

Bureau of EMS: Vitals

Florida Department of Health
Bureau of EMS



EMSTARS Pilot Program Launches Successfully

"It works!" Chief Bixler exclaims. EMSTARS is live. On August 21, the EMSTARS Stage 1 Pilot Program was officially launched with Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department's (JFRD) first submission of live patient care records. The XML files uploaded by JFRD were successfully placed on the Department of Health secure server, moved to the EMSTARS database, validated, and posted to the production tables. The Stage 1 Pilot Alpha Testing occurred on schedule and as planned.

The Stage 1 Pilot Program Alpha Testing with JFRD not only is a test of the success of the tracking and reporting system, EMSTARS, but is also a test of success of the hard work the EMS Advisory Council Data Committee has dedicated over the past year to develop the

Florida EMS Data Dictionary and the Florida Definitions and Events Guideline. Without this work, the pilot program could not have been launched.

The EMSTARS Project Team, JFRD, EMS Advisory Council Data Committee, and Documed Systems International have worked very hard to make Stage 1 Pilot Alpha Test a success. The Bureau of EMS extends its sincere gratitude and thanks to each of you who have contributed your time, resources and ideas. Special thanks to the Data Committee, Chief Charles Moreland, Capt. Ken Devin, the JFRD staff and Documed Systems International, each of whom have dedicated themselves to EMSTARS and to improving patient care in Florida.

The Stage 1 Pilot Alpha Test continues with JFRD submitting uploads weekly and sometimes daily. With the success of

Stage 1 Pilot Alpha Testing, the EMSTARS Project Team and the Bureau of EMS are looking forward to the Stage 1 Pilot Beta Testing and Stage 2 Pilot Testing. Dates for the Stage 1 Pilot Beta Testing and Stage 2 Pilot Testing are as follows:

Stage 1 Pilot Beta Testing:

October 16, 2007

Stage 2 Pilot Testing:

February 5, 2008

Stage 1 Pilot Agency Training

The Project Team will be conducting training on EMSTARS for the Stage 1 Pilot Agencies in October. Day 1 Training will be on October 9th at the Central Florida Fire Academy from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and Day 2 Training will be on October 10th at the Orange County Convention Center from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. This is a 2-day class, not the same class repeated each day.

While the training is aimed at Key Users from Stage 1 Pilot Agencies, all agencies and their vendors, regardless of their involvement with the Pilot Program, are invited to attend. Lodging and meals reimbursement will be available for up to 2 staff members from each Stage 1 Pilot Agency only.

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EMS for Children Advisory Committee

Since the establishment of the Emergency Medical Services for Children Advisory Committee in 1997, the Department of Health has had the benefit of tapping into the expertise of some of Florida's most knowledgeable and experienced individuals in the field of pediatrics. The committee is comprised of caring professionals and child advocates from around the state who come together in the interest of providing sound advise to the department on matters concerning preventative, prehospital, hospital, rehabilitative, and other post-hospital medical care for children. The Florida EMS for Children program is pleased to announce the appointment of sev-

eral new members to the Advisory Committee. Florida State Surgeon General, Ana Viomonte Ros, MD, awarded two-year appointments effective October 7, 2007.



New Members

Jessica Delgado (Key West)- Parent to Parent Support Group

Joann R. DeSerio, RNC (Bradenton)- Sarasota Memorial Hospital

Phyllis L. Hendry, MD, FAAP, FACEP (Jacksonville)- University of Florida Health Science Center in Jacksonville

Carl Kaufman, EMT-P (Ocala)- Emergency Medical Service Alliance

Amanda Kraft, MSN (St. Cloud)- District of Osceola County

Pamela Pieper, MSN, ARNP, BC (Jacksonville)- University of Florida College of Nursing

Beth Ann Ramey, RN (Miami)- Miami Children's Hospital

Cory S. Richter, EMT-P (Sebastian)- Indian River Fire Rescue

Michael Rushing, NREMT-P (Pace)- Flight Paramedic and a member of the Disaster Medical Assistant Team (DMAT)

Reappointed Members

Julie Bacon, RN, BA (Oakland)- Women's Centre at South Lake Hospital/All Children's Hospital

