**EMS SECTION HIGHLIGHTS**

**July 2015**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Trauma and EMS Rule Workshops**

The Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight held a Trauma Rule Workshop (Chapter 64J-2) and EMS Rule Workshop (Chapter 64J-1) last May. We appreciate all of those who participated and provided recommendations. The proposed rule language is being reviewed by our legal counsel and we anticipate posting a Notice of Proposed Rule Language in the near future.

**Goodbye Barbara Hyde!**

The EMS Section will bid farewell to Barbara Hyde after 20 years of service. Barbara has worked as the EMS Section’s licensure specialist since 1995. She plans to spend her newfound freedom by working in her yard and enjoying life. She will be dearly missed by her co-workers and the 274 providers she’s worked with over the years. Congratulations on your retirement, Miss Barb!

**EMS EDUCATION, LICENSURE & COMPLIANCE**

There are 67 schools offering 176 emergency medical technician (EMT) and paramedic training programs. In addition to our EMS education programs and EMS provider agencies, there are 65 continuing education providers offering 1,366 continuing education courses.

**TRAINING & EDUCATION**

The 2015 certification exam statistics are as follows:

* 1,776 EMT first time test-takers to date a 69 percent pass rate
* 717 paramedic first time test-takers to date with an 87 percent pass rate
* Florida currently has 31,898 actively certified EMTs and 29,221 paramedics, totaling 61,119 actively-certified EMS personnel

**EMS PROVIDER LICENSURE**

There are 274 licensed EMS providers with 4,606 permitted vehicles.

Provider agency types: Permitted vehicles:

173 ALS Transport 2,448

8 BLS Transport 469

60 ALS Non-Transport 1,560

33 Air Ambulance (fixed and rotary) 129

**EMS AGENCY INSPECTIONS**

There have been 54 inspections conducted to date; thirty-five were announced, and 19 were unannounced.

**911 PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS (911 PST)**

There are 169 state-approved PST training programs in Florida. The 2015 certification exam statistics are as follows:

* Of 610 exam attempts, 510 individuals passed on first attempt with an 89 percent pass rate.
* There are currently 6,805 certified 911 PSTs

**STATEWIDE PLANNING**

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN (EMSC)**

The Department of Health was awarded the EMSC federal partnership grant on February 28, 2015. The new grant year began March 1, 2015 and will end on February 29, 2016. The primary goals of the grant are: to improve and expand the degree to which Florida EMS has ensured the operational capacity to provide pediatric emergency care; to improve the capacity of Florida to ensure that essential resources and protocols are available in facilities where children receive care; to improve and expand the degree to which Florida has established permanence of EMSC in the Florida EMS system; and to improve and expand Florida’s capacity to reduce and ameliorate pediatric emergencies.

Pediatric continuing education courses conducted during the past six months:

Course Title Number Trained

The ABCs of Pediatric EMS 126

Friday Night Lights Out 8

PEPP 12

Intubation Rodeo Symposium 42

Pediatric Procedure, Practice & Playtime Pig Lab 92

**FREE PEDIATRIC EDUCATION PROGRAM AND/OR RESOURCES**

Florida EMSC continues to offer FREE pediatric/neonatal continuing education courses and resources to eligible agencies in Florida. The following continuing education (CE) courses/programs are available to eligible agencies:

* **Pediatric Transport Safety**
* **Friday Night Lights Out - Pediatric Mild Traumatic Brain Injury**
* **Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals (PEPP)**
* **Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)**
* **S.T.A.B.L.E.**
* **Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP)**
* **Pediatric/Neonatal Review**

Costs associated with these CE courses will be covered in full by the Florida EMSC partnership grant for eligible provider agencies. Additionally, EMSC may be able to support an education program at your agency that you are already planning or provide educational materials and other pediatric resources. Contact Bonnie Anderson, EMSC Program Manager at (850) 245-4440. extension 2686, or [Bonnie.Anderson@flhealth.gov](mailto:Bonnie.Anderson@flhealth.gov).

