

# STATE BUREAU OF EMS HIGHLIGHTS

## JULY 2008

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

##### Next Meeting

October 1 – 3, 2008  
The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club  
851 Gulf Shore Blvd. North  
Naples, FL 34102  
(800) 237-7600 / (239) 261-2222  
[www.NaplesBeachHotel.com](http://www.NaplesBeachHotel.com)

Please make hotel reservations at the Naples Beach Hotel by calling (800) 237-7600 by August 29, 2008. The group conference rate of \$129.00 is reserved under "Bureau of Emergency Medical Services". Check in time is 4:00 p.m. Cancellation within eight days will result in a penalty of one night stay. Reserve your room early!! For more information regarding room reservations, please visit: [www.NaplesBeachHotel.com](http://www.NaplesBeachHotel.com)

##### Future Meeting Dates:

January 28 ~ 30, 2009 (Daytona Beach – Fire East)

#### EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL (EMSAC) MID QUARTER CONFERENCE CALL

The Advisory Council held their mid quarter conference call on Wednesday, June 18. During the call, it was agreed that the Bureau of EMS would support three EMSAC meetings a year. The Council also agreed that during the July meeting, they would discuss future dates and locations for 2009.

## EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Please join the Bureau of EMS in welcoming our new council members. Effective July 1, 2008, State Surgeon General, Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H., appointed the following individuals to four-year terms on the council:

EMS Administrator (non-fire)

**Michael Patterson**  
**Putnam County EMS**

Lay Elderly

**Doris Ballard-Ferguson**  
**Florida A&M University**  
**School of Nursing**

Emergency Nurse

**Amy Paratore**  
**Tampa General Hospital**

EMT (non-fire)

**Tom Quillin, Chief**  
**Leon County Emergency Services**

EMS Administrator (fire)

**William R. Colburn, Chief**  
**Reedy Creek Fire Department**

Commercial Ambulance Operator

**Alan Skavroneck**  
**Ambitrans Medical Transport**

Also, Mr. C.T. "Chuck" Kearns, M.B.A., Paramedic, EMD-5, with Pinellas County Florida EMS was appointed as the EMS Advisory Council Chairperson for a one year term.

The Bureau would also like to thank David V. Shatz, M.D. for his hard work and dedication to the EMS Advisory Council.

Special thanks to the following outgoing members for their contributions and dedication to the EMS community.

EMT (non-fire)

**Chad Reed**  
**Dixie County Sheriff's Office**

EMS Administrator (fire)

**William Bingham, Chief**  
**Boynton Beach Fire Rescue**  
**Department**

Lay Elderly

**William Louis Fisher, III**

Commercial Ambulance Operator

**Jaime Caldwell**  
**South Florida Hospital and**  
**Healthcare Association**

We look forward to continued partnership efforts with all of you and your organizations.

Any questions or comments regarding the EMS Advisory Council may be directed to Desi Lassiter at the State EMS office at (850) 245-4055.

### **NEW OFFICE STAFF JOINING THE DIVISION**

Deputy Kline announced on May 21st that the Office of Injury Prevention and the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program will be moving from the Division of Health Access and Tobacco (DHAT) to DEMO. The details of the transition have not been determined yet. More details to follow regarding the transition.

### **SENATE BILL 1694 9-1-1 EMERGENCY DISPATCHER CERTIFICATION/DENISE AMBER LEE ACT**

On May 28, 2008, Governor Crist approved this bill. This act will take affect October 1, 2008. In response to this bill, the Bureau of EMS has taken lead in the development of the rule and implementation of the program to certify emergency dispatchers. A rule development workshop has been scheduled for the following:

DATE: Monday, June 30, 2008.  
TIME: 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. EST (time may be extended if deemed necessary)  
PLACE: Florida Department of Health  
Division of Emergency Medical Operations  
4025 Esplanade Way, Room 301A/B  
Tallahassee, FL 32311

Purpose is to address the following items outlined in the new law:

- develop and establish rules for the educational and training criteria for the certification and recertification of 911 emergency dispatchers (ED)
- develop and establish certification & recertification applications
- develop and establish by rule a procedure for biennial renewal certification
- develop and establish by rule a procedure for the initial certification of 911 ED who have documentation of at least five years of supervised full-time employment as a 911 ED since 1/1/2002
- develop and establish rules for renewing a certificate that has been inactive for one year or less

- develop and establish rules for renewing a certificate that has been on inactive status for more than one year

For a copy of the complete Notice of Rule Development or a copy of the bill visit our legislative page on our website at: <http://www.fl-ems.com>. Draft language is not available at this time. The purpose of the workshop is to develop draft language.