Laleh Bahar-Posey, MD (Tampa)- Arnold Palmers Children's Hospital

Elizabeth A. Beierle, MD (Gainesville)- Shands Children's Hospital

Sara Louise Bowen, RNC, CAN, BC, CMTE, MSN, ARNP (Largo)- All Children's Hospital

Michael D. Brooks, EMT-P (Bradenton)- Longboat Key Fire Rescue

G. Patricia Cantwell, MD (Miami)- University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Juli F. Daniels, CCRN, PhD (Sugarloaf Shores)- Healthcare Consultants

Javier I. Escobar, MD (Tallahassee)- Bixler Emergency Center/Tallahassee Memorial EMS

Jean M. Francis, RN (Tierra Verde)- All Children's Hospital

Cindy Garlesky, RN, ARNP (Miami)- Miami Children's Hospital

Bilal Khodr, MD (Perry)- Doctor's Memorial Hospital

Thomas C. Lackey, EMT-P (Mount Dora)- Lake Sumter EMS/Lake Technical Center

Trenda McPherson (Wakulla)- Florida Department of Transportation

Sandra Nasca, RN, EMT (Ponte Verda Beach)- St. Johns County Sheriffs Office

Rex Northrup, MD, FAAP, FCCP, FCCM (Pensacola)- Sacred Heart Children's Hospital

Lou Romig, MD, FAAP, FACEP (Miami)- Miami Children's Hospital

A special thank you to Lou Romig, MD, FAAP, FACEP! Dr. Romig has graciously agreed to continue to serve as the EMS for Children Advisory Committee Medical Advisor.

Special congratulations go to Julie L. Bacon, RN, BA. Julie was not only reappointed for a third two-year term, but was also appointed as the chairperson of the committee.

For more information about the EMS for Children Advisory Committee and EMS for Children program please check the EMSC website at:

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/ems/EMSC//EMSChome.html>





Disaster Response Committee, by Dr. Brad Elias

The Disaster Response Committee continues to be active since the creation of the Ambulance Deployment Plan (ADP).

We are working with the State Emergency Response Plan (SERP) leadership, formalizing the EMS Liaisons in each region. Our goal is that these Liaisons will become a very integral part of the SERP because of their understanding of the EMS agencies and their capabilities in the region. The committee is also pleased with the suggestion by the SERP leadership that the language related to the EMS Liaison position will be enhanced when the SERP is reviewed at year's end. More detailed definitions of their roles and responsibilities plan to be added.

In response to the "No Notice" nature of the Lake City deployment, Bobby Bailey has drafted an amendment to the ADP that outlines how events should proceed under these conditions. In addition to addressing the various lines of communication, this docu-

ment emphasizes efforts to notify and deploy replacement assets into an event within 12-24 hours if on duty ambulance crews are initially required to meet the needs of the request.

A number of committee members have provided informative and productive insight related to the ADP and the Lake City deployment. Some areas of improvement included obtaining a mobile command unit when three or more ambulance strike teams are requested and also granting greater authority to the deployment leadership in regards to local logistic issues.

The committee is looking at Task Force and Strike Team leadership courses. A small subcommittee is being formed and will be under the direction of Tom Lackey. This group will examine specific training issues and topics for the course. Areas of funding are also being investigated.

As leaders become identified throughout the

state from training and deployments, the committee would like to create teams of providers to serve on Incident Management Teams (IMT). These teams could then be inserted into an event to support the task force leadership.

EMS agencies should continue to look internally to identify providers who would be able to serve in a leadership capacity for an ambulance deployment. The committee is suggesting that if an agency is providing five units for a deployment, a supervisor should accompany these assets at this time. Agencies should also be aware if asked to participate in a no notice ambulance deployment, the duty crews should be sustainable for 24 hours.

The committee appreciates all the input and efforts by the EMS community and is always open to suggestions and comments.