**COUNTY GOVERNMENT GRANTS - 401.113(2) (a), FLORIDA STATUTES**

During FY 2014-2015, county government grants provided $2.7 million to 59 county governments. The funding opportunity for FY 2015-16 will be announced on the EMS website [(www.floridahealth.gov/provider-and-partner-resources/ems-grants/index.html](http://(www.floridahealth.gov/provider-and-partner-resources/ems-grants/index.html)) in late July 2015 and will include a link with additional information for interested applicants.

**MATCHING GRANTS - 401.113(2) (b), FLORIDA STATUTES**

The FY 2014-2015 matching grant award cycle has been completed and awardee information is located on the state EMS grant website at [(www.floridahealth.gov/provider-and-partner-resources/ems-grants/index.html](http://(www.floridahealth.gov/provider-and-partner-resources/ems-grants/index.html)). All organizations are eligible for these grants and new applications for FY 2015-16 will be accepted beginning mid-November. The Department hopes interested organizations will apply for this funding in the coming cycle.

Types of Organizations—$2.15 million was awarded through 30 grants. Eight grants for $317,538 went to cities, 13 grants for $1,239,682 went to counties, eight grants for $586,467 to private organizations, and one grant for $8,794 to a Fire district.

Rural Support—Nine of the 30 matching grants totaling $929,954 in state funds, went to rural based organizations. Rural counties represent approximately 5 percent of Florida total population. Matching grants to rural counties in the amount of $929,954 represents 43.2 percent of the total funds awarded.

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| **TYPES OF PROJECTS AWARDED JUNE 2015** | | |
| **Category of Project** | **No. of Grants** | **State $ Awarded** |
| Vehicles | 7 | $876,450.00 |
| Stretchers | 7 | $586,324.00 |
| Cardiac Monitors | 5 | $266,423.00 |
| Education | 2 | $165,167.00 |
| Community Paramedic | 1 | $92,196.00 |
| Chest Compression Systems | 4 | $83,071.00 |
| Other Medical Equipment | 3 | $74,056.00 |
| AEDs | 1 | $8,794.00 |
| **TOTALS =** | **30** | **$2,152,481.00** |

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Please visit Florida’s EMS Grant website for more information at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/provider-and-partner-resources/ems-grants/index.html>.

**INVESTIGATION & PROSECUTION**

Investigation: Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight (BEMO), Emergency Medical Services Section, Investigation Unit operates in conjunction with Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) to investigate complaints against EMTs and paramedics. EMS continues to investigate complaints against the EMS providers, EMS training school, 911 PSTs and/or 911 PST training schools.

Prosecution: All complaint files against Florida EMTs and paramedics are prosecuted currently by Toby Schultz of MQA Prosecution Service Unit, and can be mailed to: Florida Department of Health, Medical Quality Assurance, Consumer Services Unit, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-75, Tallahassee, FL 32399.

Complaint files against Florida EMS providers, EMS training schools and/or 911 PST's, 911 PST training schools are prosecuted by Leslie McIlroy of the Office of General Counsel and can be mailed to: Florida Department of Health, BEMO, EMS Section, Investigation Unit, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A22, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1722.

For disciplinary information, please submit a written Public Record Request to:

Florida Department of Health c/o Public Records Custodian

Office of the General Counsel

4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-02, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1702

(850) 245-4005 (phone) (850) 410-1448 (FAX)

Or to submit a public record request online, email: [PublicRecordsRequest@flhealth.gov](mailto:PublicRecordsRequest@flhealth.gov).

**Disciplinary Actions taken for January – May 2015**

* 152 Complaints received (128 EMT/paramedic 24 EMS providers)
* 32 Final Orders (as a result of the Administrative Complaints below)
* 32 Administrative Complaints (5 EMS providers/27 EMT/paramedic)
* 26 Closing Orders (6 EMS providers/20 EMT/paramedic)

**INJURY PREVENTION**

**GOOD-BYE / HAPPY RETIREMENT TO LISA VANDERWERF-HOURIGAN!!!**

Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan will finish DROP in August 2015 after 35 years with the Department of Health (also the old HRS)! Many of you know Lisa from her 20 plus years in EMS 1980-2003. She began in 1980 as an EMT and paramedic certification coordinator and became an EMT in 1984. Over the years, she worked in Compliance/Enforcement, EMS training centers, Ambulance Licensure and Inspections.  In 2003, she became the director of the Office of Injury Prevention.  After leaving EMS, Lisa continued to collaborate with EMS through the EMS Advisory Council Standing Committee-Public Information, Education and Relations-PIER. Lisa plans to be a “volleyball mom” as her daughter begins her senior year in high school and help out in her husband’s real estate office. We wish Lisa much happiness in her retirement!

