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EMS Advisory Council Appointments

Please join the Bureau of EMS in welcoming our new and reappointed council members. Effective July 1, 2005, Secretary John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H., appointed the following individuals to four year terms on the council:

PARAMEDIC (FIRE SERVICE)	PARAMEDIC (NON-FIRE)
Jeffrey Lindsey, Ph.D.	C.T. "Chuck" Kearns
EMS EDUCATOR	PHYSICIAN
Linda W. Swisher, Ed.D.	Bradley Elias, M.D.

The Bureau also extends its gratitude to outgoing council members Ruben Almaguer and Salvatore Silvestri, M.D. for their dedication and service.

2004 Stroke Center Legislation

In 2004, Florida Legislature enacted a law to promote the development of an emergency treatment system in the state for stroke victims. The system is a collaborative effort between the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), the Department of Health (DOH), and EMS providers throughout the state. The following discusses legislature's findings and intentions.

General Information

WHEREAS, stroke is the third leading killer in the United States and in Florida, and

WHEREAS, stroke is also a leading cause of serious long-term disability in this state, and

WHEREAS, 165,000 people die from stroke in the United States every year, including 10,000 persons in this state, and

WHEREAS, 60 percent of death from strokes occurs in women, and

WHEREAS, approximately 4.5 million survivors of a stroke are alive today, and as many as 25 percent are permanently disabled, and

WHEREAS, nearly 30 percent of all people who suffer a stroke are younger than 65 years of age, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that strokes cost the United States nearly \$50 billion a year in total costs, with direct costs estimated at \$28 billion, and

WHEREAS, as the population ages, death and disability from stroke will increase dramatically if this state does not implement

strategies that will improve the survival of victims of stroke in all communities across this state,

and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services may currently be transporting stroke victims to hospitals that do not have specialized programs to provide timely and effective treatment for stroke victims,

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Legislative intent.—

(1) The Legislature finds that rapid identification, diagnosis, and treatment of stroke can save the lives of stroke victims and in some cases can reverse impairments such as paralysis, leaving stroke victims with few or no neurological deficits.

(2) The Legislature further finds that a strong system to support stroke survival is needed in our communities

in order to treat stroke victims in a timely manner and to improve the overall treatment of stroke victims.

Therefore, the Legislature intends to promote the

Did you know that 10,000 people in Florida die of a stroke each year?

Ask the Director

Dear Colleagues:

We look forward to receiving your questions, comments, ideas on topics to address, submissions of articles from members of the EMS community, and how to improve this newsletter. Your feedback can be emailed to:

DEMO_EMS@doh.state.fl.us

Thank you.

Don Bennett

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Did you know that approximately 4.5 million survivors of a stroke are alive today, and as many as 25 percent are permanently disabled?

development of an emergency treatment system in this state which will provide that stroke victims may be quickly identified and transported to and treated in facilities that have specialized programs for providing timely and effective treatment for stroke victims.

AHCA shall make available on its website and to DOH a list of the name and address of each hospital that meets the criteria for a primary stroke center and the name and address of each hospital that meets the criteria for a comprehensive stroke center.

This new law can be found in Chapter 395, Florida Statutes.

Specific EMS language is in Chapter 395.3041, Florida Statutes.

State EMS Role

(1) By June 1 of each year, the department shall send the list of primary stroke centers and comprehensive stroke centers to the medical director of each licensed emergency medical services provider in this state.

(2) The department shall develop a sample stroke-triage assessment tool. The department must post this sample assessment tool on its website and provide a copy of the assessment tool to each licensed emergency medical services provider no later than June 1, 2005. Each licensed emergency medical services provider must use a stroke-triage assessment tool that is substantially similar to the sample stroke-triage assessment tool provided by the department.

Local EMS Role

(3) The medical director of each licensed emergency medical services provider shall develop and implement assessment, treatment, and transport-destination protocols for stroke patients with the intent to assess, treat, and transport stroke patients to

the most appropriate hospital.

(4) Each emergency medical services provider licensed under chapter 401, Florida Statutes, must comply with all sections of this act by July 1, 2005.

The list of Current Primary Stroke Centers as provided by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) on 5/16/2005 may be found on their web site: <http://ahca.myflorida.com>.

The stroke alert checklist may be found on our web site www.fl-ems.com. The following article by Dr. David Schatz, M.D. discusses the need for a stroke-triage assessment tool and the four Stroke Alert Criteria.

