

# STATE BUREAU OF EMS HIGHLIGHTS

## JANUARY 2008

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

##### Next Meeting

April 16 – 18, 2008

Hilton Cocoa Beach

1550 North Atlantic Avenue

Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

(800) 526-2609

[www.hiltoncocoabeach.com](http://www.hiltoncocoabeach.com) / group code: EMS

Please make hotel reservations at the Hilton Cocoa Beach by calling (800) 526-2609 by March 16, 2008. The group conference rate of \$119.00 is reserved under "EMS". Check in time is 4:00 p.m. Cancellation within 24 hours will result in a penalty of one nights stay. *Reserve your room early!!*

##### Future Meeting Dates:

July 8 ~ 10, 2008 (Rosen Centre Hotel)

October 1 ~ 3, 2008 (Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club)

January 28 ~ 30, 2009 (Daytona Beach)

#### EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL LAY PERSON APPOINTMENT

The Bureau is pleased to announce that Regina E. Sofer has been appointed in the Lay Person position to the Advisory Council. Ms. Sofer's term will expire June 30, 2010. Ms. Sofer has a wealth of knowledge in the education arena and will be a great asset to the council. Please welcome Ms. Sofer to the EMS Advisory Council.

For questions or comments regarding the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, contact Desi Lassiter at (850) 245-4055.

## **EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL VACANCIES**

The EMS office is soliciting nominations to fill the upcoming vacancies on the EMS Advisory Council. The following five positions will become vacant on June 30, 2008, and will expire on June 30, 2012:

- EMS Administrator (non-fire)
- Lay Elderly
- Emergency Nurse
- EMS Administrator (fire)
- EMT (non-fire)
- Commercial Ambulance Operator

If you would like to be a candidate or nominate a candidate for any of these positions, please send a letter of nomination, a current resume and any other information that you believe will help in assessing the nominee's potential contribution to furthering the objectives of the council to:

Desi Lassiter  
DOH/Emergency Medical Services  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C18  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1738  
Phone (850) 245-4055  
FAX (850) 488-9408

**ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MAY 1, 2008.**

Please consider the diversity of Florida's population when making your nominations so that the entire population will be represented. The State Surgeon General, Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H. will make appointments. Representatives appointed to these positions will begin their four-year terms on July 1, 2008.

## **PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

The following were submitted to the EMS Advisory Council on December 17, 2007, for vote in January:

- **Draft 2008 – 2010 Statewide EMS Strategic Plan (version 5):** This document was developed by the Strategic Visions Committee of the EMS Advisory Council in partnership with various constituency groups. It identifies the top six goals for the Florida EMS System for fiscal years 2008 – 2010 and the objectives needed to obtain those goals.
- The Bureau of EMS would like to commend the Strategic Visions Committee and all of our partners for their collaborative efforts in developing a plan to improve Florida’s EMS System.
- **Draft Emergency Medical Review Committee (EMRC) Version 11:** This document outlines the purpose and make-up of this committee which will be designed to support statewide quality assurance (improvement).
- **Draft Paramedic Shortage Paper:** This position paper was drafted by the Paramedic Shortage Committee of the EMS Advisory Council. As the paper indicates, “many of the issues contained herein will obviously require significant research. Therefore, this paper is designed not as a research document but as a position paper. A survey was sent to various EMS providers and educators throughout the state. This document reflects these responses as well as the collective recommendations of many EMS stakeholder groups...”
- **Draft EMS Instructor Qualification Proposal:** The Education Committee of the EMS Advisory Council and the Florida Association of EMS Educators (FAEMSE) drafted the proposal to assist the Bureau of EMS in developing a rule to define the standards for certification of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Instructors teaching courses within a Florida certified primary EMS training center.

**Note: These documents are not official until they are approved by the EMS Advisory Council. For a limited time, they will be available for download at:**

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/ems/EMSAC/EMSACHome.html>

**CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**  
**(COPCN)**

The Bureau of EMS continues to work with the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee and the EMS community to develop rule language that will meet statutory requirements and the needs of the EMS community. Updates on the progress of this issue continue to be posted on the bureau’s listserve (flemscomm).

