

STATE BUREAU OF EMS HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2007

GENERAL INFORMATION

EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next Meeting

January 23 ~ 25, 2008

Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront – **Lodging**

1201 Riverplace Boulevard

Jacksonville, FL 32207

(904) 398-8800 - Hotel Direct Line

(800) 227-6963 - Reservations

Prime Osborne Convention Center – **Meeting Location**

Please make hotel reservations at the Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront by calling 800-227-6963 by Friday, January 4, 2008. The group conference rate of \$190.00 is reserved under “Florida Department of Health”. Check in time is 4:00 p.m. *Reserve your room early!!*

Future Meeting Dates:

April 16 ~ 18, 2008 (Hilton Cocoa Beach)

July 9 ~ 10, 2008 (Rosen Centre Hotel)

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

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Bureau of EMS in partnership with the Strategic Visions committee facilitated an EMS strategic planning session in Tampa for a group of 38 participants which included EMS Advisory Council Members, members of the 24 EMS constituency groups; Fire & Non-fire based EMS representatives, and DOH staff.

The purpose was to develop a draft statewide EMS Strategic Plan for FY 2008-2010 for the EMS Advisory Council. The group identified the strategic advantages and challenges of EMS in Florida and reviewed/referenced national and state initiatives such as the Institute of Medicine's report on *The Future of Emergency Care*, Healthy People 2010, the National Scope of Practice for EMS Providers, National EMS for Children Performance Measures, NHTSA's National Standard Curricula for EMS, Homeland Security's National Response Plan, Governor Crist's Healthcare Policy, the State Surgeon General's Strategic Priorities, and the FHA's report on *Addressing the Crisis in Emergency Care*.

The Strategic Visions Committee requests that all committees and constituency groups review the draft plan for July 2008 – June 2010. Please bring any recommendations to the Strategic Visions Committee meeting, which has been moved to 8:00 a.m. on the second day of the quarterly meetings. The draft identifies **suggested** committee/workgroup leads for each objective. A representative from each assigned committee/workgroup is asked to participate in the quarterly Strategic Visions Committee meetings. Dr. Shatz also made note at the planning session and during the last mid-quarter conference call that a portion of the meeting agendas for the committees be dedicated to the strategic plan.

Contact Lisa Walker at (850) 245-4440, ext. 2733 or Lisa.Walker@doh.state.fl.us for more details.

RECOGNITION FORM STATE SURGEON GENERAL

In a letter recognizing all of the strategic planning participants, Dr. Viamonte Ros, State Surgeon General, stated: "Strategic planning is an ongoing journey and I encourage you to continue this path of collaboration to successfully achieve the objectives identified in the plan. Your leadership drives this process and the department will support you in this important initiative. Together we can fulfill the EMS Advisory Council's mission to facilitate, promote, and ensure the best prehospital emergency medical care to the residents and visitors of Florida." The Department of Health also submitted this to Governor Crist's Office as a noteworthy accomplishment.

REVISIONS TO 64E-2, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Effective October 16, 2007, amendments to the following rules go into effect:

[64E-2.007](#): Vehicle Permits

[64E-2.008](#): Emergency Medical Technician

[64E-2.009](#): Paramedic

[64E-2.0094](#): Voluntary Inactive Certification

[64E-2.036](#): Training Programs

The rule change for 64E-2.007, F.A.C. clarifies the definition of water vehicles and outlines the reasons that they are not transport vehicles or advanced life support transport vehicles.

The amendments to rules 64E-2.008, .009, and .0094, F.A.C. reference the newly revised application for examination by EMTs and Paramedics. There is now only one form for both EMTs and Paramedics wishing to sit for an examination. The form may be downloaded at the Division of Medical Quality Assurance's website at: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/EMT-Paramedic> or <http://www.FLhealthsource.com>.

The amendment to 64E-2.036, F.A.C., references the revised application for approval of an Emergency Medical Services Training Program. The application has been revised to allow for the standardization with the National Standard Curricula.

Please discard versions older than October 16, 2007 to ensure that you are in compliance. The full text of the rule may be downloaded at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/ems/Rulesstatutes/rulesreghome.html> or <https://www.flrules.org/Default.asp>.