### **UPCOMING RULE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**

The Bureau of EMS will be facilitating a rule development workshop at the July EMS Advisory Council and constituency group meetings. In lieu of the Legislative and Education Committee meetings, the rule workshop will take place at the following:

DATE: Tuesday, July 8, 2008  
TIME: 1:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. EST  
PLACE: Rosen Centre Hotel  
Salon 12 (Please see the EMS information table for any changes)  
9840 International Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32819

Subject areas to be addressed:

- EMS Instructor Criteria Developed by Florida Association of EMS Educators and the Education Committee of the EMS Advisory Council
- Neonatal Interfacility Transfers
- EMT/Paramedic Examinations

For a copy of the complete Notice of Rule Development or more information visit our legislative page on our website at: <http://www.fl-ems.com>.

### **PUBLIC HEARING FOR CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY (COPCN)**

Written requests for public hearing have been received by the Bureau of EMS. A public hearing will take place at the following:

DATE: Monday, July 14, 2008  
TIME: 2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. EST  
PLACE: Florida Department of Health  
Division of Emergency Medical Operations

4025 Esplanade Way, Room 301A/B  
Tallahassee, FL 32311-1747

### **2008-2010 FLORIDA EMS STRATEGIC PLAN**

The kick-off for the July 2008-June 2010 Florida EMS Strategic Plan will take place during the July EMS Advisory Council and constituency group meetings. The plan was developed by the Strategic Visions Committee of the EMSAC and is comprised of members of all the EMS constituency groups.

Congratulations to all of who that contributed to the development of this plan. The Bureau of EMS looks forward to supporting your implementation efforts that will continue to strengthen Florida's EMS system.

For more information contact Lisa Walker, Strategic Planning Coordinator, at (850) 245-4440 ext. 2733 or Lisa\_Walker2@doh.state.fl.us.

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

Please join us on Wednesday, July 9, 2008 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, FL. The Bureau of EMS, in partnership with the Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center (EMLRC), will be paying tribute to the 2008 Excellence in EMS Awards recipients. The awards will honor outstanding Florida EMS organizations and individuals who have made a positive impact on emergency medical services throughout the state.

#### **The 2008 Award winners are:**

**EMS Provider of the Year:**

Lake-Sumter Emergency Medical Services

**Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) of the Year:** Jodi Coffee, EMT, Sunstar EMS

**Paramedic of the Year:** Mike Scott, EMT-P, Seminole County Fire Department

**EMS Nurse of the Year:** Debbie Vass, RN, EMT-P, Sunstar EMS

**Larry S. Jordan EMS Hall of Fame:** Chief Daniel R. Azzariti, New Port Richey Fire Department

**Marilyn Crook EMS Pioneer:** Chief Charles E. Moreland, Jacksonville Fire & Rescue Department

**Friend to EMS:** Robin Butler, Seminole County Government Traffic Engineering  
**EMS Injury Prevention:** Charlene Cobb, Sunstar Emergency Medical Services

**Raymond H. Alexander, MD, EMS Medical Director of the Year:**  
Catherine Carrubba, MD, MPH, Aeromed at Tampa General Hospital

**EMS Dispatcher of the Year:** Terry Hansen, Indian River County Sheriff's Office

**EMS Educator of the Year:** Daniel J. Griffin, Florida Association of EMS Educators

**Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC):** Julie Bacon, RN, EMSC Advisory Committee

**Photo of the Year:** Miami-Dade Fire Rescue

**EMS Memorial (Dedicated to those in Florida EMS who lost their lives)  
2008 Inductees:**

Lieutenant Rafael Vazquez, Paramedic  
Palm Beach County Fire Rescue  
May 1, 1965 – March 3, 2008

Alexis Lopez-Lima, EMT, Firefighter  
City of Miami Fire Rescue  
April 30, 1974 – May 6, 2008

**JULY EDITION OF EMS VITALS NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE**

The Summer Issue of *EMS Vitals* is now available on the Bureau's website at: <http://www.fl-ems.com>. The newsletter is a great avenue to share/learn best practices, recognize members of the EMS community, provide updates on strategic planning efforts, EMS Week highlights, and more.

The Bureau would like to thank all who have contributed to *EMS Vitals*. Your continued partnership strengthens the success of the newsletter. Contact Lisa Walker at [Lisa\\_Walker2@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Lisa_Walker2@doh.state.fl.us) or Alex Macy at [Alexander\\_Macy@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Alexander_Macy@doh.state.fl.us) for deadlines and article length requirements. Help us to celebrate your noteworthy accomplishments by submitting an article.

