



Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Branch Activity Report to the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council (SEMTAC)

Jan. 9, 2020

This report is submitted as a record of key activities by the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Branch for the period ending Dec. 31, 2019.

Organizational Effectiveness

In the fourth quarter of 2019, the branch recruited and interviewed for four positions: statistical analyst, enforcement advisor, certification technician and peer assistance coordinator. We are in the final stages of hiring and onboarding, and plan to introduce new staff members soon.

Operations Section

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EMS Provider Certification

At the end of the fourth quarter of 2019, there were 19,300 certified EMS providers in the state: 13,293 EMTs; 347 AEMTs; 430 Intermediates; and 4,393 Paramedics (of which 408 paramedics have critical care endorsement, 18 have the community paramedic endorsement, and 4 have both P-CC and P-CP endorsements).

EMR Registration

There are 407 voluntarily registered Emergency Medical Responders.

Education

There are 214 recognized education programs in OATH representing education centers (initial training) and education groups (continuing education). Education centers are also recognized as education groups and are counted in both categories.

The education task force continues to meet monthly to draft rules related to the EMS licensing bill, SB 19-242.

Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council (EMPAC)

There are currently 437 active scope of practice waivers, of which 4 are for BLS provider levels, 38 are for both BLS and ALS provider levels, and 395 are for ALS provider levels. The next EMPAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 10, 2020, starting at 10 a.m. at the CDPHE offices in Denver. The next Regional Medical Direction committee meeting is also Monday, Feb. 10, 2020 at the same location, starting at 8:00 a.m.

Air Ambulance

There are 35 licensed air ambulance service agencies in Colorado, of which 23 are full two-year licenses and 12 are recognition licenses.



Funding Section

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Technical Assistance

At the request of local governments and in conjunction with the Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Councils (RETACs), staff members coordinate technical assistance services to local entities. No emergency medical and trauma services system assessments have been conducted yet this fiscal year although a visit for Bent County is scheduled to begin in late January. The department has performed 21 local EMTS system assessments since the program began. Copies of the final reports with recommendations are available from the department.

CREATE

The Colorado Rural Health Center continues to administer the Colorado Resource for EMS and Trauma Education (CREATE) grant program. There were no financial waiver requests submitted for review during the quarter. So far this quarter, the Expert Review Committee evaluated 11 applications requesting funding for 11 different courses. Five courses were approved with \$33,954 awarded. Results on \$59,921 in requests for the six applications reviewed in December will not be available until January.

Provider Grants and System Improvement Funding Requests

The legislature authorized approximately \$8.4 million for the funding program in fiscal year 2020. Five hundred thousand dollars was allocated for the CREATE educational grant program, \$362,990 for regional medical direction projects, \$284,915 for supplemental RETAC funding, \$65,000 to provide support for the new trauma registry software, \$316,302 in temporary funding for the peer assistance program and \$150,000 was set-aside for emergency grants. An additional \$1.2 million was held back due to reduced revenue projections based a decreased number of vehicle registrations subject to the fee. For the fiscal year 2020 funding cycle, the department awarded \$5,436,436 in provider grant awards and \$106,905 for system improvement funding. Purchase orders and contracts for all grants except one are fully executed. One contract is still pending signature by the grantee. Six projects have been completed and there have been \$126 in reversions this quarter.

Emergency Grants

There were no emergency grant requests this quarter.

Trauma Section

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Tauma Reviews/Designations

During the fourth quarter of 2019, the Trauma Section completed six triennial reviews.

- Steamboat Springs Emergency Center, Level IV, triennial review
- Centura Health Porter Adventist Hospital, Level III, triennial review
- Gunnison Valley Hospital, Level IV, focused review
- St. Anthony Keystone Medical Clinic, Level V, triennial
- St. Anthony Breckenridge Community Clinic Emergency Center, Level V, triennial
- Centura Health St. Mary Corwin Medical Center, Level III, triennial
- North Suburban Medical Center, Level II, new facility



There are currently 85 designated trauma centers.