To subscribe to flemscomm visit:

<http://ww7.doh.state.fl.us/mailman/listinfo/flemscomm>

## **RULE CHAPTER 64E-2, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**

The Bureau of EMS reported on December 17, 2007, to the EMS Advisory Council of its need to change the current rule letter "E" to another rule letter.

Currently, 64E is listed under the Division of Environmental Health rather than the Division of Emergency Medical Operations. In order to meet statutory obligations the rule letter must be changed.

In the coming months this change will take place and the bureau will notify each licensed provider agency in writing, post the change on the bureau's website, and post the change on the bureau's listserve (flemscomm). Thank you for your patience during this transition.

## **EMS WEEK**

National EMS week is May 18, – May 24, 2008 with the theme of "**EMS: Your Life Is Our Mission.**" Please contact the bureau regarding your planned EMS Week activities so we may feature them on flemscomm and in the EMS newsletter. We will not be sending out the planning guides this year. Providers may download the guides, logos, and other resources from the American College of Emergency Physician's website at:  
<http://www.acep.org/practres.aspx?id=30212>

Questions regarding EMS Week may be directed to Lisa Walker at (850) 245-4440 ext. 2733 or [Lisa\\_Walker2@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Lisa_Walker2@doh.state.fl.us).

## **2008 ANNUAL EXCELLENCE IN EMS AWARDS**

Nomination packets are now available on the bureau's web site [www.fl-ems.com](http://www.fl-ems.com) under the "Forms" page. The deadline for nominations is March 14, 2008. The awards committee will be comprised of Department of Health staff who will review all submissions and select winners for each category, except for the Injury Prevention category, which will be reviewed by the PIER Committee of the EMS Advisory Council.

Please take this time to nominate individuals or agencies that you believe should be recognized for their extraordinary service. This is the time to highlight all that you do for Florida so please send those nominations to us!

If you would like more information about the awards or wish to be a partner, contact Lisa Walker at (850) 245-4440 ext. 2733 or [Lisa\\_Walker2@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Lisa_Walker2@doh.state.fl.us).

## **DATA SECTION**

### **Pilot Program Testing**

Beta testing with the Stage I Pilot group has shown solid progress with testing and verifying software and data configurations at both the local provider levels, and for the EMSTARS statewide database. The testing is on schedule and the results are better than expected.

All eleven Stage I Pilot agencies are currently submitting live data to the EMSTARS database. Our primary focus remains on full data quality and correcting any invalid entries. Presently, four provider agencies: Tampa General Aeromed (emsCharts), the EMS Alliance of Marion County (Sansio HealthEMS), Hialeah Fire Rescue (Zoll Tablet PCR), and Jacksonville Fire Rescue (Documed Emergency Pro) have each transitioned out of testing and into Normal Operations Mode.

Agencies that achieve the necessary data quality scores transition to a Normal Operations Mode with routine monthly reporting. This is our goal for all the Pilot Program participants: to start with weekly submission and move to "normal" mode as soon as is feasible. This achievement is made possible through collaborative efforts, and more than a couple of late nights, between the Bureau's Data Unit staff, EMS software vendors, and Key Users at the local provider agencies. We salute them for their efforts.

The progress is steady and the results are solid. All of this work will lay the foundation for our Stage II participants beginning live submissions in February 2008. We thank everyone for their continued support and we are looking forward to going live with all participants in July 2008.

### **Key User Training**

#### **Stage II Pilot Agency Training**

The Project Team will be conducting Key User Training for the Stage II Pilot Agencies on January 22-23, 2008. Day one (January 22) training will be at the Wyndham Riverwalk Hotel and Day two (January 23) training will be at the Prime Osborne Convention Center in conjunction with the January EMSAC. This is a two-day class, not the same class repeated each day.

While the training is aimed at Key Users from Stage II Pilot Agencies, all agencies and their vendors, regardless of their involvement with the Pilot Program, are invited to attend. However, lodging and meal reimbursement will be available for only a limited number of staff from each Stage II Pilot Agency only.

Please check online for complete dates, times, and training agenda for this Key User Training.