**FLORIDA INJURY PREVENTION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

A Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council meeting will be held via webinar on July 30, 2015 beginning at 10:00 a.m., E.S.T. To register for the webinar, click the following link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4768370090743756034>.

**WaterproofFL Child Drowning Prevention Campaign**

Waterproof Florida 2015 video is available on DOH You Tube: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAwsBe5EzkU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FAwsBe5EzkU).

For more information, contact Suzanne Kelly at: [Suzanne.Kelly@flhealth.gov](mailto:Suzanne.Kelly@flhealth.gov) or

(850) 245-4110.

**2015 OLDER ADULT FALLS PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY SEPTEMBER** **23, 2015 *“TAKE A STAND TO PREVENT FALLS”*** *®*

The eighth Annual Falls Prevention Awareness Day (FPAD) will be observed on September 23, 2015—the first day of fall. We encourage all EMS providers and trauma centers, hospitals and community agencies to: ***Take A Stand To Prevent Falls!***  Have or support Tai Chi classes community awareness events and activities in September 2015! For awareness tool kits see: <http://www.ncoa.org/improve-health/center-for-healthy-aging/falls-prevention/falls-prevention-awareness-1.html>

The IPS partnered with DOEA and taped three videos on May 29, using the 2015 theme, **“Take a Stand Against Falls”*®*.** The videos will be posted on DOH YouTube in August for use by stakeholders for fall prevention awareness activities in September.

**FLORIda BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN Partnership Council (BPPC) Meeting**

The major issues discussed during the March 2015 quarterly meeting were:

* Review draft work plan for 2015
* Updates from Agencies and Other Partners
* Review of BPPC Charge, Procedures and Guidelines and Website
* Review of BPPC annual report recommendations to date

Jan Davis is the bureau’s representative on this council. The next meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2015 in Tallahassee, Florida. Additional information on the council is available at: [www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/policy/bikeped](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/policy/bikeped).

**FLORIDA TEEN SAFE DRIVING COALITION (FTSDC)**

The FTSDC facilitated the Student Leadership Academy in St. Petersburg, June 14-17. FTSDC had 56 (up from 37 in 2014) student leaders attending this year, representing 24 schools in 14 counties. Teens learned about traffic safety and crash injury and trauma science from doctors and emergency responders.  The students also conducted a roadway safety audit and addressed pedestrian issues.  Key messages were buckle up, don’t drink and drive, and never text and drive. Special thanks goes out to All Children’s Hospital for hosting this event.

For 2015, the FTSDC is working with the Florida Academy of Family Physicians (FAFP) and the American Academy of Pediatrics Florida Chapter (FPA) to create parent/teen brochures and contracts that will be handed out by pediatricians and general practice doctors to their patients. For more information contact Mary Crew at: [Mary.Crew@flhealth.gov](mailto:Mary.Crew@flhealth.gov) or (850) 245-4982 or visit: [www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/2A-Programs/Teen-Drivers.shtm](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/2A-Programs/Teen-Drivers.shtm) or [www.FloridaSADD.org](http://www.FloridaSADD.org).

**SAFE KIDS FLORIDA**

Safe Kids Florida received a grant for materials from SKWW this year that supported IPS participation in Safe Kids Day. On April 18, as part of the Sixth Annual Leon County EMS Safety Fair at Governor’s Square Mall, IPS staff and volunteers oversaw six safety booths that had games and activities teaching kids about fire, home, sports, pedestrian, car seat, laundry (poisoning) and water safety.

