

STATE BUREAU OF EMS HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 2008

GENERAL INFORMATION

EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next Meeting

January 28 ~ 30, 2009 (Daytona Beach – Fire East)
The Plaza Resort & Spa (Room Reservations Only)
600 North Atlantic Avenue
Daytona Beach, FL 32118

Please make hotel reservations at The Plaza Resort & Spa by calling (386) 255-4471 / (800) DAYTONA by December 28, 2008. The group conference rate of \$135.00 is reserved under “Bureau of Emergency Medical Services”. Check in time is 4:00 p.m. Cancellation within seven days will result in a penalty of one night stay. Reserve your room early!! The Advisory Council and Constituency Group meetings will be held at the Ocean Center Convention & Event Center in conjunction with Fire-Rescue East. For more information regarding *Fire Rescue East 2009*, please visit the Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association’s website at: <http://www.ffca.org>

Future Meeting Dates:

April 2009 - TBA
July 2009 - CLINCON – TBA
Oct/Nov 2009 - TBA

EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL PHYSICIAN VACANCY

Due to the recent resignation of the physician position from the Advisory Council, the state EMS Bureau is soliciting nominations to fill the vacancy for the remaining term. This position calls for a Physician who will have the time and desire to be an active participant on the council. The effective date of service will be immediately upon appointment by the State Surgeon General, Ana Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H., and will end on June 30, 2010.

If you would like to be a candidate or nominate a candidate for this position, 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
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C18
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(850) 245-4055 – phone
(850) 488-9408 – FAX

NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUMMITTED BY OCTOBER 10, 2008.

64E RULE CONVERSION

The rule conversion from 64E-2 to 64J-1 for Emergency Medical Services and 64J-2 for Trauma Services has been requested and will become effective in mid-October 2008. There are current rule promulgation packages under the 64E-2, which will be converted to the new rule numbers when 64J becomes effective. Once the conversion is effective, notices will be posted on the Bureau of EMS and Office of Trauma websites, Flemscomm and Traumacomm, as well as in the Florida Administrative Weekly.

DATA SECTION

EMSTARS

EMSTARS participation continues to increase after the July 3 startup. An additional 6 of the Charter agencies have joined EMSTARS and have begun submitting data with another 6 agencies scheduled to join in October. Currently, the data base has a total of 343,643 records with a 93% data validation score. That total is a great number for this early in the life of EMSTARS. As the data submissions increase, the Data Committee continues to play a vital role in making data submission, validation and quality recommendations.

The EMSTARS project team is moving forward with some of these recommendations and has an aggressive plan for FY 08-09. A plan that includes the transitioning of additional agencies to EMSTARS, implementing improvements to the system, designing an EMSTARS Data Mart and defining the linkage requirements between Trauma Registry data and Hospital Patient data for outcomes.

If your agency is interested in transitioning from aggregate data reporting to EMSTARS reporting at this time or in the near future, please contact Brenda Clotfelter at Brenda.Clotfelter@doh.state.fl.us or Stephanie Daugherty at StephanieC.Daugherty@doh.state.fl.us. If your agency needs assistance to transition to EMSTARS reporting, or if your agency has questions / concerns about EMSTARS reporting, please contact us.

NEMSIS UPLOAD

Congratulations again! Florida has provided another pre-hospital data upload to the national database, NEMSIS. The second quarter pre-hospital data have been provided to NEMSIS and another upload will be provided in September. Florida continues to be a “stand out” state with its early participation in the national program. Florida has an overall total of 213,348 records in the national database.

NEMSIS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

The NEMSIS National Reporting System, based upon the National EMS Data Base, is now available! The web-based system can be found on the NEMSIS web site (www.nemsis.org) under the NEMSIS Reporting tab (click on “National Reports”).

Visit and use the reports and, most importantly, provide the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center (NEMSIS TAC) feedback regarding the usefulness of the reports. They are striving to provide the best possible product and need feedback to enhance the impact of the national reports on the EMS system as a whole.