## **BULK RENEWAL/RECERTIFICATION OF EMT/PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATES**

The Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA), as part of mandated budget cuts, has moved to online renewal/recertification for health care professions. In an effort to address the concerns of EMS agencies, MQA has agreed to make bulk recertification available for the recertification period ending December 1, 2008.

This change can be accomplished only if certain criteria are met.

- Recertification forms will be mailed to the practice location of the individual. (This is the address that shows on the internet at <http://www.flhealthsource.com>). You need to have each employee check and change, if necessary, his or her address at the above site.
- Each delivery of renewal forms to the department must be accompanied by a check that exactly matches the amount required for the number of forms in each package.

If you wish to participate in bulk recertification, please let MQA know by **July 31, 2008**. If we have not been notified, forms will be individually mailed to your employees.

You can email Betsey Hines at [elizabeth\\_hines@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:elizabeth_hines@doh.state.fl.us) or call her at (850) 245-4910 for more information.

The Strategic Visions Committee of the EMS Advisory Council has asked MQA to include a survey with this recertification. If you choose to bulk recertify your employees, you are asked to please gather this survey information for your employees and forward it directly to Battalion Chief Cory Richter at: [crichter@ircgov.com](mailto:crichter@ircgov.com). Instructions will be included with your package. This survey is in support of the 2008-2010 Florida EMS Strategic Plan that was developed by the EMS Advisory Council and the EMS community. Your feedback is appreciated.

## **PARAMEDIC EXAM SCORES AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Paramedic exam scores are now available online approximately 7-14 days after the date of the exam. They can be viewed and printed at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/Exam/home.htm>.

They can also be accessed from "Paramedic" on the <http://www.flhealthsource.com> site by choosing "Examination Information", "Paramedic".

Applicants need their date of birth and the last four numbers of their social security number to access the full report. If the exam was passed, checking "License Lookup" with just their name should get them their license number.

The Division of Medical Quality Assurance's (MQA) Certification Office will no longer mail paramedic score results. If an applicant fails the exam, he or she will need to go to <http://www.flhealthsource.com> and download a new application and reapply for certification.

This change was designed to expedite the delivery of scores and certificates to our applicants.

EMT scores should be available here soon. Please direct any questions to MQAs Certification Office at (850) 488-0595.

## **DATA SECTION**

### **JULY STARTUP**

On July 3, EMSTARS goes live with the startup of the Charter Agencies. There will be over 100 EMS Provider Agencies reporting to EMSTARS at startup. The Florida Bureau of EMS is proud of the work that the EMS Advisory Council Data Committee, Pilot Program Agencies and the EMSTARS Project Team, as well as other EMS constituents, have accomplished to keep EMSTARS on schedule with go live on July 3.

With the official startup of EMSTARS, the pilot testing will come to a close. The pilot testing has been a great success. The Bureau of EMS and the EMSTARS Project Team appreciate the leadership and dedication that the Pilot Agencies have demonstrated.

Pilot testing began with the Alpha agency, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue, in August 2007. In October 2007, ten more agencies were added to continue testing and identify potential short falls of the system and processes created for EMSTARS.

Changes have been made to the validation rules due to unforeseen scenarios in real-world collection of incident-level EMS data. In February 2008, nine more agencies participated in stage two of the EMSTARS pilot program.

After startup on July 3, the EMSTARS Project Team will continue to work in phases to transition the remaining EMS Provider Agencies from aggregate data reporting to EMSTARS data reporting. The future startup dates are October 2008, April 2009 and July 2009. Agencies have already started signing up for these future startup dates.

If you need further details or are interested in signing up for one of these startup dates, please contact Juan Esparza at (850) 245-4440 ext 2778 or [Juan\\_Esparza@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Juan_Esparza@doh.state.fl.us).

## **NEMSIS UPLOAD**

Once again, Florida is at the forefront! Florida is the tenth state to begin reporting prehospital data to the national database (NEMSIS-National EMS Information System). On April 15, 2008, the state of Florida successfully uploaded 110,500 NEMSIS-compliant records to the national EMS Information System database. In June, Florida successfully completed the second upload with over 70,000 records. Currently, Florida EMSTARS has uploaded over 185,000 records to the NEMSIS Database from the 20 pilot agencies for the reporting period of October 2008 through May 2008. The Florida Bureau of EMS will begin submitting data to NEMSIS on a quarterly process.

## **EMSTARS KEY USER WORKSHOPS**

Members of the EMSTARS Project Team, in partnership with some of the Data Committee members, facilitated EMSTARS Key User Workshops in 14 different cities throughout Florida. The audience at the workshops varied from Key Users to participants who had limited knowledge of EMSTARS.

