

MEMORANDUM

To: Ambulance Services
Governor's EMS Advisory Committee
Physician Task Force on Prehospital Care
Physician Medical Directors
Fire Chiefs
Trauma Coordinators

From: EMS Office

Date: September 15, 2006

Subject: Office Update

The 36th Wyoming Trauma Conference was attended by over 343 EMS providers. This was the largest attendance in recent memory. The EMS staff and conference planners thank each one who attended and hope that those in attendance found the conference to be an educational and rewarding experience. Roger Hespe of Newcastle was the recipient of the Pete Vase Medic of the Year and Brent D. Sherard, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer for the Department of Health received the Governor's Award for Physician Medical Director of the Year for his support and extension of his sponsorship to various ambulance services who lose or are without a medical director during a transition period. Becky Mills of Ten Sleep received the EMT-Basic Class Coordinator of the Year and Carol Mackie of Big Piney the EMT-Advanced Class Coordinator of the Year. This year's banquet saw the first EMS Table of Honor to recognize those who have served the EMS community and have passed on. A special thanks to the Firehouse 4 from the Campbell County Fire Department for the musical entertainment during the banquet. Cheyenne Fire and Rescue's Friday evening extravaganza was a hit. Thanks to Chief Jeff Fox and his staff for providing this entertaining evening. Next year's conference will be held in Cheyenne on August 23rd – 26th.

At the 36th Wyoming Trauma Conference, the EMS community experienced two groups attempting to organize themselves. Jon Said, President of WAEMSA facilitated his organizations' annual meeting with those members present indicating their intent to reorganize and continue WAEMSA. Wil Gay from Pinedale was present with membership forms available for those interested in joining the Wyoming

Association of Prehospital Providers (WAPP). The EMS Office encourages all EMS providers to join one or both of these organizations in order to have EMS promoted throughout the state.

Recertification testing is being conducted across the state. EMS trainers will be conducting the testing at over 34 locations. Specific test sites and times may be found on the EMS website or by contacting your local ambulance service provider. For those desiring to test at the EMS Office, you are reminded that you will need to call the EMS Office and schedule a time to take the examination. Seating space is limited. Testing must be scheduled before 3:00 PM in order to insure that you have access to the EMS area of the Hathaway Building. Recertification materials must be postmarked no later than December 1st to insure that your renewed certification will be processed before your expiration date.

Ambulance services are reminded that their ambulance business licenses each December 31st. Notices of renewal will be sent to each ambulance service in October. Ambulance service administrators are reminded to renew before the end of December or the service will not be able to operate until there is a new license in place.

Jay Ostby will be sending to each ambulance service a copy of the DVD “Medic” which was viewed at the 36th Wyoming Trauma Conference. These DVDs promote and encourage all EMS providers to use the term “Medic” whenever they are talking about EMS providers no matter what their level of certification.

The Joint Labor Health and Social Services Interim Committee recently met in Casper. EMS was an area of focus for the committee as Senator Pat Aullman from Thayne has approached the committee to look at drafting and sponsoring an EMT retirement bill. Senator Aullman invited Rusty Palmer, Lauri Wempen, and Wil Gay, representing the Wyoming Association of Prehospital Providers (WAPP), to provide information on EMS and answered questions from the Committee in regards to the need to assist EMS agencies throughout the state. As a result of the testimony offered by Rusty, Lauri, and Wil the committee members have a more informed idea of EMS in Wyoming and the valuable services that EMS provides to their communities. Brent D. Sherard, MD, MPH, Director and State Health Officer and Jim Mayberry, Program Manager for the EMS Office addressed the Committee to discuss upcoming federal budget cuts and how the EMS Office will be affected. The Committee voted to have the LSO draft legislation that will provide funds to study the EMS system with the intent to develop a retirement system for the volunteer ambulance attendants, funding for the EMS program, and the potential of a grant program to provide equipment to ambulance services.

Bob Kidd, President of the Wyoming Hospital Association has announced his retirement effective October 31st. Bob has been one of EMS’s longtime supporters. Bob has been instrumental in supporting EMS during the legislative sessions. Bob and the WHA have been instrumental in the development of the statewide trauma system. Bob has served on the Governor’s EMS Advisory Committee for twenty-five years. Dan Perdue has been appointed Interim President. Dan is no stranger

to EMS and has been the Vice-President of the WHA for many years. The EMS Office looks forward to working with Dan.

Tracey Jones, RN, Trauma Coordinator has been traveling the state becoming acquainted with our trauma system and the trauma coordinators. Beginning late this September, Tracey and Dr. Schmitz will be conducting reverification visits to hospitals that are due to renew their trauma system designation. Outside physicians and nurses who are experts in the field of trauma care will once again be utilized as reviewers.

The EMS Office is beginning to plan for the next Ambulance Administrators/Physician Medical Directors Conference. Tentative date for the conference is May 4 – 5 at the Holiday Inn in Casper. The EMS Office will be surveying the ambulance services on topics that they would like to see addressed and/or speakers that they would be interested in hearing. A short survey is attached to this update for ambulance service administrators and medical directors.

The EMS Office has been notified by the Office of Rural Health that their Rural Hospital Flexibility Grant has been awarded for the coming year with an EMS component. This grant will provide for continuation of the EMS System Enhancement Awards, some instructor payments for EMT-Intermediate class instructors, and support for the annual site licenses of hospital trauma registries.

The EMS Office has been notified that the HRSA Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Grant has been awarded. The grant is for \$1.2 million dollars (same as the previous year). The EMS Office will receive \$159,000 in funds to: assist the 37th Trauma Conference, assistance to begin development of a business plan on a new EMT/Trauma Registry, providing training stipends to ambulance services, support for an EMS data workshop, and support for the Ambulance Administrators/Medical Directors Conference that is being planned for Spring 2007.

The EMS staff has received numerous “comments” about the ambulance trip reports and the changes that have taken place over the past several years. It is the intent of the EMS Office to provide an improved reporting form. However, as the EMS Office begins to look at a new software package for the ambulance trip reports and the trauma registry questions concerning changes for the upcoming year have been brought up. As of this update, the ambulance trip report forms will not experience any additional changes/revisions until the EMS Office obtains a new software package.



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Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., Director and State Health Officer

Governor Dave Freudenthal

Ambulance Administrators/Physician Medical Directors Conference Topic Survey

As we begin to plan for an Ambulance Administrators/Physician Medical Directors Conference, we would like to have your input into the content and possible speakers for the conference. As we have in the past, we will attempt to hold this conference commencing on a Friday evening with an informal get together with speakers on Saturday so that you are not away from your service or medical practice for a great length of time.

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and submit your thoughts and ideas for what we might include in the upcoming conference.

Please indicate your preference for the top three topics to be presented in order of preference:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| _____ Recruitment and Retention | _____ Documentation |
| _____ Wage and Hour Issues | _____ Funding |
| _____ Continuing Medical Education | _____ EMS Legal Case Reviews |
| _____ Medical Director Education | _____ Risk Management for EMS |
| _____ Billing/Reimbursement for EMS | |

If there are other topics you would like to see addressed please indicate:

Are there specific speakers you would like to see address the attendees?

We thank you for your assistance. Return in the enclosed prepaid envelope.

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