It should be noted that there are limitations to the data that are available. First, these data are not “population-based” and do not represent conditions of the nation or any individual state submitting data to NEMSIS (i.e., most states currently submit a portion of all state EMS runs). Second, the data are not formally “cleaned” and, therefore, represent the information as submitted by each state.

Although basic cleaning is completed by the NEMESIS TAC, some data inconsistencies are retained to aid states with quality assessments. As the data base grows, so will the usefulness and validity of the National EMS Data Base.

Florida's data is incorporated in the national reports effective with third quarter 2007. You will notice when viewing a national report, in the section for 'States Submitting Data', Florida is listed in the first and second quarter 2007 reports but there are 0% records for Florida. However, when viewing third and fourth quarter 2007 reports, you will notice Florida has records in the national database that are being used in reporting.

VENDOR COMPLIANCE

As of September, 11 vendors are EMSTARS compliant and three others are in the process of testing, with two other vendors starting the testing process soon. For additional details on the status of the vendor compliance, visit www.FloridaEMSTARS.com or email Juan Esparza at Juan_Esparza@doh.state.fl.us

EMERGENCY MEDICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Emergency Medical Review Committee (EMRC) was appointed by the State Surgeon General this past March. The EMRC has held several conference calls and two face-to-face meetings since its inception. The primary agenda items of those meetings have been to develop a set of comprehensive bylaws that address the concerns of the EMS community within the State of Florida. There has also been much discussion about the relationship between the EMSTARS Data Committee and the EMRC and how the two committees will interact with the EMSTARS database.

The committee will meet at the October EMS Advisory Council to finalize its bylaws. If you have questions regarding the EMRC, please e-mail Steve McCoy at Steve_McCoy@doh.state.fl.us.

911 EMERGENCY DISPATCHER PROGRAM

The Bureau held its first rule workshop on June 30 to discuss the "Denise Amber Lee Act". This was a very successful workshop that included over 40 Emergency Dispatchers from various parts of the state. A second workshop was scheduled on August 19 but was, unfortunately, cancelled due to Tropical Storm Fay. This workshop was rescheduled for September 12. The primary focus of the Bureau is to promulgate an appropriate application and begin the certification process in 2009.

More rule making workshops will be scheduled to discuss the importance of equivalences as well as continuing education. If you have questions regarding the 911 Emergency Dispatcher Program, please e-mail Steve McCoy at Steve_McCoy@doh.state.fl.us.

PROJECT TEAM

In August, the EMSTARS Project Team welcomed our newest member. Brenda Clotfelter joined the Bureau of EMS Data Unit as the EMSTARS Project Manager. Ms. Clotfelter has many years of experience in planning and management of technology implementations. She is a great asset to the team. Ms. Clotfelter has been working with the Data Unit and Data Committee to develop a solid plan for 08-09 improvements. If you have questions or need assistance with the EMSTARS Project, please e-mail Brenda at Brenda_Clotfelter@doh.state.fl.us.

PARTNERSHIPS

The EMSTARS Project Team appreciates all the support and dedication from the EMS Advisory Council Data Committee. The Data Committee has been a major part of the success of the EMSTARS Project.

The EMSTARS Project Team also applauds the leadership that the EMSTARS Pilot Agencies, the Charter Agencies, and all other participating agencies have demonstrated in paving the way for other agencies.

The team has enjoyed working with all of you over the past several years. We look forward to the numerous opportunities Florida has to lead the nation in improving patient care and patient outcomes, just to mention a few.

Thanks from the EMSTARS Project Team!

Adam Almaguer
Beth Curtin
Brenda Clotfelter

Jide Thomas
John Ross
Juan Esparza

Stephanie Daugherty
Steve McCoy
Wendy Parkinson

COMPLIANCE SECTION

INSPECTIONS

The team has completed a total of 110 inspections year to date. Of those 110 inspected, 48% of them were unannounced, 52% were announced, leaving only 36 more to do for the year. We are still running at about 10% deficiencies in pediatric supplies and equipment. Only 5% 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 155 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.

