elderly and vulnerable adults. These two individuals are travelling our great state to train on the new requirements of the statutes. If you are interested in receiving training, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

I know that you care about the citizens of South Dakota as much as I do because of your chosen professions. Please help us protect the elderly and vulnerable adults of South Dakota by reporting every time that you have a suspicion of elder or vulnerable adult abuse or financial exploitation.

Sincerely,

Marty Jackley
ATTORNEY GENERAL

NCCP—Changes Coming to Recertification Requirements

By Lance Iversen—EMS Program

Beginning April 1st, 2017, The SD Office of Rural Health/EMS will transition to the new National Continued Competency Program (NCCP) recertification model for the EMT level provider.

The NCCP offers numerous improvements that will impact EMS for the better for years to come. These changes allow a platform for evidenced-based medicine to reach EMS professionals all over the country, give state and local agencies the freedom to dictate a portion of the national recertification requirements and provide a foundation for the EMS professional to embrace life-long learning through self-assessment.

Beginning April 1st, 2017, EMTs will use the new NCCP model for recertifying in 2019. For those whose recertification cycle ends March 31st, 2018, you will move to the NCCP model April 1st, 2018 for recertifying in 2020. For those who are State Certified only, we will continue to have a 24 hour recertification model, much like it has been, but will incorporate new topics based on the NCCP National Component, and new topics for the State Component.

For more information on the new NCCP recertification platforms (State and National Registry), hours and subject matter required, Training Officer's Guide, EMT Educational Guidelines, Course Breakdown (what hours apply to the categories if you have certifications such as PHTLS, AMLS, CPR, PEPP, etc.), video clips, etc., please visit our website, EMS.sd.gov, then click on "EMS Education". You may also find information on the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians website at nremt.org.

Leadership Group

By Marty Link—EMS Director

Late May, a "Needs Assessment" survey was sent to all ambulance services in South Dakota. The survey was designed to better understand the challenges facing rural EMS agencies across the state. We are happy to report 100% of services completed the survey—this is fantastic news and it indicates to us there is truly a desire to see EMS in South Dakota continue to advance.

As a follow up to the survey, we are preparing for eight regional EMS face to face sessions. These sessions will be held in Sioux Falls, October 17th; Watertown, October 18th; Aberdeen, October 19th; Rapid City, November 28th; Spearfish, November 29th; Mitchell, December 12th; Pierre, December 13th, and Mobridge, December 14th. All meetings will be from 6-9 PM, CT with the exception of Rapid City and Spearfish who will be MT. A short registration survey was sent to individuals who originally completed the "needs assessment" survey. If you have an interest in attending these sessions, please visit with your ambulance service director, or give us a call at the Office of Rural Health.

FAQs & Topics That Come to the Board

By Margaret B. Hansen—SDBMOE Executive Director

The South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners (Board) submits articles to this newsletter to inform South Dakota advanced life support personnel (ALS), medical directors and other licensees about various topics of interest that come to the Board.

Recent topics have included how to receive approval for continuing education credits both for renewal of the South Dakota license as well for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) certification and licensing process for initial, renewal as well as reinstatement applications.

This article will use a screenshot from the ALS webpage on the Board website to point out some of this information.

The Board and the EMS Office are committed to working together to assist, communicate, and inform ALS providers. Please do not hesitate to contact either director at any time:

Margaret.Hansen@state.sd.us (605-367-7781) and Marty.Link@state.sd.us (605- 367-5372).

ALS webpage on the Board website:

All fourteen professions and entities regulated and licensed by the Board have a separate webpage devoted to that group.

A screen shot of what is available for the ALS professional is on the following page. The webpage has general information regarding initial, renewal and reinstatement application processes. Links are provided for ALS program approval and continuing education approval.

There is also a link to the PULSESD newsletters. Notice for South Dakota NREMT Practical Examinations are also included on this ALS page. Programs of interest to ALS may also be posted here and currently there is a link to the Rural Healthcare Facility Recruitment Assistance Program.

SD EMS Association Annual Conference

By Lance Iversen—EMS Program

The South Dakota EMS Association's annual conference is just around the corner. The conference will be in Brookings this year and runs October 28th- 30th.

The EMS Association conference is a great event to attend to not only obtain continuing education hours for recertification, but to meet and catch up with old friends, make new friends, networking, see the latest EMS related products from the vendors, and of course, have a great time at the socials, dinner and dance.

