



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

Oct. 3, 2019

This report is submitted as a record of key activities by the Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Branch for the period ending Sept. 30, 2019.

Organizational Effectiveness

The Professional Standards Section was renamed to Operations Section, Mike Bateman was promoted into the role of Operations Section manager, and Eric Lucas was promoted into the role of EMS Operations Specialist. This leaves the EMS Data Coordinator position vacated, and we are revamping this position into a statistical analyst role and will soon be recruiting for this position.

Anne Strawbridge took an opportunity to promote into the division's policy advisor group at about the same time the division standardized enforcement activities by centralizing EMTS and health facilities activity. Shelley Sanderman is handling division enforcement.

Operations Section

Mike Bateman, Section Manager, michael.bateman@state.co.us

EMS Provider Certification

At the end of the third quarter of 2019, there were 18,784 certified EMS providers in the state: 13,247 EMTs; 342 AEMTs; 432 Intermediates; and 4,341 Paramedics (of which 402 paramedics have critical care endorsement, 16 have the community paramedic endorsement).

EMR Registration

There are 438 voluntarily registered Emergency Medical Responders.

Education

There are 210 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 had its first meeting Tuesday, Sept. 10 in Woodland Park to draft rules related to the EMS licensing bill, SB 19-242. The task force is scheduled to meet monthly through April.

Emergency Medical Practice Advisory Council (EMPAC)

There are currently 438 active scope of practice waivers. The next EMPAC meeting is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 18, 2019, starting at 10 a.m. at the CDPHE offices in Denver. The next Regional Medical Direction committee meeting is also Monday, Nov. 18, 2019 at the same location, starting at 8:00 a.m.



Air Ambulance

There are 34 licensed air ambulance service agencies in Colorado, of which 22 are full two-year license and twelve are recognition licenses.

Funding Section

Eric Schmidt, Section Manager, eric.schmidt@state.co.us

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 this fiscal year although a visit for Bent Count 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 two requests for financial waiver submitted for review during the quarter. One was withdrawn and one was approved for a 20 percent local match. So far this quarter, the Expert Review Committee evaluated 24 applications requesting funding for 25 different courses. Twenty-two courses were approved with \$89,270 awarded.

Provider Grants and System Improvement Funding Requests

All projects for the fiscal year 2019 funding program are now complete and all reimbursements have been paid. Several large reversions that occurred during the year were re-awarded but nearly \$462,000 was reverted after June 1 and could not be awarded to another emergency medical and trauma services organization during the fiscal year.

The legislature authorized approximately \$8.4 million for the funding program in fiscal year 2020. About \$6.7 million was available for provider grants and system improvement funding requests after deductions of \$500,000 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 the \$150,000 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 \$469,895 for system improvement funding, including regional medical direction projects. Purchase orders and contracts for 52 grants are fully executed, one contract is still being drafted by the department and the remainder are in various stages of approval by the grantee or the department. No projects have been completed yet and there have been no reversions this quarter.

Emergency Grants

There was one request for an emergency grant this quarter. An ambulance service in the San Luis Valley was awarded \$5,063 to help replace a failed module in a cardiac monitor-defibrillator. The project has been completed and the medical equipment is in service for this rural community.



Trauma Section

Martin Duffy, Section Manager, martin.duffy@state.co.us

Trauma Reviews/Designations

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

- Grand River Medical Center, Level IV, triennial review
- Memorial Regional Health, Level IV, triennial review
- Aspen Valley Hospital, Level III, triennial review
- North Suburban Medical Center, Level III, triennial review
- Centura Health-84th Avenue Neighborhood Health Center, Level IV, triennial review
- UCHealth Anschutz Inpatient Pavilion-Anschutz Medical Campus, Level I, triennial review

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 second quarter including: North Suburban Medical Center, North Colorado Medical Center, Colorado Plains Medical Center and Prowers Medical Center. Staff also attended the UCHealth Trauma Symposium in Colorado Springs.

Designation Review Committee (DRC)

The DRC now 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 October meeting.

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. Staff and board members are currently working on the annual legislative report. 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

Amber Viitanen, EMTS Data Section Manager, amber.viitanen@state.co.us

The data team continues to make progress in building relationships with licensed air and ground ambulance agencies to Version 3.4.0 data collection across the state. This new dataset includes more data elements to better capture the state of EMS in Colorado, and allows for more robust research, quality assurance, and improved data quality. 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 reports will allow ambulance agencies to retrieve their own patient care and benchmark data as well as compare their numbers to their region and the state overall.

The Colorado EMS Information System (CEMSIS) statewide database houses over 5 million prehospital care reports reflecting EMS response and transport, which has been in place since 2006. These data are now stored on a new server, which allows greater capacity within the statewide database. The department has been working with OIT and ImageTrend to increase the frequency of system backups to ensure accurate and up-to-date data for analysis.

There are almost a million records in the Colorado Trauma Registry. The branch completed implementation of a new software, ImageTrend's Patient Registry, to serve as the data repository, and data entry system for the Colorado Trauma Registry, which went live April 1, 2019. Over 1,500 records have been completed the system and submission, and trauma vendors have begun testing import capabilities. The team will continue to refine this system to meet the needs of the trauma facilities and the department. Facility and transport agency lists continue to be reviewed and updated to document changes in service with EMS and trauma agencies and facilities.

Data section staff members continue to:

- Provide NEMSIS Version 3 training and CQI, 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

Shelley Sanderman, HFEMSD Enforcement, shelley.sanderman@state.co.us

During the third quarter of 2019, there were five disciplinary actions against EMS providers' certifications that resulted in final disposition. There are three ongoing cases filed with the Office of



Administrative Courts, in which the department is represented by the Attorney General's Office. Finally, eight complaints were investigated and closed by the investigations unit.

Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Councils (RETACs)

Matthew Paswaters, Coordinator, mattew.paswaters@state.co.us

Fourth quarter activity reports and FY19 financial statements, annual financial statements with signed budget variance report, and accountability and planned use of savings/investments/reserves report were submitted by all 11 RETACs. The most recent quarterly RETAC forum was held in September in Crested Butte. SEMTAC members are encouraged to attend future RETAC forum meetings. The December forum will be held in Loveland.

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 included:

- Conducted the quarterly Pediatric Emergency Care Committee meeting in Alamosa
- Held the second Colorado Pediatric Preparedness for the ER (COPPER) Steering Committee Meeting
- Attended the September RETAC forum in Crested Butte
- Dispatched the EMSC simulation trailer for training in Trinidad, Walsenburg, Westcliffe, Canon City, Pueblo, Roaring Fork, Aspen, and Platteville-Gilcrest
- Completed the annual performance report required by the Health Resources and Services Administration
- Worked with EMTS data team to create a quarterly statewide pediatric report
- Attended the EMSC All Grantee Meeting in Washington D.C.

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

Communications

Curtis Nations, Communications Program Coordinator, curtis.nations@state.co.us

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 246 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 246 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. Earlier this year, AT&T stood up its dedicated public safety core. As of Sept. 30, 2018, they 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.