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 an advanced life support permitted ambulance. The statute states: two. 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

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 Medical Quality Assurance's investigation 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.

All complaints against ambulance services and training centers should be filed with the Bureau of EMS in writing to:

Bureau of EMS
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-18
Tallahassee, FL 32399

REMINDER

Richard McNelis is the new prosecuting attorney for the Bureau. It is no longer done by the Attorney General Office. Richard McNelis, and his Paralegal, Marcus Barrington, can be reached at (850) 245-4440.

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

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Probable Cause Panel Meetings

July - no meeting held (transitioning new prosecuting attorney and reviewing cases from Office of Attorney General)

August 5th and 25th - 35 cases were presented.
September 18th - 30 cases were presented.

Upcoming meetings: October 9th and 23rd.

Informal Hearing held on September 9th - five cases were presented.
Next meeting October 14th.

EMS FOR CHILDREN

The Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program will be continuing efforts to reach the EMS provider agencies and hospital emergency department medical directors who have yet to submit data regarding:

- Pediatric Medical Direction Protocols
- Interfacility Transfer Guidelines & Agreements for Pediatric Patients

Survey 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. 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 or pediatric equipment for ambulances. For questions, please contact Patricia Kenyon at (850) 245-4440, extension 2686 or by email at patricia_kenyon@doh.state.fl.us.

The EMSC Program, in collaboration with the Office of Public Health Nursing, will provide a color-coded dosing resource toolkit for special needs shelters throughout Florida. This toolkit will be used to improve the shelter capabilities for triaging and treating children. The kit contains the following items:

- Broselow-Luten Color Coded Oral Syringe and Color Coded Tape
- Color Coded Armbands
- First Aid for Children Slideguide
- Pack of 4 Crayons
- Coloring/Activity Book - It's Cool to be Healthy

52,000 items of each were purchased to be assembled as kits. These kits were funded by the U. S. Department Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) Hospital Preparedness grant.

During August 9-13, 2008, 30 volunteers worked eight-hour days to assemble the kits at the State Logistics Response Center (SLRC) in Orlando. An estimated 18,000 (8 pallets) have been assembled and are currently located at the SLRC to be disseminated to shelters.

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 personal to provide the highest quality emergency care to pediatric patients. For further information, please visit the link listed below or contact (800) 766-6335.

Website Link: <http://www.emlrc.org/prepeds2008.htm>

EMS GRANTS

County Grants

The FY 2008-2009 county grant cycle started September 29 and the deadline is January 9, 2009. The county grant program returns to each county 45 percent of the amount each deposits into the state EMS Trust Fund during the previous state fiscal year from traffic fine surcharges. There is quite a variation among the counties with the pattern being the counties with greater volumes of traffic make greater deposits. For 2008-2009, the following amounts are set aside for each of the 67 counties.