We are looking forward to seeing you there. Stop by our booth and say hi.



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questions? we've got answers

Please note that an application fee only extends an initial license to the next renewal date. Initial licenses do vary in duration. It is the responsibility of all licensees to renew their license before expiration. Failure to renew shall result in automatic forfeiture or suspension of the license by statute. Licenses which have forfeited are not automatically entitled to renew.

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Advanced Life Support (ALS)

Please note that an **initial** license will vary in duration dependent upon its issuance date. This **initial** license will expire on July 15. It is the responsibility of all licensees to renew their license before July 15. Failure to renew by July 15 shall result in automatic suspension of the license by statute. Licenses which have suspended are not automatically entitled to renew.

Renewal Process — Please see the renewal schedule on the [home page](#) to determine if the renewal is available.

Reinstatement Process— Send explanation of why your license was allowed to forfeit and if you worked with the expired license to the Board office. An email is fine as long as you include complete contact information. Once your statement is evaluated, you will receive written instructions as to whether your previous license can be reinstated and instructions on how to begin the process.

Initial Application Process - To begin the application process please complete and submit the [Non-Physician Online Account Request form](#). Your will be emailed your username and password after the form is processed in the order it was received. Your username and password will be needed to login and complete the online application. You can start and stop the application at your convenience and your information will be saved. Once the application is submitted an initial review is completed and a "To Do List" of the required items for your application file is created. The "To Do List" is viewable online and updated as items arrive so your application status can be viewed at all times.

ALS Initial Program Approval Request Application - This Application form is located under Forms and Helpful Links ([Form](#)).

ALS Continuing Education Approval Request Application - This Application form is located under Forms and Helpful Links ([Form](#)).

PULSESD Emergency Medical Services Newsletters - The Board supports the EMS published news letter by contributing a column. Please use this link to access the published news letters to date ([Newsletters](#)).

If you receive an error opening these forms you may need to update a program on your computer called **Adobe Reader**. You can update this program by clicking here: [UPDATE READER](#)

Advanced Life Support NREMT Examinations

Scheduled Exam List

Date	Location	Type	Deadline to Apply

The Rural Healthcare Facility Recruitment Assistance Program

Mon, 04/04/2016

The Rural Healthcare Facility Recruitment Assistance Program provides a \$10,000 payment to eligible health professionals who complete a three-year, full-time service commitment. The eligible health professionals that are licensed by this board are: Dietitian or Nutritionist, Occupational therapist, Physical therapist, Paramedic, and Respiratory therapists.

Use this link for more information: <http://doh.sd.gov/providers/ruralhealth/recruitment/Facility.aspx>

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[Respiratory Care Practitioner](#)



New Ambulance Services in SD

By Lance Iversen—EMS Program

The South Dakota EMS Program would like to welcome two new ambulance services to the state.

Frederick Fire and Rescue, located in Frederick, SD began ambulance operations on August 31st 2016.

Frederick is a small community located in Brown County, about 30 minutes north of Aberdeen.

Frederick Area Fire Protection District Mission is to provide fire protection and emergency medical services to residents, property owners and guests within the district.

The ambulance is housed and part of the Frederick Fire Department. They have 10 EMTs and 7 EVOC Drivers on their roster.



Midwest Medical Transport Company, will begin medical transport service in South Dakota in early September and will have base locations in Aberdeen and Huron.

MMTC will provide all levels of medical transport to anywhere in the state, surrounding states, or anywhere in the country.

Midwest Medical Transport Company was founded in 1987 in Columbus, Nebraska. Throughout their history, they have maintained a steadfast focus on two key components, quality patient care and excellent customer service. Their quality patient care is

achieved by focusing on the education of their providers, and customer service is an essential part of any business, especially in healthcare.

Their providers are courteous, compassionate, and empathetic to their patients and their families. They also focus on providing quality service to the healthcare facilities that call upon them to transport their patients.

Midwest Medical Transport Company has made a commitment to the people of the Midwest to provide the highest level of professional medical transportation.



South Dakota Office of Rural Health
Emergency Medical Services
600 East Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501



For Questions or More Information, Contact:

South Dakota Office of Rural Health / EMS Program - please visit EMS.sd.gov or call 605-773-4031

SDBMOE, Please visit www.sdbmoe.gov or call 605-367-7781

SIM-SD, please visit www.sim.sd.gov or contact the South Dakota Office of Rural Health 605-773-3361