Sample Stroke-Triage Assessment Tool

(prepared by David Schatz, M.D.) Victims of severe trauma in the state of Florida are triaged to bypass the nearest emergency facility in favor of transport to the higher level of care provided by the state's approved Level 1 and 2 trauma centers. Abundant data has shown a clear survival

advantage for severely injured patients in centers whose staff and facilities are trained and equipped to routinely care for such patients. Similarly, while medical science had little to offer patients experiencing an acute stroke in the past, that has changed with the research related to computed tomography scanning and thrombolytics (clot busters). And similar to trauma, the successful treatment of acute stroke patients is time-dependant, with a clear advantage to early intervention. However, the rapid accessibility to neurologist coverage and CT scan availability is not readily available in most hospitals, and like trauma, needs to be concentrated in designated centers. To that end, Florida Statute

Did you know that stroke is the 3rd leading killer in the United States and in Florida?

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“The Stroke Alert Checklist was designed to document times and history that may help determine whether the patient is indeed a candidate for a stroke center. But triage should be a very rapid process and one in which a medic can make a transport decision within a few seconds. With that in mind, the Stroke Alert Criteria are only four items. If all are met, the patient should be transported immediately to the nearest appropriate stroke center. If not, the patient should be taken to the nearest acute care facility”.

395.3041 has mandated that EMS providers transport acute stroke patients to designated stroke centers, where these patients can receive optimal care. Like trauma alert criteria, the statute requires the creation of a triage tool for stroke patients, to define which patients can likely benefit from the potentially longer transport to a specialty center. Statute 395.3041 (2) has mandated the creation by the Department of Health of such a tool to be posted on its website by June 1, 2005, and that all EMS providers “must use a stroke-triage assessment tool that is substantially similar to the sample stroke-triage assessment tool provided by the department”. Such a tool was created and approved by the EMS Advisory Council in January 2005, with the input of neurologists and healthcare providers statewide. Several national tools were used as models, but the final document was created by and for the providers of Florida.

Thrombolytic therapy is only used in patients with a new onset embolic stroke. Any bleed is a contraindication, and beyond

a few hours, the brain has sustained irreversible damage, thereby increasing the relative risks of thrombolysis. The Stroke Alert Checklist was designed to document times and history that may help determine whether the patient is indeed a candidate for a stroke center. But triage should be a very rapid process and one in which a medic can make a transport decision within a few seconds. With that in mind, the Stroke Alert Criteria are only four items. If all are met, the patient should be transported immediately to the nearest appropriate stroke center. If not, the patient should be taken to the nearest acute care facility. The four items include any abnormal finding on examination, deficit not likely due to head trauma, and a blood glucose greater than 50. The purpose of these three items is to exclude a neurologic deficit due to a condition other than a cerebrovascular event (a stroke). With significant discussion, the fourth criteria of time of 5 hours from onset of symptoms was selected in order to capture stroke victims who could potentially benefit from aggressive therapy, while at the same time preventing an overload of stroke centers with patients who would be excluded from

Did you know nearly 30 percent of all people who suffer a stroke are younger than 65 years of age?

thrombolytic therapy because of time delay. This is the same concept of under- and overtriage used in the state trauma alert criteria, and while different times have been used by other models, this time was chosen as an appropriate time frame for our state.

The “Florida Bureau of EMS Stroke Alert Checklist” is now available online and can be printed and used as is.

If preferred, providers may design their own checklist, as long as the information on the state’s form is included.

Additional information may be accessed by contacting:

Scott McDermaid, EMT-P
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-18
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1738
850-245-4440 x2727

Emergency Medical Services State Grants

County Awards. The state awards grant funds each year to county governments for the improvement and expansion of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Many county governments allocate portions of grant funds to cities and private organizations within their county for the improvement and expansion of EMS. This is not a competitive program and funds are awarded based on the counties traffic fine surcharge revenue deposited into the EMS trust fund each year. The counties received 45 percent of their proportionate funds deposited.

This year 66 of 67 counties received \$5,141,302.82 to improve and expand EMS. The 67th county will have its allocated funds added to its new entitlement next year.

Matching Grants. Forty percent of the surcharge revenue deposited by counties in the EMS Trust Fund is available for direct application in a competitive process. All EMS organizations are

eligible and the funds must be used for the improvement and expansion of EMS, including conducting research, community education, injury prevention programs, and training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other lifesaving and first aid techniques. A portion of the funds may be used by rural agencies for continuation of services.

The following lists on pages 4 and 5 show the matching grants awarded May 23, 2005, for projects scheduled to end June 30, 2006. These lists are organized by urban and rural counties, and within those two categories by the types of projects. Rural counties have a population density of less than 100 people per square mile and a population of less than 100,000. For a comprehensive listing of awards and denials please visit the Bureau’s web site www.fl-ems.com.