County	Amount	County	Amount	County	Amount
Alachua	\$127,697.00	Hamilton	\$7,115.00	Okeechobee**	\$28,522.00
Baker	\$7,096.00	Hardee	\$18,626.00	Orange	\$326,751.00
Bay	\$55,153.00	Hendry	\$11,737.00	Osceola	\$146,898.00
Bradford	\$32,818.00	Hernando	\$44,713.00	Palm Beach	\$503,042.00
Brevard	\$133,621.00	Highlands	\$42,338.00	Pasco	\$106,700.00
Broward	\$290,322.00	Hillsborough	\$335,228.00	Pinellas	\$287,949.00
Calhoun	\$3,844.00	Holmes*	\$12,434.00	Polk	\$193,717.00
Charlotte	\$37,650.00	Indian River	\$32,406.00	Putnam	\$13,324.00
Citrus	\$33,039.00	Jackson	\$26,102.00	Santa Rosa	\$42,376.00
Clay*	\$89,269.00	Jefferson	\$15,367.00	Sarasota	\$90,941.00
Collier	\$170,111.00	Lafayette	\$1,569.00	Seminole	\$164,817.00
Columbia	\$27,581.00	Lake	\$75,246.00	St. Johns	\$41,355.00
Dade	\$346,055.00	Lee	\$175,049.00	St. Lucie*	\$218,423.00
DeSoto	\$11,954.00	Leon***	\$95,925.78	Sumter	\$32,099.00
Dixie	\$5,715.00	Levy	\$14,686.00	Suwannee	\$11,730.00
Duval	\$245,951.00	Liberty	\$2,474.00	Taylor	\$8,138.00
Escambia	\$61,324.00	Madison	\$21,400.00	Union**	\$5,309.00
Flagler	\$20,155.00	Manatee	\$79,332.00	Volusia	\$140,925.00
Franklin	\$2,859.00	Marion*	\$170,969.00	Wakulla	\$8,163.00
Gadsden	\$23,181.00	Martin	\$48,313.00	Walton	\$19,915.00
Gilchrist	\$6,218.00	Monroe	\$63,971.00	Washington	\$15,769.00
Glades	\$14,555.00	Nassau*	\$27,610.00	Total =	\$5,543,493.78
Gulf*	\$7,111.00	Okaloosa	\$60,741.00		

*Six counties with an asterisk did not apply for funds last year and their amounts are two year totals.

**Two counties with a double asterisk did not apply for funds for the past two years and their amounts are three year totals.

***One county with a triple asterisk has a refund of \$612.78 included in its amount.

MATCHING & RURAL GRANTS

Matching grant applications can NOT be submitted now. When we begin accepting matching grant applications, we will send a direct mail-out announcement to ALS Providers, BLS Providers, Air Ambulance Services, EMS Training Centers, Trauma Centers, EMS Advisory Council Members, and others, but because of the vagaries of paper mail, do not rely solely on this process. Please check Flemscomm newsletters and the Bureau's grant website periodically for the beginning date which should be in the October-November time frame.

Unlike with the county grants, the matching grants are competitive and the amounts awarded depend upon the amounts requested and approved. FYI for the previous matching and rural matching grant cycle, the following shows the amounts of the awards. The grand total was \$3.9 million.

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Average Award \$</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Awards Over \$100K</u>		<u>Awards Under \$100K</u>	
<i>Rural</i>	\$420,300.00	\$140,100.00	3	<i>\$400K and Up</i>	0	<i>\$50K - \$99K</i>	17
<i>Match</i>	\$3,521,733.90	\$57,733.34	61	<i>\$300K - \$399K</i>	1	<i>\$10K - \$49K</i>	23
				<i>\$200K - \$299K</i>	0	<i>\$5K - \$9,999</i>	6
<i>Total</i>	\$3,942,033.90	\$61,594.28	64	<i>\$100K - \$199K</i>	14	<i>Under \$5,000</i>	3

The largest grant (\$320,985) went to an EMS organization for 28 chest compression systems.

The three smallest grants were to a volunteer fire department to train volunteers (\$1,237.50), a private organization for training in fetal heart rate interpretation (\$3,746.25), and a fire rescue organization for three stair chairs (\$4,653).

Training

The Bureau provides training specific to its EMS grant programs. We usually schedule a grant training session at Advisory Council meetings, such as at this October 2008 meeting, but before planning to attend training at Council meetings always verify whether or not it's scheduled.

We expect to have another training session at the next advisory council meeting and one or two others prior to then. Whenever training is scheduled that is not at the EMS Advisory Council, the dates and sites will be announced in Flemscomm and on the Bureau's grant website. The sessions are usually no more than four hours.