REMINDER TO MEDICAL DIRECTORS

According to Chapter 64E-2.004 (3) (c), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), "A medical director shall be board certified and active in a broad-based clinical medical specialty with demonstrated experience in prehospital care and hold an ACLS certificate or equivalent as determined in Chapter 64E-2.038, F.A.C." Medical directors are required to comply with this rule by January 1, 2008.

For your convenience, a listing of approved ACLS equivalent courses, as outlined in Chapter 64E-2.038, F.A.C., may be found on the Bureau's website at:

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

Please be advised a person who is subject to regulation by an agency rule may file a petition with that agency requesting a variance or waiver from the rule. This process is described in section 120.542, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 28-104, Florida Administrative Code. Questions regarding the variance process should be directed to Lisa Walker at the Bureau of EMS. Lisa can be reached at (850) 245-4440, ext. 2733 or Lisa_Walker2@doh.state.fl.us.

LICENSURE & COMPLIANCE/TRAINING & EDUCATION SECTION

INSPECTIONS

The Inspections team has completed 107 EMS service inspections this year, leaving only 10 more to complete. This will be the second year in a row to have completed all inspections for the year.

TRAINING & EDUCATION

As of September 20, 2007 there has been 70 EMT and Paramedic programs (or sites) approved this year.

The team has also approved over 300 continuing educational classes for the year, leaving a small amount left for the year.

If you have questions relating to Education, please contact Rickey Stone or Steve McCoy at (850) 245-4440. For questions relating to Inspections, please contact R.C. Pippin or Shelly Lewis at (850) 245-4440.

EMS DATA UNIT

Pilot Program Launches

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 (DOH) secure server, moved to the EMSTARS database, validated, and posted to the production tables. The Pilot Stage I Alpha Testing occurred on schedule and as planned.

The EMSTARS Project Team, Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department, EMSAC Data Committee, and Documed Systems International have worked very hard to make the Pilot Stage I 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, to Chief Charles Moreland, Capt. Ken Devin, all the JFRD staff, and to Documed Systems International, each of whom have dedicated themselves to EMSTARS and to improving patient care in Florida.

The Pilot Stage I Alpha Testing continues with JFRD submitting uploads at least weekly sometimes daily. With the success of Stage I Pilot Alpha Testing, the EMSTARS Project Team and Bureau of EMS are looking forward to the Stage I Pilot Beta Testing and Stage 2 Pilot Testing. Dates for the Stage 1 Pilot Beta and Stage 2 Pilot Programs to begin are as follows:

Stage 1 Pilot Testing (Beta): 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 at the Central Florida Fire Academy and Day 2 training will be at the Orange County Convention Center in conjunction with the October EMSAC. 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. However, lodging and meals reimbursement will be available for up to 2 staff from each Stage 1 Pilot Agency only.

The training will occur over 2 days:

Tuesday, October 9

8:30 to 4:30

Central Florida Fire Academy

Wednesday, October 10

9:00 to 12:00

Orange County Convention Center

Stage II Pilot Training

The Project Team is planning to conduct training on EMSTARS for the Stage II Pilot agencies in January; in conjunction with the January EMSAC in Jacksonville. 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 meals reimbursement will be available for up to 2 staff from each Stage II Pilot Agency only.

Details on training locations, dates, and times are not available at this time, however, check the Florida EMSTARS website at www.floridaemstars.com in the near future for further information. Contact Levi Owens at Levi_Owens@doh.state.fl.us for more information.

Vendor Compliance

There are two software vendors that are currently Florida EMSTARS compliant. These vendors are Documed - Emergency Pro Version 4 and Sansio – HealthEMS 4.1. The project team continues to work closely with other vendors to assist them in becoming Florida EMSTARS compliant.

Zoll, EMS Charts, and EMS Consultants are currently working to become EMSTARS compliant. Visit the website at www.floridaemstars.com for current information on EMSTARS compliant vendors.

EMSTARS Questionnaire from Chief Moreland

In August, a 2007 Data Committee Assessment from Chief Moreland, Chair of the EMSAC Data Committee, was distributed to the provider agencies to complete. The Florida EMS Advisory Council Data Committee is charged with providing project oversight and steering for the Bureau's EMSTARS data project to include decision making and guidance on project plans and execution.