Brad Elias MD
Chairman, Disaster Response Committee

EMS Communications, by Todd Mechler



As Health and Medical Communications Engineer for the Department of Management Services (DMS), I am pleased to announce a solution to the interoperable communications obstacles that our medical first responders face daily and during disaster response. In conjunction with the Department of Health (DOH), DMS is currently in the process of designing an approach that will allow health and medical agencies to connect through the Florida Interoperability Network (FIN) to the rest of the public safety world.

The project is called the Health and Medical Interoperable Communications Initiative (HMICI) and is a multi-phase project intended to connect existing health and medical communications systems into FIN. This project will bridge the gap between communi-

cation systems but will not require new radios.

The benefits of the HMICI project will provide communications between any two hospitals with emergency rooms, including trauma centers, or between any hospital and EMS transport unit (air or ground) statewide. In addition, health and medical agencies will be capable of communicating with other FIN connected agencies, including law enforcement, fire departments, county/state Emergency Operation Center, Disaster Medical Assistant Team (DMAT), State Medical Response Team (SMRT) to name a few.

DMS and DOH are currently working together to submit an application for Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC)

grant funding that will greatly offset the cost of the project. Our goal is to reduce end user cost to nothing more than monthly internet connection fees.

For more information or if you are participating in a similar project in your region or county, please feel free to contact me.

Todd Mechler

Health and Communications Engineer

Florida Department of Management Services

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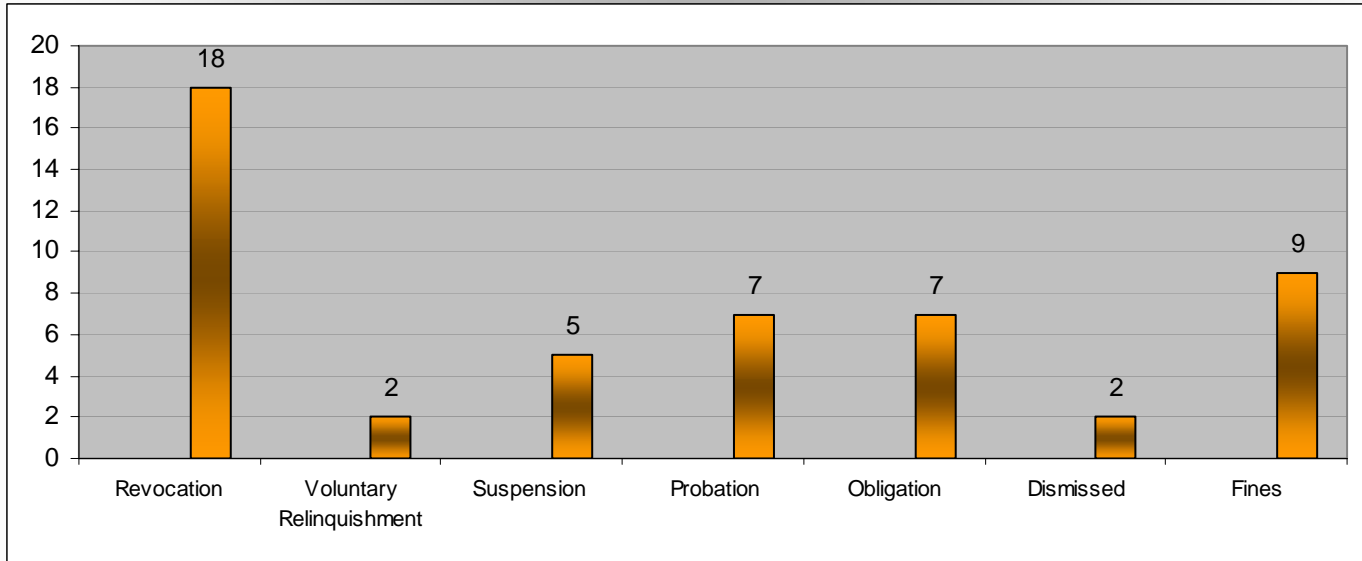
EMT and Paramedic Disciplinary Actions June-August 2007