Addendum

Office of Injury Prevention

Contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan, Manager, Office of Injury Prevention;
Division of Emergency Medical Operations at (850) 245-4440, extension 2776 for
further information.

JOIN US OCTOBER 14 FOR THE "CELEBRATION OF FLORIDA'S INJURY PREVENTION SUCCESSES"

- The "Celebration of Florida's Injury Prevention Successes" is commemorating the many successes of Florida's Injury Prevention Program and the implementation of the 2004-2008 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan.
- Florida's advancement in the important area of injury prevention is phenomenal. Florida is now considered to be a "progressive leader" and Florida's injury prevention program and state plan are national "models" for injury prevention organizations. Florida is the first state injury program to complete the implementation of a five-year strategic plan and immediately create a successor plan for 2009-2013.
- Dr. Ana Viamonte Ros, State Surgeon General, Dr. Ileana Arias, Director of CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control and Amber Williams, Executive Director of the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association have been confirmed as speakers for the Celebration.
- The Celebration agenda will also include the presentation of the **2008 Annual Florida Injury Prevention Award** and other recognition awards of Florida's injury prevention community (details are noted below).
- Registration for the celebration is \$45.00. All Celebration attendees must submit the registration fee by October 3, 2008. Please contact Leilani Gruener at leilani_gruener@doh.state.fl.us for registration information.
- The Celebration will be held on October 14 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Alfano Conference and Banquet Center located at 11606 North McKinley Drive, Tampa, FL 33612. The Alfano Center is located across from the Embassy Suites USF.
- Attire for the Celebration event will be suits for men and appropriate short dresses or dressy suits for women.

- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2774 or Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2466 or Leilani_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us

2008 ANNUAL FLORIDA INJURY PREVENTION AWARDS

- We are pleased to announce that **C.T. "Chuck" Kearns and Trisha Dunkelmann** are the 2008 recipients of this award. The Injury Prevention Award Subcommittee received applications on behalf of eight highly qualified individuals making the selection process very challenging.
- **Mr. Kearns** is Chairman of the Florida EMS Advisory Council. Since the 1980s, he has participated in and directed many programs that encourage child, adult, senior citizen and EMS safety and education. Until August 2008, he was employed by Pinellas County EMS-Sunstar where he worked for many years as a paramedic and advanced to EMS Director.
- **Lt. Dunkelmann** is a Community Education Specialist for the City of Delray Beach Fire-Rescue and is very active within her community, local and state organizations. She is a paramedic, firefighter, Basic Life Support Instructor with the American Heart Association, a member of the EMS faculty at Palm Beach Community College and, a member of the City of Delray Beach Speakers' Bureau. Also, she is a member of the Florida Association of Fire and Life Safety Educators and was named 2008 Life Safety Educator of the Year by that organization.
- Other nominees were:
Karen Macauley, R.N., All Children's Hospital, St. Petersburg;
Syndi Bultman, R.N., Lee Memorial Trauma Center, Ft. Myers;
David Summers, R. N., EMT- P, St. Mary's Trauma Center, West Palm Beach;
Sarita Taylor, Florida Department of Transportation, (Bicycle - Pedestrian Program) Bartow;
Stephen McCloskey, Duval County Health Department (Injury Prevention Program) Jacksonville; and
Bevin Maynard, St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, (Child Passenger Safety) Tampa.
- The Office of Injury Prevention, Department of Health (DOH) in conjunction with the Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC), annually recognize an influential individual (s) who has demonstrated commitment to injury prevention. Nominations are requested from injury prevention stakeholders and are reviewed by FIPAC's Injury Prevention Award Subcommittee.

- Dr. Ana Viamonte Ros, State Surgeon General will present the 2008 Annual Injury Prevention Award to Lt. Dunkelmann and Mr. Kearns during the Injury Prevention Celebration event on the evening of October 14.
- A service award will be presented to **Lt. Col. Larry Austin** for serving on FIPAC and helping to develop and implement the five-year state plan. Lt. Col. Austin recently retired from the Florida Highway Patrol. In addition, all members of FIPAC, State Plan Goal Team Leaders and goal team members will receive recognition awards.
- For more information, please contact Freida Travis at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2736 or Freida_Travis@doh.state.fl.us.