**Regional Training Workshops**

The Project Team will once again be visiting several cities within Florida to conduct training on EMSTARS for all interested agencies. The regional workshops will probably begin in May 2008 and continue into June 2008. Details will follow as we near the dates.

As always, please feel free to contact our project manager, Levi Owens, with any questions, concerns, or suggestions ([Levi.Owens@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Levi.Owens@doh.state.fl.us)).

**Participating Agencies**

The Bureau of EMS is proud to have several provider agencies volunteer to participate in the Pilot Stage I and Stage II Programs; as well as the Charter Program for the statewide rollout in July 2008.

**These agencies are leading the way for the future of EMS in Florida:**

Provider Agency	Software Vendor	Submission Start Date (actual or anticipated)
Jacksonville Fire & Rescue	Documed Emergency Pro 4	8/22/2007
Tampa General Aeromed	emsCharts	10/16/2007
Marion County EMS Alliance, Inc.	Sansio Health EMS	10/16/2007
Polk County EMS	Sansio Health EMS	10/16/2007
Hialeah Fire Rescue	Zoll TabletPCR	10/16/2007
Gadsden County EMS	Documed Emergency Pro 4	11/1/2007
Nassau County Rescue Service	Documed Emergency Pro 4	11/1/2007
Baker County Rescue Services	Documed Emergency Pro	11/15/2007

Provider Agency	Software Vendor	Submission Start Date (actual or anticipated)
	4	
Coral Gables Fire Rescue	Zoll TabletPCR	11/15/2007
Reedy Creek Emergency Services	Documed Emergency Pro 4	12/13/2007
Sanford Fire Department	Documed Emergency Pro 4	12/13/2007
Clay County Fire Rescue	Documed Emergency Pro 4	2/7/2008
Indian River County Emergency Svcs	Documed Emergency Pro 4	2/7/2008
Leon County EMS	Documed Emergency Pro 4	2/7/2008
Nature Coast EMS	Documed Emergency Pro 4	2/7/2008
Manatee County EMS	Healthware Solutions: EMS Suite	2/7/2008
City of Sunrise Fire Rescue	Ortivus Field Data 5.3	2/7/2008
Florida Medi-Van Ambulance Service, Inc	Ortivus Field Data 5.3	2/7/2008
Pompano Beach Fire Rescue	Sansio Health EMS	2/7/2008
Dania Beach Fire Rescue	Zoll TabletPCR	2/7/2008
Hollywood Fire Rescue	Zoll TabletPCR	2/7/2008
Lighthouse Point Fire Rescue	Zoll TabletPCR	2/7/2008
Miami Beach Fire Rescue	Zoll TabletPCR	2/7/2008
Miramar Fire Rescue	Zoll TabletPCR	2/7/2008
Monroe County Fire Rescue	Zoll TabletPCR	2/7/2008
Pasco County Fire Rescue	Zoll TabletPCR	2/7/2008
Broward SO Fire Rescue	BioKey FireRMS	3/6/2008
Hallandale Beach Fire Rescue	BioKey FireRMS	3/6/2008
Lauderhill Fire Rescue	BioKey FireRMS	3/6/2008
North Lauderdale Fire Rescue	BioKey FireRMS	3/6/2008
Oakland Park Fire Rescue	BioKey FireRMS	3/6/2008
Tamarac Fire Rescue	BioKey FireRMS	3/6/2008
Putnam County Emergency Services	BioKey FireRMS	7/10/2008
Alachua County Fire Rescue	Documed Emergency Pro 4	7/10/2008
Delray Beach Fire Rescue	Documed Emergency Pro 4	7/10/2008
Hamilton County EMS	Documed Emergency Pro	7/10/2008