Trauma Consultations and Outreach Visits

Staff members provided onsite technical assistance visits and/or onsite monitoring to four facilities during the fourth quarter including: North Suburban Medical Center, North Colorado Medical Center, Lutheran Medical Center and Prowers Medical Center. Staff also attended the CTN Holiday Meeting in December.

Designation Review Committee (DRC)

The DRC meets quarterly on SEMTAC committee day. Three facilities required a recommendation all other facilities received automatic designation during the quarter.

Statewide Trauma Advisory Committee (STAC)

The STAC was updated on the Chapter 3 task force progress and will be reviewing the draft Chapter 1-4 rule revision at the January 2020 meeting. STAC was informed of the mandatory transfer criteria, rule combination of level I/II and IV/V.

Stroke Advisory Board

The board continues its work to make recommendations on how to improve the stroke system of care in Colorado. Priorities this year include building partnerships to better educate the public on prevention, recognition and seeking treatment for stroke. The board is also working with facilities and EMS representatives to develop evidence-based practice recommendations in a usable format that is accessible online. The annual report for 2019 was submitted to the legislature. More information can be found on the [Stroke Advisory Board webpage](#).

Other Trauma Section Activities

- Continued to provide technical assistance to stakeholders requesting registry assistance.
- The ImageTrend platform went live Jan. 1 for direct entry level IV and Vs. There have been several level III facilities and one level II that are using ImageTrend for direct entry. The schema has been provided to vendors for level I-III facilities and level IVs that use a vendor.

Data Section

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The data team continues to make progress enhancing data quality from licensed air and ground ambulance agencies across the state using Version 3.4.0. Over 200 agencies have transitioned to NEMSIS Version 3 data reporting. As a result, the department has shifted focus to quality improvement and enhanced data reporting. These efforts have led to a 93 percent decrease in errors and failed reports in the state system from 2018 to 2019. In addition, the team has built several benchmark dashboards that will allow ambulance agencies to retrieve their own patient care data and compare their performance to their region and the state overall.

The department is pleased to announce its new partnership with Biospatial, Inc, a tool that uses emergency medical services and health-related data sources to provide timely, national-scale syndromic detection, monitor real-time trends, and alert to syndromic anomalies critical to the nation's health and safety. As the twenty-second state to join this partnership, EMTS will submit



National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) data elements to the Biospatial platform to assist in national preparedness and enhance Colorado's ability to visualize their data with other data layers of relevance.

With over a million records in the Colorado Trauma Registry, the branch continues to refine its trauma data. In early 2019, the implementation of a new software, ImageTrend's Patient Registry was completed. It now serves as the data repository and direct entry system for the Colorado Trauma Registry. Over 10,000 records have been entered or imported into the system, and trauma vendors continue to test their import capabilities. The team has begun building new summary reports for facilities to access and will continue to refine this system to meet the needs of the trauma facilities and the department. In preparation for 2020 changes, the team has compiled a list of updates to the data dictionary, inclusion criteria, and schema which were presented to the Colorado Trauma Network in December 2019.

The EMTS branch also rolled out its new profile system in November 2019. The ImageTrend Profiles has replaced the previous homegrown CEMSIS Profiles system. The old system was no longer functional, therefore, EMTS organizations are now required to maintain their profile information in ImageTrend. This is now the organizational profile that licensed ambulance services are required to maintain as a condition of their license from counties. The ImageTrend Profiles system will continue to maintain the same data that was collected in the old system and be the entry point for grant submission. Additionally, ImageTrend Profiles will provide additional capabilities including: linking to ePCR data, medical directors, scope of practice waivers, and air ambulance licensing, increasing data quality and improved contact lists with verified accounts, and providing entry point to new EMS data dashboards.