The workshops were very successful and the Project Team received great feedback. Overall, there were approximately 180 participants and representation from approximately 110 agencies.

The Bureau of EMS and the EMSTARS Project Team thank all of the providers who participated and appreciate the time and effort they have dedicated to this project.

The Bureau of EMS commends the committee members for taking the time out of their busy schedules to partner with the EMSTARS Project Team for the workshops. The partnership and collaboration between the EMSTARS Project team, Data Committee representatives, and Pilot Program agencies was very beneficial at the workshops. The representation and the interaction that the Data Committee members and the Pilot Program agencies provided during the workshops had a great impact on the success of the workshops.

The EMSTARS Project Team recognizes the following Data Committee members for their leadership and commitment to the EMSTARS Key User Training Workshops and for taking part in the presentation of the information:

Charles Moreland, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue  
Ken Devin, Jacksonville Fire and Rescue  
Steven LaRue, Hialeah Fire Rescue  
Art Garcia, Lee County EMS  
Mac Kemp, Leon County EMS  
Kathy Koch, Tampa General Aeromed  
Les Williams, Collier County EMS  
Joe Kanzler, Manatee County EMS  
Keith Cartwright, Reedy Creek Emergency Services

The Bureau of EMS thanks the following Data Committee members who participated in some of the workshops:

Tom Burger, Putnam County EMS  
Tom Benton, University of Florida - Shands  
Dr. Joe Nelson, Florida EMS Medical Director  
Raul Fernandez, City of Miami Fire Rescue  
Dave Holler, City of Pinellas Park Fire Department  
Tom Sheridan, Tamarac Fire Rescue  
Jeff Barnard, Pinellas County Office of the Medical Director  
Brian Beasley, Gadsden County EMS

## VENDOR COMPLIANCE

As of June 20, there are ten vendors that are EMSTARS compliant and four that are in the process of testing. Out of those four, Golden Hour and AeroMed are in the final step to reach compliance. For details on the status of the vendor compliance, please visit [www.FloridaEMSTARS.com](http://www.FloridaEMSTARS.com) or email Juan Esparza at [Juan\\_Esparza@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Juan_Esparza@doh.state.fl.us).

Vendors that are EMSTARS compliant:

- Documed Systems Intl. Inc.  
Emergency-Pro, Version 4.0
- Sansio (Formerly ScanHealth)  
HealthEMS™, Version 4.1
- Zoll Data Systems  
RescueNet TabletPCR, Version 4.0.2.81
- emsCharts  
emsCharts, emsCharts Pocket, emsCharts Mobile, Version 2.2
- Ortivus  
Sweet Billing & Field Data with NEMESIS Export Module, Version 5.3
- Healthware Solutions  
EMS Solution Suite, Version 5.7
- Intermedix  
EMS 2006, Version 1.0
- EMS Consultants  
Automated Run Tracking (ART), Version 6.2
- ACS-Firehouse  
Firehouse Software, Version 7.0
- Code 3 Software  
EMS Express, Version 1.0

Vendors that are currently working towards becoming EMSTARS compliant:

- BIO-Key  
FireRMS, Version 4.3
- ImageTrend  
EMS State Bridge, Version 3.8
- Golden Hour Data Systems  
GH Live, Version 1.8
- AeroMed Software  
WinAMS, Version 7.1

Vendors that plan to be compliant at a later date:

- Emergency Technologies, Inc.  
Visual EMS, Version 5.3 [*estimate by September 2008*]
- OPEN Incorporated  
Safety PAD, Version 2.7 [*estimate by December 2008*]
- Medusa Medical Technologies, Inc.  
Siren ecru, Version 2.xx and 3.xx

Vendors that have had little to no communication with the Bureau of EMS:

- New World Systems  
Aegis MSP Fire Records, Version 7.9.49
- Sunward Public Sector  
Fires Management, Version 6.0
- Fire Programs Software  
Fire Programs, Version 10
- CISCO Software  
CISCO EMS

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Emergency Medical Review Committee (EMRC) has completed one face-to-face meeting and two conference calls since its inception in March. The initial goal of the committee is to complete the development of by-laws which are near completion. After the completion of the by-laws, the committee will begin work on determining how ad hoc report requests will be processed and begin to look at issue resolution.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 7th at 5:00 pm. For information on the EMRC, please email Steve McCoy at [Steve\\_McCoy@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Steve_McCoy@doh.state.fl.us).

## **PROJECT TEAM**

At the end of May, Levi Owens resigned from his role as EMSTARS Project Manager. The Bureau of EMS wishes Levi all the best in his future endeavors. The Bureau is currently working with the Department of Health, Project Management Office and is in the process of hiring a new Project Manager.