Provider Agency	Software Vendor	Submission Start Date (actual or anticipated)
	4	
Orange County Fire Rescue	Documed Emergency Pro 4	7/10/2008
St. Lucie Fire District	Documed Emergency Pro 4	7/10/2008
Dixie County EMS	EMS Consultants ART	7/10/2008
Gulf County EMS	EMS Consultants ART	7/10/2008
Wewahitchka EMS	EMS Consultants ART	7/10/2008
Weems Hospital Ambulance Service	emsCharts	7/10/2008
Charlotte County Fire & EMS	Firehouse 7	7/10/2008
Desoto County Fire Rescue	Firehouse 7	7/10/2008
Key Biscayne Fire Rescue	Firehouse 7	7/10/2008
Marion County Fire Rescue	Firehouse 7	7/10/2008
Ormond Beach Fire Department	Firehouse 7	7/10/2008
Winter Park Fire Rescue	Firehouse 7	7/10/2008
Collier County EMS	Healthware Solutions: EMS Suite	7/10/2008
Lee County EMS	ImageTrend Field Bridge	7/10/2008
City of Miami Fire Department	RFP	7/10/2008
Glades County EMS	RFP	7/10/2008
Wakulla County Ambulance Service	RFP	7/10/2008
Davie Fire Rescue	Zoll TabletPCR	7/10/2008
Miami-Dade Ambulance Service	Zoll TabletPCR	7/10/2008
Pinellas Sunstar EMS	Zoll TabletPCR	7/10/2008
St. John's County Fire Rescue	Zoll TabletPCR	7/10/2008
ShandsCair	Aeromed	7/10/2008
Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue	Code3	7/10/2008
Melbourne Fire Department	Custom, In-House	7/10/2008
Brevard County Fire Rescue	Documed Emergency Pro 4	7/10/2008
Casselberry Fire Rescue	Documed Emergency Pro 4	7/10/2008
Hendry County EMS	Documed Emergency Pro 4	7/10/2008
Highlands County EMS	Documed Emergency Pro 4	7/10/2008
Kissimmee Fire Department	Documed Emergency Pro 4	7/10/2008

Provider Agency	Software Vendor	Submission Start Date (actual or anticipated)
Margate Fire Rescue	Documed Emergency Pro 4	7/10/2008
North Palm Beach Fire Rescue	Documed Emergency Pro 4	7/10/2008
Edgewater Fire Rescue	ETI Visual EMS	7/10/2008
New Smyrna Beach Fire Dept.	ETI Visual EMS	7/10/2008
Port Orange Fire Rescue	ETI Visual EMS	7/10/2008
Hardee County Fire Rescue	Firehouse 7	7/10/2008
Plantation Fire Department	Firehouse 7	7/10/2008
San Carlos Park Fire District	Firehouse 7	7/10/2008
South Walton Fire District	Firehouse 7	7/10/2008
The Villages Department of Safety	Firehouse 7	7/10/2008
Volusia County Fire Services	Firehouse 7	7/10/2008
Bonita Springs Fire Rescue	Firehouse 7	7/10/2008
Miami Children's Hospital	Golden Hour: GH Live	7/10/2008
Deerfield Beach Fire-Rescue	Medusa Siren ePCR	7/10/2008
Jackson County Fire Rescue	No Software Currently	7/10/2008
Hillsborough County Fire Rescue	RFP	7/10/2008
Escambia County EMS	Zoll TabletPCR	7/10/2008
Florida Hospital EMS	Zoll TabletPCR	7/10/2008
Lake-Sumter EMS	Zoll TabletPCR	7/10/2008
Ocean Reef Public Safety	Zoll TabletPCR	7/10/2008

As of January 1, 2008, the current number of commitments stands at 85; but the number changes each week, so please check the web site often for the latest counts ([http://www.floridaemstars.com/pilot\\_group.htm](http://www.floridaemstars.com/pilot_group.htm)).

***LEARNING IS LIKE ROWING UPSTREAM: NOT TO ADVANCE IS TO DROP BACK...***

### **Vendor Compliance**

As of January 1, 2008, five software vendors are currently Florida EMSTARS compliant. These vendors are Documed - Emergency Pro Version 4, Sansio – HealthEMS 4.1, Zoll Data Systems – RescueNet TabletPCR version 4.0.2.81, emsCharts – emsCharts version 2.2, and Ortivus Sweet Billing & Field Data. We expect Healthware Solutions to become compliant within days and BioKey FireRMS by the end of January.