Data section staff members continue to:

- Provide NEMSIS Version 3 training and COI, including new processes, rules, and updates
- Troubleshoot problems that arise with a completed schematron, ImageTrend ePCR, data entry, reporting, or other data issues
- Provide ongoing technical assistance to transport agencies, trauma centers and their software vendors
- Assist hospitals with accessing Hospital Hub Dashboard and Elite Field to enhance communication between medical staff and EMS providers
- Develop ad-hoc EMS and trauma reports to accommodate data requests and other data driven requirements including benchmarking and quality improvement
- Analyze data and prepare reports and/or presentations for stakeholders
- Assist EMS agencies using third party vendor software to establish an administrative web access and process for submitting XML data to the ImageTrend database
- Assist in implementation of new Trauma Registry system in Colorado, including building data entry forms, validation rules, data dictionaries, scheduled reports, etc.
- Develop and implement new ways to use EMS and Trauma data such as benchmark reports, dashboards, and presentations to enhance care for patients across Colorado

EMTS Investigations

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During the fourth quarter of 2019, there were nine disciplinary actions against EMS providers' certifications that resulted in final disposition. There are four ongoing cases filed with the Office of Administrative Courts, in which the department is represented by the Attorney General's Office.



Finally, fourteen complaints were investigated, eight of which have been closed by the investigations unit, leaving six complaints still under investigation.

Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Councils (RETACs)

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First quarter activity reports and financial statements for FY20, the Budget vs Actual Report/Variance Reports and the Regional/Local Funding Overviews for FY19 were submitted by all 11 RETACs. The most recent quarterly RETAC forum was held in December in Loveland. The next RETAC forum is March 11-12 in Gateway.

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC)

Contact: Stacey Quesada, Program Manager stacey.quesada@ucdenver.edu

EMS for Children is a federal partnership grant funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. To address the grant deliverables most effectively, the program is housed at University of Colorado School of Medicine, which employs the EMSC Program Manager and manages most EMS for Children activities. A close relationship is maintained with the EMTS Branch. The Pediatric Emergency Care Committee (PECC) serves as the advisory committee for the program. The program continues to implement a [strategic plan](#). Activities this quarter are listed below.

- Conducted the quarterly Pediatric Emergency Care Committee meeting
- Facilitated the third Colorado Pediatric Preparedness for the ER (COPPER) steering committee meeting
- Helped facilitate work groups for the COPPER program
- Developed, administered, and analyzed COPPER steering committee survey
- Attended the December RETAC forum in Loveland
- Attended the EMSAC conference in Keystone
- Completed the Noncompeting Continuation Progress report required by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
- Submitted a proposal to HRSA for the carryover of unobligated FY18-19 funds
- Worked with EMTS data team to pull 2014-2019 pediatric EMS data that will be presented at the EMSC Strategic Planning Summit in early 2020
- Updated statewide EMS agency contacts in preparation for 2020 survey
- Made several enhancements to the EMSC website

Additional information is available at the [EMS for Children](#) website.

Communications

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The EMTS Branch continues to support the implementation of the Statewide Digital Trunked Radio (DTR) system. Since the statewide communications plan has been finalized, the communications program staff members continue to educate and inform EMS system users in “best practices” on how to integrate DTR into their daily operations. Staff members have also continued their work to identify the various mechanisms being used to maintain hospital-to-field communication throughout the state and enhance inter-agency operability and interoperability capabilities.



Located throughout the state, the infrastructure currently consists of 247 on-the-air APCO P25 digital trunked radio sites operating in conjunction with five zone controllers and utilizes frequencies in the 700MHz/ 800MHz bands. Out of the 247 radio sites, 27 sites are accessible for EMS aircraft communications. There are several funded Digital Trunked Radio (DTR) remote sites throughout the state that are in the planning, engineering or installation phase.

The DTR system uses mostly microwave radio, and some fiber optic cable, to link all of the sites together. A complete replacement/upgrade of the microwave is now underway, and equipment at about eight of the sites has been replaced. This project could take up to five years to complete. Once complete, the system will have redundant paths to improve communications reliability across the state.

AT&T continues to work with FirstNet to deploy additional public safety broadband infrastructure in Colorado. AT&T stood up its dedicated public safety core and advised the completed Initial Operating Capability-1 (IOC-1). They have deployed dozens of the planned Band 14 sites through the state, with more to come over the next few years. They are working to upgrade many sites from 3G to 4G and establish roaming agreements with smaller rural Colorado carriers to expand the network as well.