With EMSTARS officially starting up with go live on July 3, this phase will come to a close. The new Project Manager will lead the project team in the next phase.

The project team will work on enhancing the system, improving the data dictionary content, transitioning the remaining EMS Provider Agencies, and linking EMSTARS data with Trauma Registry data, and Hospital Patient data for outcomes.

If you have questions or need assistance with the EMSTARS Project, please e-mail Stephanie Daugherty at [StephanieC\\_Daugherty@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:StephanieC_Daugherty@doh.state.fl.us).

## **COMPLIANCE SECTION**

### **INSPECTIONS**

The team has completed a total of 91 inspections year to date. Of those 91 inspected, 48% of them were unannounced, 52% were announced, leaving only 57 more to do for the year. We are still running at about 18% deficiencies in pediatric supplies and equipment. Only 8% of the services had deficiencies at the time of inspection.

### **TRAINING**

The Training team has inspected and approved ten training centers this year. We have a total of 145 training programs in the state. The Bureau is currently reviewing five new school applications at this time. We are still running over 300 continuing educational programs.

We have chosen Ms. Rebecca Cash as our new training coordinator. Rebecca comes to the Bureau with many years of experience in the field of EMS and Training. Rebecca has been the training director and training coordinator at North Florida Community College for the past four years. She has been in the EMS field for 17 years working in some of our small rural counties. She holds a BS in Health Care Administration and a BA in Business Administration. We are proud to have Rebecca on our staff at the Bureau and we welcome her to her new position.

**1. Paramedic Field Internship on ALS Engines** - As a response to several inquiries made by educators regarding paramedic field internship on ALS engines please refer to the following information:

Section 401.2701(b)2, Florida Statute requires the field internship experience be aboard advanced life support permitted ambulance.

The statute states: 2. Paramedic programs must be available only to Florida-certified emergency medical technicians or an emergency medical technician applicant who will obtain Florida certification prior to completion of phase one of the paramedic program. Paramedic programs must be a minimum of 700 hours of didactic and skills practice components, with the skills laboratory student-to-instructor ratio not exceeding six to one. **Paramedic programs must provide a field internship experience aboard an advanced life support permitted ambulance.**

- Section 401.23 Definitions: (5) "Ambulance" or "emergency medical services vehicle" means any privately or publicly owned land or water vehicle that is designed, constructed, reconstructed, maintained, equipped, or operated for, and is used for, or intended to be used for, land or water transportation of sick or injured persons requiring, or likely to require, medical attention during transport.

Pediatric Supplies and Equipment
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Blood Pressure Cuffs-Infant and Pediatric  
Stethoscope

Pediatric Cervical Immobilization Device

Padding for Lateral Lower Spine Immobilization

Oxygen Mask-Infant and Child

Bag-Valve Mask-Infant and Child

Pediatric Nasal Cannulae

O.B. Kit

Oral Airways

Nasal Airways

Bulb Syringe (not in the O.B. Kit)

Thermal Absorbent Reflective Blanket

Laryngoscope Blades

Endotracheal Tubes

Endotracheal Sylets

Pediatric Arm Board

Magill Forceps

Meconium Suctioning Device

Pacing Electrodes  
Pediatric Length Measurement Device  
Monitoring Electrodes

We are pleased to report that inspections are moving along as planned for the year. It is always great to go out and meet the people in the field and to look at different service operations.

In review of 2006 inspections data, it was noted that four percent of the services inspected had deficiencies related to pediatric supplies and/or equipment. What is more alarming to report is that in 2007, the number of services with pediatric supplies and/or equipment deficiencies rose to 18%. During the first quarter of 2008, this number is already at 17%.

As a reminder, we have listed the pediatric supplies and/or equipment that services are required to carry at all times on their units.

The EMS Compliance Unit works closely with the EMS for Children Program in regard to pediatric issues. Please help us in our efforts to ensure we successfully meet the challenges involved with caring for one of our most vulnerable populations, our children.

## **STATEWIDE PLANNING SECTION**

### **INVESTIGATIONS**

The Investigation section at the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services continues to operate in conjunction with the Medical Quality Assurance Investigations Department in regards to investigation of cases of EMTs and Paramedics.

All complaints against individual Emergency Medical Technicians and/or Paramedics should be filed with MQA through their website: [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/enforcement/enforce\\_howto.htm](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/enforcement/enforce_howto.htm).

All complaints against ambulance services and training centers should be filed with the Bureau of EMS in writing to the Bureau of EMS at: 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-18 Tallahassee, FL 32399.