The project team continues to work closely with other vendors to assist them in becoming Florida EMSTARS compliant.

We also learned in mid-December that ACS-Firehouse has delayed the modifications necessary to produce an EMSTARS-compliant extract for their customers. This affected several of their users who were planning to participate in the February 2008 pilot testing. Firehouse has committed to compliance by April 2008 and all Firehouse clients should be able to participate in the general startup and statewide rollout in July.

Visit the website at [www.floridaemstars.com](http://www.floridaemstars.com) for current information on EMSTARS compliant vendors.

### **What Does EMSTARS Compliance Mean?**

The NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center (TAC) employs a rigorous testing program to verify compliance of EMS software products. Through their review and validation of XML files and software documentation, the TAC verifies compliance to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) 2.2.1 Dataset. These products are then considered NEMSIS Compliant. If an EMS provider agency is in the market for new, or replacement, Electronic Patient Care Reporting (ePCR) software, they should choose from those that have been verified as NEMSIS Compliant. The EMSTARS Compliance process is not meant to replace this testing; only to supplement it.

It is not within the statutory authority of the Bureau of EMS to formally evaluate or certify software products. However, we have implemented a method to verify that exported files comply with EMSTARS criteria as defined in the Florida EMS Data Dictionary. This verification of exported ePCR files, called an "extract", is not a certification or endorsement of any particular software product. The verification process does not assess the functional features of any product and does not guarantee it will meet the needs of any provider agency.

The process evaluates extracts (explained in Verification Steps), containing actual electronic ePCR files that were created by the EMTs and Paramedics from a licensed Florida provider agency, in the delivery of patient care. Each record is tested based on the data elements, field values, validation rules, and other information contained within the Florida EMS Data Dictionary. The process does not address any specifics regarding configuration, features, or options; only that the extract complied with EMSTARS criteria and passed the pertinent validation rules.

Software vendors need only submit extracts for compliance testing with one Florida client provider agency. Once a software vendor has successfully verified their product is capable of producing an EMSTARS compliant extract, they may market their product(s) as such, with the understanding that each agency has different needs and may require slightly different configurations to meet those needs.

While it is necessary that a software product's extract has been verified prior to beginning normal, routine EMSTARS reporting, compliance verification is not required before the software may be purchased by Florida provider agencies. Testing is arranged between the Data Unit and the software vendors and the timeline is based on the project schedule. If the software you own, or are considering, has not yet completed the process, it may be merely an issue of timing. You may contact the Data Unit at any time regarding scheduling and deadlines for software vendors.

Since the compliance process relies on actual "live" records, it cannot test or verify every possible EMS response scenario and the associated validation rules. The process is designed to identify as many issues as possible in advance, acknowledging that some validation issues may remain until an agency has transitioned to normal, routine reporting. The software vendors are asked to work closely with the Data Unit and their clients during this transition period.

In summary, EMSTARS compliance means simply that a file extract from the software vendor has been verified against the documented compliance criteria. There has been no testing or verification of a software product's functionality or capabilities, other than the file extract that was produced. As always, EMS provider agencies are free to purchase any solution that meets their needs, and the project team will work with all providers and software vendors to ensure verification of compliance in a timely manner. Please forward any questions, concerns, or issues to Levi Owens, Project Manager.

## **LICENSURE & COMPLIANCE/TRAINING & EDUCATION SECTION**

For the second year in a row, 130 service inspections were completed throughout the state. Of these inspections, 67 of them were announced and 63 were unannounced. Corrective action notices were given to 15 of the services. One compliance issue involved is the pediatric supplies that were not on the units at the time of inspection. In most cases, the deficiencies were corrected at the time of the inspection before the inspector departed the service. Another common problem involved the med-8 channel in the transport units.

In Training and Education, the team worked equally as hard. They have over 150 training programs, and over 300 continuing educational courses they worked on throughout the year. The team is also working on several new training programs as of this report. Not only have the training and education coordinators kept up with their schools and training centers, they have also helped with the service inspections.

A special thanks to the team in the compliance section Shelly, Steve and Rickey for all their hard work.