The results of the 2007 Data Committee Assessment will assist the Bureau of EMS with allocating resources to best support provider agencies with their data collection efforts; both now and in the future; and will help the Data Committee advise the Bureau on project related schedules, staffing, budget, and grant allocations for your EMSTARS program.

Chief Moreland and the Bureau of EMS thank all of you who participated in the Data Committee Assessment.

Pilot Stage I and Stage II 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. These agencies are leading the way for the future of EMS in Florida; the success of EMSTARS and improving patient care in Florida.

The Stage I Pilot Testing (alpha) launched August 21 with:

- Jacksonville Fire & Rescue

The Stage I Pilot Testing (Beta) begins October 16, 2007 with the following provider agencies:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ▫ Clay County Fire Rescue | ▫ Polk County EMS |
| ▫ Coral Gables Fire Rescue | ▫ Reedy Creek Emergency Services |
| ▫ EMS Alliance of Marion County | ▫ Sanford Fire Department |
| ▫ Gadsden County EMS | ▫ Tampa General Aeromed |
| ▫ Hialeah Fire Department | |
| ▫ Leon County EMS | |

The Stage II Pilot Testing will begin February 5, 2008 with the following agencies:

- Broward SO Fire Rescue
- Charlotte County Fire & EMS
- City of Sunrise Fire Rescue
- Dania Beach Fire Rescue
- Desoto County Fire Rescue
- Florida Medi-Van Ambulance, Inc.
- Hallendale Beach Fire Rescue
- Hollywood Fire Rescue
- Indian River Fire Rescue
- Key Biscayne Fire Rescue
- Lauderhill Fire Rescue
- Lighthouse Point Fire Rescue
- Manatee County EMS
- Marion County Fire Rescue
- Miami Beach Fire Rescue
- Miramar Fire Rescue
- Monroe County Fire Rescue
- Nature Coast EMS
- North Lauderdale Fire Rescue
- Oakland Park Fire Rescue
- Pasco County Fire Rescue
- Pompano Beach Fire Rescue
- Tamarac Fire Rescue
- Winter Park Fire Rescue

The Charter Program agencies will begin reporting at startup in July 2008:

- Baker County EMS
- City of Miami Fire Dept.
- Collier County EMS
- Davie Fire Dept.
- Delray Beach Fire Rescue
- Dixie County EMS
- Glades County EMS
- Gulf County EMS
- Lee County EMS
- Miami-Dade Ambulance Service
- Ormond Beach Fire Rescue
- Putnam County Emergency Services
- St. John's County Fire Rescue
- Wakulla County EMS
- Wewahitchka EMS

Data Dictionary Changes

The Project Team has released a new Florida EMS Data Dictionary. Version 1.3 includes several changes resulting from the need for more local flexibility for certain elements and also from our Pilot Program Alpha testing that commenced on August 21st. Most are simply corrections; including typos and some validation rules where the constraint was recorded in one element but not in the other dependent element. However, the primary reason for releasing an interim update is for changes to data elements that use or reference ICD-9 codes.

Our Florida EMS Data Committee has recognized that several changes need to be made allowing for clearer definitions and more accurate data collection. These changes impact Provider Impressions, Cause of Injury, Condition Code Number, and Procedures. Chief Charles Moreland, Chairman of the Data Committee, established a subcommittee to clearly define the Provider Impressions (primary and secondary) in our June meeting. This work was joined by the Project Team in July as more and more agencies were pointing out problems with available picklist options for elements associated with ICD-9 codes.

Levi Owens spoke with Dr. Mann of the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center in July, and he directed us to use and transmit any valid ICD-9 code in those related elements. Any that did not fit the NHTSA 2.2.1 standard, would be transformed to a (-5) Not Reporting in the NEMSIS database until version 3.0 of the new NHTSA Data Dictionary could be released at a future time (yet undetermined).