FLORIDA INJURY PREVENTION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 14 AND 15

- On **October 14 and 15, 2008**, the Office of Injury Prevention will be holding the Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC) meeting and Injury Prevention Celebration (details are noted above) in Tampa, Florida. Registration for the meeting is \$45.00. All meeting and Celebration attendees must submit the registration fee by October 3, 2008.
- The FIPAC meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites USF on October 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and October 15, from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Strategic planning for the 2009-2013 successor plan will continue during this meeting.
- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2774 or Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2466 or Leilani_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF

- **Towana Bonnett** joined the Office of Injury Prevention on September 12, 2008. Ms. Bonnett comes to us from the Division of Disease Control, Bureau of HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis, where she was a Senior Human Services Program Analyst providing technical support and capacity building assistance to minority and underserved populations, grassroots organizations, statewide groups, and field staff. She has a Bachelors degree in Health Care Management from Florida A & M University. One of her main responsibilities will be the Coordinator of Safe Kids activities. Her contact information is (850)245-4444 x 2452 or Towana_Bonnett@doh.state.fl.us
- **Heather McHenry** joined the Office of Injury Prevention on September 5, 2008. Ms. McHenry previously held a Senior Clerk position in the Data Unit of the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.

She is serving as the office's Administrative Assistant. Her contact information is (850)245-4444 x 2700 or Heather_McHenry@doh.state.fl.us.

2008 DROWNING PREVENTION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN- "KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE KIDS"

- The 2008 Drowning Prevention Awareness Campaign-"Keep Your Eyes on the Kids" ended in June in the top counties for swimming pool deaths of the 0-4 year olds.
- For 2008, the 14 counties for the campaign were Brevard, Broward, Hillsborough, Lee, Marion, Miami-Dade, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Seminole, and Sumter. See below chart for a summary of the campaign activities in all 14 counties.

Events	207
Water Watcher Tags Distributed	7,625
Water Safety Checklists Distributed	5,405
Drowning Prevention Brochures	3,120
People Reached/In Attendance	26,332
Media (Radio Spot)	16
Media (TV Spot)	22
Media (Printed)	34
Partners	116

- The campaign's target population is the 0-4 age group, with the focus on adults maintaining constant eye contact with children when they are in or around water.
- The County Health Departments worked 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) 245-4444, ext. 2774 or Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2466 or Leilani_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us

SAFE KIDS FLORIDA-OBSERVE NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK - SEPTEMBER 21-27, 2008

- National Child Passenger Safety Week was September 21-27, 2008. This year, the focus was to remind parents to use a child safety seat in the back of their vehicles and restrain their child properly in accordance with their size and age. Safe Kids coalitions and chapters participated in the National Seat Check Saturday that took place on September 20, 2008 to educate parents and ensure that all children seats are installed properly.

- 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 Towana Bonnett at (850) 245-4444, ext 2452 or [Towana Bonnett@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Towana_Bonnett@doh.state.fl.us) or Jane Parker at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2774 or [Jane Parker@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us)