Just a reminder that each service's medical director must be board certified (64.2004 (1) C).

## **STATEWIDE PLANNING SECTION**

### **EMS FOR CHILDREN**

- Co-sponsored the Prehospital Pediatric Education Symposium with the Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center. The symposium was held on November 27-28, in Orlando with over 125 participants representing both in-state and out-of-state agencies. The EMSC Program awarded numerous scholarships statewide to support prehospital and hospital excellence in pediatric care.

- The EMSC Program will exhibit a booth at the 29th Annual International Disaster Management Conference on January 31-February 3, 2008, in Orlando at the Rosen Centre Hotel. Items to be distributed will include the K.I.D. Kit and JumpSTART/START badge cards, which are disaster triage resources.
- The EMSC Advisory Committee will be developing surveys to be completed by EMS medical directors and hospital emergency department staff:
  - Pediatric Medical Direction Protocols
  - Hospital

These surveys will provide baseline data required for performance indicators that document activities and achievements of the EMSC program in improving the delivery of emergency services to children.

- In an effort to improve the education and training of initial emergency responders across the EMSC continuum of care, complementary copies of the following resources are available to EMS provider agencies, EMS initial training centers and hospital emergency rooms:
  - Broselow Pediatric Antidotes for Chemical Warfare Tape
  - JumpSTART/START Cards
  - K.I.D. Kit

If your organization would like copies, please contact Patricia Kenyon at the following:

Patricia Kenyon, EMSC Program Specialist  
Florida Department of Health  
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C18  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1738  
Phone: (850) 245-4440, ext. 2686

Funding for these resources was provided by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bioterrorism Preparedness Grant.

## **EMS GRANTS**

County Government Grants. Only county governments are eligible for these grants. The Bureau of EMS began accepting applications September 7, 2007. To date, we received 53 applications representing a total of \$5.1 million. County governments, which do not submit an application this FY, will have the funds retained and added to their grants for next year.

There is no date for the next open application time. We expect it could be by September, 2008

Matching Grants. We are now receiving applications for matching grant funds. The deadline is February 15. The total amount available may be approximately \$4 million for all matching grants.

All organizations with EMS activities are eligible, unless they are not in compliance with a previous state EMS grant obligation. Contact us to see if your organization is clear and if not we will work with you to resolve the situation.

Application and contact information is at the EMS website. <http://www.fl-ems.com/Grants/Grants.html>

The fifth and final applicant training session is scheduled for January 23 in Jacksonville during the state EMS advisory council meetings.

Following the matching grant application deadline, we will have a statewide meeting of EMS professionals to review the applications for matching grants for which the state will pay 75 percent of approved budgets. Following, department staff will review rural matching grant applications, which fund 90 percent of approved budgets. Results will be available by early June.

## Addendum

### Office of Injury Prevention

Contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan, Manager, Office of Injury Prevention; Division of Health Access and Tobacco at (850) 245-4440, extension 2776 for further information.

### GOOD BYE TO RALPH SALVAS

- Ralph Salvas, our Safe Kids coordinator, recently took a promotional opportunity with the Florida Department of Transportation–Safety Office. Ralph will be the Grants Manager for DOT safety grants for Occupant Protection and Bicycle Safety. Although we were sad for him to leave, he will continue to work closely with our office, as he will be our contact for our current DOT grants.
- Jane Parker will be stepping in as the interim Safe Kids coordinator until his position is filled.

### FLORIDA INJURY PREVENTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

- The Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC) and Florida 2004-2008 Injury Prevention Strategic Plan Goal Teams met on October 16 and 17, 2007 in Tampa.
- Goal teams worked on the grant goals, objectives, and strategies to provide input into the 2008 Florida Injury Prevention Action Plan. When finalized, this plan will be located on our website at:  
[www.doh.state.fl.us/workforce/InjuryPrevention/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/workforce/InjuryPrevention/)
- The group began the strategic planning process for the successor plan, the 2009-2013 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan. The group reached consensus on the mission, vision, and five plan goals. The objectives for the grant goals will be the topic of the next planning session scheduled for June 25 and 26, 2008 in Tampa.
- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or [Jane\\_Parker@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us) or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2466 or [Leilani Gruener@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Leilani_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us)