That was very welcome news. However, Levi quickly realized that the concession to allow any / all ICD-9 codes really only improved one element: E19_03 Procedure (and / or the D04_04 Procedures list). This element is a decimal value and passes the actual ICD-9 code in the XSD. However, the other 4 data elements (Provider Primary & Secondary Impressions, Cause of Injury, and Condition Code Number) are all formatted as integers accepting a NEMSIS-assigned numeric field value. So we had to develop an alternate solution. Our Data Committee has now completed this work and the new version 1.3 of our Data Dictionary includes expanded options for recording each of the 5 data elements referenced above.

We anticipate the next interim update to come in January next year. Please forward all questions or concerns to levi_owens@doh.state.fl.us.

STATEWIDE PLANNING SECTION

EMS FOR CHILDREN

- 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 ED personal 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 (800) 766-6335.

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

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

- 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 will be 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.

- The term of the current EMSC Advisory Committee members expired October 6, 2007. Appointments have been made by the State Surgeon General for the 2007-2009 term. New committee members represent various health care specialties as well as geographic areas. For more information about the EMSC Advisory Committee, please contact Patricia Kenyon at (850) 245-4440, ext. 2686.

EMS GRANTS

County Government Grants The Bureau of EMS started accepting county grant applications September 7 and the deadline is January 4, 2008. No extensions of the deadline will be given. Under this program, only county governments are eligible and \$5.5 million is available. Counties which do not submit their application by the deadline, if current practices continue, will have the funds they did not receive, added to their funds next year.

General Matching Grants (75% state funds) and Rural Matching Grants (90% state funds) The Bureau of EMS has NOT announced the beginning and ending dates when applications can be submitted for matching grants. Until the Bureau publishes these dates we will not accept any matching grant application. However, we expect the same application form will be used the next grant cycle as used previously.

If any organization has a state EMS grant for which a final report or refund is overdue, or has another EMS grant discrepancy, that organization will not be eligible for any new matching grant funds, until the organization resolves the discrepancy. Contact the Bureau if you wish your organization's matching grant compliance status.

Applicant Training A matching grant training session is being conducted at this Advisory Council meeting, October 10, another one will be held during the January Advisory Council meeting and several additional training sessions for potential grant applicants will be announced later for other sites and dates.

Federal Funds for EMSTARS Seven counties and one city received a collective total of \$324,000 for computer equipment this year. The funds were provided under Section 408 of title 23, United States Code, and we refer to these as "408 grants." Additional funds for this fiscal year have been requested, to date we have not received notification of the amount of the award for the Bureau.

Rural Access to Emergency Devices Grant The Bureau recently received notification from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) advising us of the receipt of a grant for \$99,776. The purpose of this grant is for the purchase and distribution of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) and to provide AED/CPR training to the residents of the rural counties in Florida. Information regarding the distribution of the grant funds will be sent to all Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers in the rural counties within the next few weeks.

Federal Agency Grant Funds Applied for or Received for Emergency Medical Services Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS) related activities for FY2007-2008

Total funds: \$803,000

Funding Breakdown

Health Resources and Services Administration of the U. S. Department of Health and Human Service (HHS) -- \$195,000 to provide funds to 14 rural counties for needed data collection and reporting equipment and software.

Florida Department of Transportation
\$495,000 awarded for the purchase of hardware and software, consultant services and other miscellaneous expenses. This is the second year of a five year grant provided funds remain available.

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

\$103,000 to provide EMSTARS data report completion training to Emergency Medical Technicians 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.

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.

FLORIDA INJURY PREVENTION ADVISORY COUNCIL

- The Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC) and Florida 2004-08 Injury Prevention Strategic Plan Goal Teams are meeting on October 16 and 17, 2007 in Tampa.
- Each goal team continues working on the grant goals, objectives, and strategies found within the 2006-2007 Florida Injury Prevention Action Plan. The Action Plan is located on our website at: www.doh.state.fl.us/workforce/InjuryPrevention/PDF/IP_Action_Plan_06-07.pdf
- The group will develop the 2008 Action Plan and will begin the strategic planning process for the successor plan, the 2009-2013 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan.
- A preplanning questionnaire was sent to each council and goal team member to obtain input on improving the strategic planning process and the successor plan.
- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2466 or Leilani_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us.