## **REMINDER**

Richard McNelis is the new prosecuting attorney for the Bureau and it is no longer done by the Attorney General's Office. Richard McNelis can be reached at (850) 245-4440.

Please visit the following website [www.flhealthsource.com](http://www.flhealthsource.com) to determine if an EMT, Paramedic or EMS Provider has a clear/active license.

## **RECENT ACTIVITIES**

Probable Cause Panel held on:

April 21, 2008, in which 23 cases were presented to the panel.

May 19, 2008, in which 41 cases were presented to the panel.

Next Probable Cause Panel is scheduled for July 21 at the Bureau of EMS.

Next Informal Hearing is scheduled for July 23, 2008 at the Bureau of EMS.

## **GRANTS**

### **County Grants**

The DOH Surgeon General signed the final 2007-2008 county grant award letter May 16, 2008, bringing to a close an eight month duration (the county grant cycle started September 7, 2007) for county EMS grants. This process brought the number of the county grants for FY 2007-2008 to 59 for a total of \$5,311,621 dispensed. The eight counties which did not submit their applications (Clay, Gulf, Holmes, Marion, Nassau, Okeechobee, St. Lucie, and Union counties) will have the \$296,547 they could have received, held for them and added to their 2008-2009 grants. These county grants are authorized by 401.113(2) (a), *Florida Statutes*.

### **Matching Grants**

The matching grants are authorized by 401.113(2) (b), *Florida Statutes*. We received 106 matching grant applications which requested \$7.5 million. Sixty-one applications were funded, which is 57.5% of the 106 applications submitted.

The largest matching grant award category was for medical equipment in which 30 applications were awarded over \$2.1 million.

Eight vehicle projects were awarded \$624,432 for three new ambulances and to refurbish five ambulances.

In addition to the above 61 awards, under the rural matching grant program three grants were provided \$420,300 for three new ambulances and equipment for them. In addition, 16 of the above 61 projects also provided \$753, 033 to rural organizations. Collectively, rural organizations received 19 grants for more than \$1.2 million.

Some organizations received more than one matching award in 2007-2008. The 64 matching and rural matching grants were awarded to 51 organizations.

### **Time Frame to Submit New Grant Applications**

The 2008-2009 times to submit applications for grant funds are to be announced later this year. Please check your Flemscom newsletters and the grant website periodically for the specific dates when they are provided, which will probably be in September or October.

### **Grant Training**

The Bureau provides training specific to its EMS grant programs under Part II of Chapter 401, *Florida Statutes*. We usually schedule a grant training session at Advisory Council meetings, but you should always verify whether or not this has been done before planning to attend.

In addition, we expect to offer several training sessions in various regions of the state, and when they are scheduled the dates and sites will be announced in Flemscom and the Bureau's grant website.

## **EMS FOR CHILDREN**

- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week was celebrated throughout the nation May 18-24, 2008, with special emphasis given to May 21st, Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Day. In an effort to raise awareness about EMSC Day, the Florida EMSC Program provided the PIER CD to the following organizations/agencies:

EMS provider agencies, EMS initial training centers, hospitals with emergency departments, county health departments, county school superintendents, Children's Medical Services clinics, EMS Advisory Council PIER committee members, EMSC Advisory committee members, and EMS Advisory Council members and constituency group presidents. The CD highlights examples and materials to start or to add to existing injury prevention programs.

- Don't be afraid! Take advantage of the upcoming educational opportunity on 'Conquering the Pedi-Jeebies'. 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 2008 "The Premier Pediatric Emergency Medical Services Conference" on November 11-12, in Orlando at the Rosen Centre Hotel. This symposium is designed to create an educational experience that will empower EMS and ED personnel to provide the highest quality emergency care to pediatric patients. Continuing education units will be offered to participants. For further information, please visit the link listed below or contact (800) 766-6335.

Website Link: <http://www.emlrc.org/preped2008.htm>

Please contact Patricia Kenyon at (850) 245-4440, ext. 2686 to discuss opportunities for you to receive a registration scholarship to attend the symposium. Limited registration scholarships are available, please act promptly.

- The EMSC Program conducted two surveys last quarter. EMS provider agencies and hospital emergency department medical directors were surveyed regarding:
  - Pediatric Medical Direction Protocols
  - Interfacility Transfer Guidelines & Agreements for Pediatric PatientsSurvey results 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. Due to an unsatisfactory response rate, the EMSC Program will be resending the survey to those agencies that have yet to submit data in the upcoming months. Upon completion and receipt of the surveys, Florida EMSC will assure eligibility to participants to receive registration scholarships to attend the Second Annual Prehospital Pediatric Education Symposium. Attendance at the symposium will provide health professionals with continuing education units. For questions, please contact Patricia Kenyon at (850) 245-4440, ext. 2686 or [patricia\\_kenyon@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:patricia_kenyon@doh.state.fl.us).