Safe Kids Worldwide is gearing up for PREVCON, their international injury prevention conference held biennially. This year it will be held in Washington, D.C. from July 29 – August 1. For more information contact Mary Crew at: [Mary.Crew@flhealth.gov](mailto:Mary.Crew@flhealth.gov) or (850) 245-4982.

**WELCOME ABOARD THE NEWEST COALITION, SAFE KIDS OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY!**

It is the first dual lead coalition being headed up by the Department of Health in St. Lucie County and Kids Connected by Design, a private non-profit organization.

Safe Kids Florida now consists of 13 local coalitions covering Broward, Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Dade, Hillsborough, Collier, Lee, Marion, Orange, Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Manatee, Sarasota, Flagler, Volusia and Seminole counties. For more information contact Mary Crew at: [Mary.Crew@flhealth.gov](mailto:Mary.Crew@flhealth.gov) or (850) 245-4982.

**SAFE MOBILITY FOR LIFE COALITION**

* The SMfL Data Team created a map of county data for crashes involving persons age 65+ in Florida for 2011-2013. It is available on the Safety is Golden website at: <http://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=e564199f877a49eab3f15dc239782e71>.
* Aging road user data trends for 2009-2013- crashes resulting in fatalities and serious injuries for drivers 65+ are decreasing while the population and number of licensed drivers continues to increase. However, the 65+ age group still represents 19.3 percent of statewide fatalities and serious injuries. View the data at: <http://www.safeandmobileseniors.org/FloridaCoalition.htm#Strategic_Plan>.

The coalition meets quarterly, and Mary Crew is the bureau’s liaison. For additional information on the Safe Mobility for Life Coalition, please visit: [www.safeandmobileseniors.org](http://www.safeandmobileseniors.org) and [www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/2A-Programs/Aging-Road-Users.shtm](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/2A-Programs/Aging-Road-Users.shtm).

**STAFF BECOMES CERTIFIED CARFIT TECHNICIANS**

CarFit is an educational program that offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles "fit" them. The CarFit program also provides information and materials on community-specific resources that could enhance their safety as drivers, and/or increase their mobility in the community. Staff members Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan, Mary Crew, Suzanne Kelly and Monica McKenzie became certified CarFit technicians during training provided March 31-April 1. Additional free training is offered statewide. For more information go to: <http://www.car-fit.org/>.

**STATE SUICIDE PREVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL**

The [Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention](http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/mental-health/suicide-prevention), Florida Department of Children and Families, facilitates the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council (SPCC). More information is available at: <http://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/mental-health/suicide-prevention/meetings>.

**2016 Suicide Prevention Day** at the Capitol has been set for January 14, 2016. Events will be coordinated by the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council and the Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition <http://www.floridasuicideprevention.org>. The next SPCC meeting is September 17. Suzanne Kelly represents the Florida Department of Health on the council.

**INJURY DATA REPORTS—2013 DATA AVAILABLE!**

* **Injury Data**-The 2012 Injury Fact Sheets are available at: [www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/florida-injury-surveillance-system/index.html#factsheets](http://www.floridahealth.gov/statistics-and-data/florida-injury-surveillance-system/index.html#factsheets).
* 1999–**2013** injury death and hospitalization, and 2005–2013 emergency department data, are available upon request. Contact David Wong at: (850) 245-4440, ext. 2761 or [Tit.Wong@flhealth.gov](mailto:Tit.Wong@flhealth.gov).
* 2005–**2013** injury death, hospitalization and emergency department data for each of Florida’s 67 counties are available at: [www.floridahealth.gov/reports-and-data/florida-injury-surveillance-system/index.html#profiles](http://www.floridahealth.gov/reports-and-data/florida-injury-surveillance-system/index.html#profiles).
* 1970–**2013** injury death data is available on the Florida CHARTS website at: [www.floridacharts.com/FLQUERY/Death/DeathCount.aspx](http://www.floridacharts.com/FLQUERY/Death/DeathCount.aspx).
* 1970–2009 County-level School-Aged Child and Adolescent Profiles, including injury indicators, are available on the Florida CHARTS website at: [www.floridacharts.com/charts/SpecReport.aspx?RepID=1031552](http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/SpecReport.aspx?RepID=1031552).
* 2007–2012 County-level Pregnancy and Young Child Profiles, including injury indicators, are available on the Florida CHARTS website at: [www.floridacharts.com/charts/SpecReport.aspx?RepID=1013450](http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/SpecReport.aspx?RepID=1013450).
* Florida prevalence and trends data, including seat belt prevalence, based on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System can be found at: <http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss/page.asp?cat=IN&yr=2012&state=FL#IN>.