SENIOR FALLS PREVENTION SEMINAR AND NEXT STEPS

- 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, co-hosted a one-day seminar on Preventing Falls in Florida's Senior Population. The seminar was held at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa on June 24, 2008.
- Over 80 attendees participated in the seminar featuring national and state speakers discussing the important area of preventing our senior population from falling.
- Next steps include exploring the potential for developing a statewide Senior Falls Prevention Coalition.
- Staff participated in the National Falls Coalition meeting in Washington, DC in September.
- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2774 or [Jane Parker@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us) or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4444, 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 four of this five-year grant began August 1, 2007. The major goal of this grant is to implement the 2004-2008 and 2009-2013 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plans. The OIP and FIPAC continue to work on meeting the grant goals and objectives for the 2007-2008 grant year.
- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2774 or [Jane Parker@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us) or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4444, 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 while planning for 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 OIP staff is working on prioritized goals for the Successor Plan for the specific injury mechanisms of falls and drowning.
- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2774 or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4444, 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 ran 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.
- Site visits were conducted in August and September at all seven children's hospitals and two hospital coordinators were approved by Riley Children's Hospital to teach their curriculum, which is used in the program.
- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2774 or Jane_Parker@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. 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, 1999-2007 injury hospitalization 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) 245-4444, ext. 2729, Kyla_Shelton@doh.state.fl.us.

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY COALITION

- The Office of Injury Prevention is a member of the Department of Transportation's new Motorcycle Safety Coalition.
- The inaugural meeting was held in Tallahassee on July 29th, 2008 to review the roles and responsibilities of the coalition and begin evaluation of the new Florida Motorcycle Strategic Safety Plan.
- The next meeting was held on September 18th and 19th in Orlando, Florida.
- For more information, please contact our Injury Epidemiologist, Kyla Shelton, at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2729, Kyla_Shelton@doh.state.fl.us.

ELDER DRIVER SAFETY INITIATIVE

- In June, the Office of Injury Prevention, Florida Highway Patrol and the Departments of Transportation, Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, and Elder Affairs jointly submitted an application to the National Center on Senior Transportation/National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for funding to develop and implement a statewide plan on older driver safety.
- The effort is being led by the Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged of the Florida Department of Transportation.
- In August, Florida's proposal was selected to serve as a demonstration project in establishing and implementing a statewide older driver safety plan. Team members traveled to Dallas, Texas in September for plan development training.
- For more information, please contact our Injury Epidemiologist, Kyla Shelton, at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2729, Kyla_Shelton@doh.state.fl.us.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG OVERDOSE PREVENTION

- The Office of Injury Prevention was selected to serve as the Florida Department of Health representative on the Florida Office of Drug Control Taskforce in Reducing Overdose Deaths.

- The purpose of the meeting is to develop strategies to combat the rapidly increasing death rate from prescription drug overdoses.
- Many state and community agencies participated in the taskforce's inaugural meeting which was held on July 31st in Tallahassee.
- For more information, please contact our Injury Epidemiologist, Kyla Shelton, at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2729, Kyla_Shelton@doh.state.fl.us.

SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS

- The 2008 Suicide Prevention Symposium will be September 30-October 1 in conjunction with the Statewide Prevention Conference October 2-3 at the Caribe Royale All-Suites Resort and Convention Center in Orlando. For more information and registration see website: <http://www.meetingmasterminds.com/prevention.htm>
- 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; and requires school districts to adopt policy prohibiting bullying & harassment.
- All school districts must adopt a policy prohibiting bullying and harassment by December 1st. The Department of Education also must develop a model policy by October 1st, 2008, although it is anticipated to come out much sooner, and technical assistance was available starting in August.
- School districts are responsible to report incidents of bullying to the Commissioner, who then in turn reports them to the Governor. Training has been provided on the appropriate way to report data. If data is not reported or a policy is not put in place than Safe School funds will not be allocated to that school. Contact Brooks Rumenik at Brooks.Rumenik@fldoe.org.
- The Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council met July 10, 2008 in Tallahassee. Agenda items included:
 - 2009 proposed legislation regarding mental health and suicide
 - Prevention-related issues;
 - Baker Act Update;
 - Updates of the Elder, Youth and Law Enforcement Campaign; and
 - Florida Suicide Prevention Strategy Implementation Project with the USF Florida Mental Health Institute.
- The next Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council meeting is October 28, 2008 in Tallahassee.
- For more information contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan at (850) 245-4444, ext. 2776 or Lisa_VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us.