## 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.

### **2008 DROWNING PREVENTION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN- "KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE KIDS" APRIL-JUNE, 2008**

- The 2008 Drowning Prevention Awareness Campaign-"Keep Your Eyes on the Kids" continues in the top counties for swimming pool deaths of the 0-4 year olds.
- This year, the 14 counties for the campaign are Brevard, Broward, Hillsborough, Lee, Marion, Miami-Dade, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Seminole, and Sumter.
- The campaign's target population is the 0-4 age group while the focus is on adults maintaining constant eye contact with children when they are in or around water.
- The County Health Departments will work with Safe Kids chapters and coalitions, DOH-Children Medical Services Offices and other community partners in their county on drowning prevention related activities.
- Residential swimming pools are the location of more than 75% 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.
- 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)

### **SAFE KIDS FLORIDA**

- Safe Kids Week 2008 included the Safe Kids' 20th anniversary of working to reduce unintentional injuries and deaths for children 14 years old and under. Florida's Safe Kids coalitions and chapters hosted community events during Safe Kids Week highlighting the theme, "Gear up for Safety."

The campaign encouraged children and parents to gear up for activities (for example, helmets for biking, rollerblading, skate boarding and scooters; seat belts and car seats while riding in a vehicle; life vests while boating, etc.).

- A Safe Kids coordinator meeting took place in May in Tampa. Coordinators from around the state received important updates in the area of child passenger safety from Safe Kids USA and the Florida Department of Transportation. Dr. Hotz, University of Miami, presented on the WalkSafe Program. Safe Kids of North Central Florida presented on “tweens” or pre-teens; an age group that can be difficult to reach with safety messages. Coordinators participated in a group discussion on improving Florida’s current child passenger safety check up event documentation.
- The Safe Kids Florida Advisory Board met in June in Tampa. Safe Kids of North Central Florida presented on “tweens” or pre-teens; an age group that can be difficult to reach with safety messages. Mr. David Gordon, Child Safety Solutions, presented on finding funding resources for outreach activities and reaching technically savvy kids in a “digital world.” Mr. Ralph Salvas presented on child passenger safety and grant funding from the Florida Department of Transportation.
- Currently, there are ten local coalitions covering Alachua, Bradford, Broward, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Suwannee, Union, Flagler, Volusia, Seminole, Orange, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk, Pasco, Manatee, Sarasota, Lee, Palm Beach, and Dade counties, and five state chapters in Duval/St. Johns, Osceola, Brevard, Leon, and Marion counties.
- 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)

### **INJURY PREVENTION 101 COURSE HELD MAY 20, 2008**

- The Office of Injury Prevention sponsored the 3rd Annual Injury Prevention 101 Course on May 20, 2008 in Tampa.
- This one-day course was 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. Approximately 80 individuals attended with attendance among EMS personnel steadily increasing. The course was again approved for continuing education for EMS personnel and nurses.
- For more information, contact Freida Travis at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2736 or [freida\\_travis@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:freida_travis@doh.state.fl.us).

## **SENIOR FALLS PREVENTION SEMINAR SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 24, 2008**

- Falls are the leading cause of injury-related deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency room visits for Florida's senior population.
- The Office of Injury Prevention and the Department of Elder Affairs, Communities for a Lifetime Bureau, are co-hosting a one-day seminar on Preventing Falls in Florida's Senior Population.
- The seminar is at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa on June 24, 2008, the day prior to the Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC) meeting. Hotel reservations can be made by calling the hotel at 1-813-289-8200.
- There is no registration fee since the course is sponsored through an injury prevention grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- For seminar registration or 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)

## **FLORIDA INJURY PREVENTION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 25-26, 2008**

- The next Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC) Meeting will be held June 25-26, 2008. The meeting will be held at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. on the 25th and end at noon on the 26th.
- The FIPAC began the strategic planning process for the successor plan, the 2009-2013 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan at the October 2007 meeting. The group reached consensus on the mission, vision, and plan goals. The agenda for the June 25-26 meeting includes drafting strategies for achieving the plan goals.
- 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 PREVENTION AWARD DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2008**

- The Office of Injury Prevention (OIP), in conjunction with the Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC), annually recognizes an influential individual who has demonstrated commitment to injury prevention. The 2008 Injury Prevention Award Nomination Application is available at the OIP website and the deadline for nominations is September 1, 2008.
- To nominate someone for the award or to learn about past recipients click on: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/injury/#Award>.
- 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).