**HEALTH INFORMATION & POLICY ANALYSIS PROGRAM**

**EMSTARS**

163 agencies are reporting to the EMS Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS), bringing the state repository to over 13,113,173incidents reported. Florida has approximately 11,418,099NEMSIS compliant records in the national EMS Information System database and continues to have more records deposited nationally than any other state.

The section supports the new data collection system EMSTARS-CDX, which was implemented in July 2014. This system will support the submission of Florida Version 1.4 Data Dictionary files until December 31, 2016 and can accept the Florida Version 3.0 Data Dictionary as providers and their vendors are ready to transition to the new standard that was implemented by the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS).

The Department has implemented a Vendor Validation Process to ensure that Florida Data Dictionary elements, custom elements and Florida business rules that were developed by the EMSAC Data Committee are implemented correctly. The Department will validate NEMSIS compliant and Non-NEMSIS compliant software. The Vendor Validation Process can be reviewed on the website at [www.floridaemstars.com](http://www.floridaemstars.com).

Staff continues to be available for providers to facilitate EMSTARS-CDX training and/or implementation assistance as needed. Agencies interested in receiving assistance with EMSTARS submissions or transitioning from aggregate data reporting to EMSTARS reporting at this time or in the near future, please contact Brenda Clotfelter at: [Brenda.Clotfelter@flhealth.gov](mailto:Brenda.Clotfelter@flhealth.gov).

The NEMSIS National Reporting System based upon the National EMS Database can be found on the NEMSIS website ([www.nemsis.org](http://www.nemsis.org/)) under the “Reporting Tools” tab (click on “Reports,” then “National Reports” and then “Access Reports”). Follow the directions to access the reports. Note: Florida’s data is incorporated in the national aggregated reports.

**NEMSIS VERSION 3 UPDATES**

Bureau staff continues to work with federal partners, National EMS Information System (NEMSIS), EMS Advisory Council Data Committee, and the EMS community to respond to the changes anticipated with NEMSIS Version 3 subsequent updates. The section staff are working with a third party vendor, Intermedix, which is already NEMSIS certified compliant, to ensure that an appropriate state level implementation approach is used and adequately planned to minimize impact to local EMS provider agencies.

NEMSIS has modified its Version 3 compliance dates and those are provided below:

* **NEMSIS 2.2.1 Closure Date Extension – 12/31/16**
* **NEMSIS 3.3.4 Compliance Extension – 12/31/17**
* **Next Major Release NEMSIS 3.4 – 1/1/18**
* **Major Release Cycles Change - 4 year cycle**
* **Vendor Compliance Requirement Update - *CAD & Medical Device no longer required for vendor compliance***

Based on the NEMSIS deadline changes, Florida will continue to accept the Florida 1.4 Data Dictionary submissions (NEMSIS 2.2.1) until December, 31, 2016. After that time, all submitting agencies should transition to the Florida Version 3 Data Dictionary. The EMSAC Data Committee and the HIPAS will work with Florida agencies over the next few years as the state transitions to the new standards. If your agency has questions regarding Version 3, please contact Brenda Clotfelter at: [Brenda.Clotfelter@flhealth.gov](mailto:Brenda.Clotfelter@flhealth.gov).

**GRANT OPPORTUNITY- DOT 405 Sub Grant**

The Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight received approval for local EMS agency sub-grants from the Florida Department of Transportation FY 2014/2015 405 Grant Program in support of the improvement and/or expansion of Florida’s emergency medical services field data collection efforts.

Twelve local EMS agencies sub-grants were approved and awarded. Acquisitions are in progress, and the deadline for reimbursement submissions of the application is **August 31, 2015 by 5:00 PM, Eastern Standard Time.** No reimbursements requests have been received to date.