## **CDC GRANT - PUBLIC HEALTH INJURY SURVEILLANCE AND PREVENTION-2005-2010**

- Year three of this five-year grant began August 1, 2007. The major goal of this grant is to implement the 2004-2008 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan. Work continues on meeting the grant goals and objectives for the 2007-2008 grant year.
- A requirement of the grant is a marketing symposium focusing on a leading injury mechanism in your state. We have chosen drowning prevention, as Florida leads the nation in drowning deaths for the 1-4 year olds. Residential swimming pools are the location of 64% or nearly two-thirds of the drowning deaths in Florida for the 1-4 age group.
- The 2008 Drowning Prevention Marking Symposium will be held in conjunction with the Florida Swimming Pool Association's 2008 Safety Forum.
- This meeting will be held April 10-11, 2008 at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando. Reservations can be made by calling (800) 204-7234. The group room rate is \$120 per night.
- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or [Jane\\_Parker@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us) or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2466 or [Leilani\\_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Leilani_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us)

## **INJURY DATA REPORTS**

- 2004 injury death and hospitalization data by Florida county of residence is available on the Office of Injury Prevention website at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Workforce/InjuryPrevention/InjuryData.html>.
- The 2007 Florida Injury Data Report: 2005 Surveillance Data will be released in the spring of 2008.
- 1970s-2006 injury death data is available on the Florida CHARTS website at <http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/Domain2.aspx?Domain='04'>. Customized data for specific projects are available upon request.
- 2000-2006 injury hospitalization data and 2005 emergency department data, customized for specific projects, are available upon request.
- For more information, please contact our Injury Epidemiologist, Kyla Shelton, at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2729, [Kyla\\_Shelton@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Kyla_Shelton@doh.state.fl.us)

## **2004-2008 FLORIDA INJURY PREVENTION STRATEGIC PLAN**

- Work continues on strategic plan implementation. Staff updated the plan implementation status document and it can be found on our website at: [www.doh.state.fl.us/workforce/InjuryPrevention/](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/workforce/InjuryPrevention/)

- The Office of Injury Prevention is compiling the results on a survey sent to the injury prevention community asking them for information regarding current injury prevention initiatives throughout Florida. Once compiled, the results will be shared via the OIP website and through e-mails.
- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2466.

### **FLORIDA SPECIAL NEEDS OCCUPANT SAFETY PROGRAM**

- This program, funded by a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation, provides evaluation of transportation options for children with special health care needs, loaner car seats/restraints for children with acute special health care needs.
- The Florida Department of Transportation notified the Office of Injury Prevention of the award for the 2007-2008 grant year. We anticipate receiving actual funding in January 2008.
- Current operational sites are St. Joseph's Children's Hospital of Tampa, Miami Children's Hospital, Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and Women in Orlando, The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida in Ft. Myers, All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville, and Shands Children's Hospital, University of Florida. Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood is the newest program site.
- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or [Jane.Parker@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Jane.Parker@doh.state.fl.us)

### **DR. DEBORAH MULLIGAN RECEIVES 2007 INJURY PREVENTION AWARD**

- The Office of Injury Prevention (OIP), Department of Health (DOH) in conjunction with the Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC), annually recognizes an influential individual who has demonstrated commitment to injury prevention.
- At the October FIPAC meeting, Dr. Deborah Mulligan was presented the 2007 Injury Prevention Award.
- Dr. Mulligan is the Director of the Institute for Child Health Policy, Clinical Professor of Pediatrics, College of Medicine, Nova Southeastern University.
- She is also an attending physician in the Pediatric Emergency Department at the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, Florida. In that capacity, she is able to advance injury prevention in current emergency care efforts.

- The 2008 Injury Prevention Award Nomination Application will be available in February on the OIP website. This resource will greatly extend the period for nominations to be submitted prior to the fall 2008 FIPAC meeting.
- For more information, please contact Freida Travis at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2736 or [fredia\\_travis@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:fredia_travis@doh.state.fl.us).