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

- The funding for the 2007-2008 grant year that began August 1, 2007 is \$131,760. The major goal of this grant is to implement the 2004-2008 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan. Work began on meeting the grant goals and objectives for the 2007-2008 grant year.
- 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 2008 Drowning Prevention Marking Symposium will be held in conjunction with the Florida Swimming Pool Association's 2008 Safety Forum.

- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2466 or 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>.
- 2004 Injury Data Reports, published May 2007, are available upon request.
- 1970s-2005 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 Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan at (850) 245-4144, extension 2776, Lisa_VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us or Kyla Shelton at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2729, Kyla_Shelton@doh.state.fl.us

2004-2008 FLORIDA INJURY PREVENTION STRATEGIC PLAN

- Work is continuing with the implementation of the strategic plan. Each goal team continues working on the grant goals, objectives, and strategies found within the 2006-2007 Florida Injury Prevention Action Plan. The Action Plan can be found on our website at: www.doh.state.fl.us/workforce/InjuryPrevention/PDF/IP_Action_Plan_06-07.pdf.
- The Office of Injury Prevention is compiling the results on a survey sent a survey 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 Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us. or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2466 or Leilani_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us

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 that this grant will be funded for the 2007-2008 grant year.
- 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

BICYCLE HELMET PROMOTION GRANT FUNDING INCREASED

- OIP has been notified it will receive \$113,404 in grant funding for the 2007-2008 Florida Bicycle Helmet Promotion Program. This funding is from the Florida Department of Transportation and targets low income and underserved communities with the intent of increasing bicycle helmet use among the children.
- This is a slight increase over the \$98,404 in funding received in 2006-2007.
- For the 2007-2008 grant cycle, plans are underway to expand the Florida Bicycle Helmet Promotion Program to all 67 county health departments. 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.
- For more information, please contact Freida Travis at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2736 or 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.
- A statewide coordinator meeting was held in Tampa in August 2007. Coordinators received education relating to bicycle and pedestrian safety. A roundtable discussion took place with the coordinators sharing successful event information and tips on maintaining coalitions.

- Florida's Safe Kids coalitions and chapters are hosting child passenger safety check up events, and are gearing up for fire safety and pedestrian safety observances in October 2007.
- For more information, please contact Ralph Salvas at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2688 or Ralph_Salvas@doh.state.fl.us

DROWNING PREVENTION EFFORTS

- 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 2007 Drowning Prevention Awareness Campaign-"Keep Your Eyes on the Kids"- was completed in May and June in the top 16 counties for swimming pool deaths of the 0-4 year olds. The counties are: Hillsborough, Orange, Palm Beach, Duval, Lee, Marion, Brevard, Polk, Seminole, Volusia, Pinellas, Pasco, Osceola, Manatee, Collier, and St. Lucie.
- Each County Health Department in these counties planned and facilitated community drowning prevention/water safety awareness events, with community partners in May and June.
- Our at-risk population is the under five-year-old age group while the focus of the campaign 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.htmlinjury/>
- You may also contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2776 or Lisa_VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us

SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS

- Governor Charlie Crist signed into law a bill (CS/HB 139, effective July 1, 2007) that establishes the Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention within the Office of Drug Control, Executive Office of the Governor. The bill established two positions and funding of \$150,000.
- The law also creates the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council, which will replace the existing Suicide Prevention Task Force. The Council will be responsible for advising the Office of Suicide Prevention on strategies to prevent suicide. The Florida Department of Health will continue to have a designee for the council, as on the task force.
- The council is composed of 28 statutorily designated voting members as well as individuals who participated in a non-voting capacity.
- The initial Council meeting was August 31, 2007.

- Agenda items discussed 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'
 - Florida Suicide Prevention Strategy Implementation Project with the USF Florida Mental Health Institute.
 - Mark your Calendars-
 - Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council meeting-November 5, 2007 Tampa;
 - Suicide Prevention Symposium November 6-7, 2007- Embassy Suites at USF (near Busch Gardens)-Tampa;
 - Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council meeting-January 29, 2008;
 - Suicide Prevention Day at the Capitol-April 8, 2008
- For more information contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2776 or Lisa_VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us