Profession	Violation Code	June 2007	July 2007	August 2007
Emergency Medical Technician	Convicted of crime related to practice	1	1	0
Emergency Medical Technician	Fail to maintain current CPR/ACLS card	0	1	0
Emergency Medical Technician	Fail to provide proof of compliance for renewal	5	1	0
Emergency Medical Technician	Impaired from alcohol/drugs/other	2	0	0
Emergency Medical Technician	Make/Sign/File false report	1	0	0
Emergency Medical Technician	Positive PreEmploy Drug Screen	0	0	1
Emergency Medical Technician	Presc/dispensing outside prof practice	0	0	2
Emergency Medical Technician	Self prescribe/dispense/administer	2	2	1
Emergency Medical Technician	Unprofessional conduct	5	4	3
Emergency Medical Technician	Violate lawful order of board or council	2	3	1
Emergency Medical Technician	Violate Statute/Rule of Board	5	2	0
Paramedic	Convicted of crime related to practice	3	0	1
Paramedic	Deceptive/fraudulent representation	0	1	0
Paramedic	Fail to provide proof of compliance for renewal	0	0	1
Paramedic	Fraudulently furnish license	0	0	1
Paramedic	Gross negligence/incompetence/misconduct	0	0	1
Paramedic	Impaired from alcohol/drugs/other	2	1	0
Paramedic	Make/Sign/File false report	0	1	0
Paramedic	Obtain license thru fraud/error	0	1	0
Paramedic	Perform unauthorized services	0	1	0
Paramedic	Positive PreEmploy Drug Screen	0	0	1
Paramedic	Practicing Below Standard of Care	0	0	1
Paramedic	Presc/dispensing outside prof practice	2	0	0
Paramedic	Self prescribe/dispense/administer	9	1	1
Paramedic	Unprofessional conduct	13	4	4
Paramedic	Violate lawful order of board or council	1	1	1
Paramedic	Violate Statute/Rule of Board	0	0	2





EMT and Paramedic Disciplinary Actions (Continued) June-August 2007



Grant Unit Activities

Federal Agency Grant Funds Applied for or Received for EMSTARS, Related Activities for Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Total Funds: \$803,000

Funding Breakdown

Health Resources and Services Administration of the US Department of Health and Human Service: \$195,000 to provide funds to 14 rural counties for needed data collection and reporting equipment & software.

Florida Department of Transportation: \$495,000 awarded for the purchase of hardware and software, on a competitive basis to all EMS providers. This is the second year of a five year grant provided funds remain available.

Centers for Disease Control grant to the Department of Health, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention:

\$103,000 to provide EMSTARS data report completion training to EMTs and Paramedics.

Health Resources and Services Administration, Emergency Medical Services for Children State Partnership Grant:

\$10,000 to provide EMSTARS Public Education and Awareness training.



Did You Know?

In the October 2007 issue of *Discover* magazine the Ryder Trauma Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami was highlighted for its excellent work with patients in need of critical and trauma level care. The article also showcases Ryder's U.S. Military Training Site for Army Trauma Forward Surgical teams deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. The Florida Department of Health, Division of Emergency Medical Operations and the Bureau of EMS, commends the Ryder Trauma Center and its teams of skilled emergency medical employees for all the hard work in providing extraordinary continuing health care.





Prehospital Pediatric Symposium

The Florida Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program and the Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center have partnered together to present the Prehospital Pediatric Education Symposium 2007, "The Premier Pediatric Emergency Medical Services Conference", on November 27-28 in Orlando at the Rosen Plaza Hotel. This symposium is designed to create an educational experience that will empower EMS and Emergency Department personnel to provide the highest quality emergency care to pediatric patients. The EMSC Program has awarded scholarships statewide to ensure pediatric care excellence. For further information, please visit the links listed below or

contact the Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center at (800)766-6335.

Website Link:

<http://www.emlrc.org/prepeds2007.htm>

Brochure Link:

<http://www.emlrc.org/pdfs/ppes-brochure-2007.pdf>

October 10th-12th	EMS Advisory Council in Orlando, FL
November 27th-28th	Prehospital Pediatric Symposium in Orlando, FL
January 23rd-25th	EMS Advisory Council in Jacksonville, FL

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Bureau of EMS**

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"To provide leadership in EMS that improves and ensures the health, safety and well-being of all people in Florida."