### INJURY PREVENTION 101 COURSE SCHEDULED FOR MAY 20, 2008

- Injury is the leading cause of death for ages 1-44 in Florida. In a continuing effort to address the injury problem, the Office of Injury Prevention, Department of Health plans to offer the Injury Prevention 101 course on May 20, 2008 at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa.
- This one-day course is intended to provide injury prevention awareness and knowledge, strengthen local partnerships, and bring together the various organizational entities needed to create successful injury prevention programs.
- We anticipate that the course will again be approved for continuing education for EMS personnel and nurses.
- There is no registration fee since the course is sponsored through an injury prevention grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- However, **you must register for the course to ensure that enough materials and handouts are available. To sign up, click on: <http://survey.doh.state.fl.us/survey/entry.jsp?id=1170679024558>.**
- **To obtain the \$109.00 room rate, please be sure to use the name DOH-Injury Prevention and make your hotel reservations no later than April 18, 2008.** Quorum Hotel (813) 289-8200. It is located at 700 N. Westshore Blvd. Tampa, FL 33609
- For more information, please contact Freida Travis at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2736 or [freida\\_travis@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:freida_travis@doh.state.fl.us).

### BICYCLE HELMET PROMOTION GRANT FUNDING INCREASED

- For the 2007-2008 grant cycle, plans are underway to expand the Florida Bicycle Helmet Promotion Program to all 67 county health departments.
- The 2007-2008 grant award of \$113,404 by the Florida Department of Transportation to OIP will probably be funded in January.
- We also plan to strengthen the resources committed to bicycle helmet promotion by offering bicycle safety training to school resource officers. These officers are in a position to educate students about the importance of wearing a helmet as well as enforcing helmet laws.

- This grant focuses on low income and underserved communities with the intent of increasing bicycle helmet use among the children.
- For more information, please contact Freida Travis at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2736 or [freida\\_travis@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:freida_travis@doh.state.fl.us).

### **SAFE KIDS FLORIDA**

- Currently, there are nine local coalitions covering Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Suwannee, Union, Flagler, Volusia, Seminole, Orange, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk, Pasco, Manatee, Sarasota, Lee, Palm Beach, and Dade counties, and six state chapters in Duval/St. Johns, Osceola, Broward, Brevard, Leon, and Marion counties.
- Florida's Safe Kids coalitions and chapters hosted child passenger safety check up events, and fire safety and pedestrian safety observances in October 2007.
- For more information, contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or [Jane\\_Parker@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us)

### **DROWNING PREVENTION EFFORTS**

- Plans are being made for the spring 2008 Drowning Prevention Awareness Campaign-"Keep Your Eyes on the Kids" in the top counties for swimming pool deaths of the 0-4 year olds.
- Residential swimming pools are the location of 64% or nearly two-thirds of the drowning deaths in Florida for the 0-4 age group. Florida leads the nation in the 1-4 year old drownings and is third in the nation in overall drownings.
- The Campaign's target population is the under five-year-old age group while the focus is on adults maintaining constant eye contact with children when they are in or around water.
- For more information, please see our website at: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/injury/DrowningPrevention.html>
- You may also contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2776 or [Lisa\\_VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Lisa_VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us)

### **SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS**

- The Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council met November 5, 2007 in Tampa. Agenda items included:
  - Support of state legislation for the 2008 session-teacher continuing education bill to include two hours of youth suicide, bullying prevention, and mental health, bills for bullying prevention, and signs of suicide program;

-Updates of the Elder, Youth and Law Enforcement Campaign; and  
-Florida Suicide Prevention Strategy Implementation Project with the USF Florida Mental Health Institute.

- The Suicide Prevention Symposium November 6-7, 2007 was held in conjunction with the coordinating council meeting. It included an impressive array of speakers/experts in the many facets of suicide prevention and mental health issues.
- The next Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council meeting is January 29, 2008 in Tallahassee.
- Suicide Prevention Day activities are being planned for April 8, 2008 at the Capitol.
- For more information contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2776 or [Lisa\\_VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Lisa_VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us)