## **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. OIP and FIPAC continue to work on meeting the grant goals and objectives for the 2007-2008 grant year.
- The Office of Injury Prevention and the Florida Swimming Pool Association co-sponsored the 2008 Swimming Pool and Water Safety Conference held in April in Orlando. This initiative is a grant requirement.
- 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)

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

- Florida is the only state that is implementing an existing injury prevention strategic plan and drafting a successor plan.
- Work continues on 2004-2008 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/)
- Work began on the 2009-2013 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan (Successor Plan). The Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC) and the Goal Teams reached consensus on the Vision and Mission Statements, the prioritized goals and injury mechanisms (falls, motor vehicle crashes, drowning, poisoning, and child maltreatment) for the Successor Plan.
- 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 (DOT), provides evaluation of transportation options for children with special health care needs, and loaner car seats/restraints for children with acute special health care needs. The 2007-2008 Grant Year began on February 14, 2008, when the DOT funded the program and runs through September 30, 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, Shands Children's Hospital, University of Florida in Gainesville, and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood.

- During the second grant quarter, 99 children were evaluated, 92 seats were loaned, and 161 seats/restraints and/or replacement parts were distributed to the hospital sites.
- Jane Parker, Grant Manager, spoke on Florida's unique statewide approach with the occupant protection program for children with special health care needs at Lifesavers, 2008, the National Highway Safety Traffic Administration's national conference.
- 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).

### **BICYCLE HELMET PROMOTION PROGRAM**

- For the 2007-2008 grant cycle, the Florida Bicycle Helmet Promotion Program expanded to 60 of the 67 counties with over 100 community partners.
- The 2007-2008 grant award of \$113,404 by the Florida Department of Transportation to OIP was funded in February.
- 16,886 bicycles were purchased and shipped to community partners in mid-April. Due to the efforts of Regional Trainers and others, bicycle safety/helmet fitting training was provided to over 120 individuals during this grant period.
- We are continuing to focus on training school resource officers as they are in a position to educate students about the importance of wearing a helmet as well as enforcing helmet laws. We are also targeting bicycle shops and community-based organizations for training.
- 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).

### **INJURY DATA REPORTS**

- New 2006 injury death and hospitalization data and 2005 emergency department data for each of Florida's 67 counties is available on the Office of Injury Prevention website at: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Workforce/InjuryPrevention/InjuryData.html>.
- The Florida Injury Data Report: 2005 Surveillance Data is available for download on the Office of Injury Prevention website at: [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Workforce/InjuryPrevention/PDF/Annual\\_Data\\_Rpt\\_2005.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Workforce/InjuryPrevention/PDF/Annual_Data_Rpt_2005.pdf). Printed hard copies are now being distributed throughout the state.
- 1970s-2006 injury death data is available on the Florida CHARTS website at <http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/Domain2.aspx?Domain='04'>.

- New, county level School-Aged Child and Adolescent Profiles, which include injury indicators, are available on the Florida CHARTS website at <http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/SpecReport.aspx?RepID=1031552>.
- 1999-2006 injury death and hospitalization data and 2005-2006 emergency department data, customized for specific projects, is 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)

## **SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS**

- HB 669 School Safety/Bullying and Harassment was passed by the 2008 Legislature and signed by Governor Crist on June 10, 2008. The bill creates "Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students Act"; prohibits bullying & harassment of any student or employee of public K-12 educational institutions; requires school districts to adopt policy prohibiting bullying & harassment; provides immunity; provides restrictions with respect to defense of action & application of provisions; requires DOE approval of school district policy & school district compliance with reporting procedures as prerequisites to receipt of safe schools funds.
- The Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council met April 9, 2008 in Tallahassee. Agenda items included:
  - 2008 proposed legislation regarding mental health and suicide
  - Prevention-related issues;
  - Updates of the Elder, Youth and Law Enforcement Campaign; and
  - Florida Suicide Prevention Strategy Implementation Project with the USF Florida Mental Health Institute.
- The 2008 Suicide Prevention Symposium will be September 30-October 1 in conjunction with the Statewide Prevention Conference October 2-3 in Orlando.
- Suicide Prevention Day was held April 8, 2008 at the Capitol. A walk from the Old Capitol to the New Capitol culminated with a press conference with several speakers from suicide prevention organizations. The Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council presented former Council Chair, Jim McDonough, with a recognition award.
- The next Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council meeting is July 10, 2008 in Tallahassee.
- For more information contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2776 or [Lisa\\_VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Lisa_VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us)