Did you know that the availability of grant money is also advertised in the Florida Administrative Weekly between September and October?

EMS Matching Grant Awards By Activity: Spring 2005

Urban	Number of Grants 43	Total \$2,989,472.00
Communications	Number of Grants 3 Nature Coast Emergency Medical Services \$22,295.00 Oviedo Fire/Rescue, City of \$2,409.00 ShandsCair Flight Program \$132,646.00	\$157,350.00
Education Prof. and Public	Number of Grants 2 Seminole County Public Schools \$53,057.00 Sun City Center Emergency Squad #1, Inc. \$20,418.00	\$73,475.00
Education, Prof.	Number of Grants 7 Brain Injury Association of Florida, Inc. \$60,986.00 Fort Walton Beach Fire Department , City of \$18,291.00 Lake Tech Center—EMS Programs \$16,959.00 Lifestar/CJ Systems \$44,475.00 Miami Fire Rescue, City of \$50,189.00 Pensacola Junior College \$17,228.00 Plant City Fire Rescue \$72,900.00	\$281,028.00
Helicopter	Number of Grants 1 Glades General Hospital \$62,915.00	\$62,915.00
Medical Equipment—AED	Number of Grants 6 Collier County Sheriff's \$76,275.00 Davie, Town of \$69,319.00 Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners \$60,000.00 Port Orange, City of \$9,068.00 Valparaiso Volunteer Fire Department \$9,123.00 Venice Ambulance Service, Inc. \$1,800.00	\$225,585.00
Medical Equipment	Number of Grants 5 Coral Gables, City of \$64,800.00 Hialeah, City of \$197,434.00 Miami Fire-Rescue, City of \$157,324.00 Orange County Board of County Commissioners \$322,177.00 Rural Metro Ambulance \$6,168.00	\$747,903.00
Medical Equipment — 12 Lead	Number of Grants 8 Fort Walton Beach Fire Department, City of \$18,550.00 Gainesville Fire Rescue \$149,683.00 Ocala Fire Rescue \$29,430.00 Palm Coast, City of \$74,287.00 Pasco County Board of County Commissioners \$51,303.00 Rockledge, City of \$35,289.00 Spring Hill Fire Rescue \$136,050.00 Tallahassee Memorial Hospital—EMS \$39,267.00	\$533,859.00
QA, Evaluation	Number of Grants 1 Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center \$48,356.00	\$48,356.00
QA, QM, Computer	Number of Grants 6 Alachua County Board of County Commissioners \$74,588.00 Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners \$198,134.00 Miami Fire-Rescue, City of \$180,000.00 Sanford Fire Department \$12,281.00 Seminole County Board of County Commissioners \$42,195.00 St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners \$169,376.00	\$676,574.00
Rescue	Number of Grants 2 Margate Fire Department, City of \$23,558.00 Pembroke Pines Fire Rescue \$22,500.00	\$46,058
Vehicle, Emergency Transportation	Number of Grants 2 Sun City Center Emergency Squad #1, Inc. \$42,750.00 Tallahassee Memorial Hospital—EMS \$93,619.00	\$136,369.00

EMS Matching Grant Awards By Activity: Spring 2005

Rural	Number of Grants 20	Total \$1,432,940.00
Communications	Number of Grants 4	\$250,673.00
	Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners \$100,948.00	
	Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners \$29,728.00	
	Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners \$67,551.00	
	Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners \$52,446.00	
Mass Casualty	Number of Grants 1	\$32,778.00
	Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners \$32,778.00	
Medical Equipment—AED	Number of Grants 1	\$15,210.00
	Jackson County Board of County Commissioners \$15,210.00	
Medical Equipment	Number of Grants 2	\$89,239.00
	Dixie County Board of County Commissioners \$79,951.00	
	Highlands County Emergency Medical Services \$9,288.00	
Medical Equipment—I2 Lead	Number of Grants 4	\$217,721.00
	Baker County Board of County Commissioners \$44,906.00	
	Doctor's Memorial Hospital \$68,625.00	
	Glades County EMS \$54,925.00	
	Villages Center Comm. Dev. Dist. (Sumter County) \$49,265.00	
Vehicle, Emergency Transportation	Number of Grants 8	\$827,319.00
	Bradford County Board of County Commissioners \$90,150.00	
	DeSoto County Board of County Commissioners \$84,435.00	
	Doctor's Memorial Hospital (Taylor County) \$74,625.00	
	Holmes County Board of County Commissioners \$44,981.00	
	Holmes County Board of County Commissioners \$118,994.00	
	Lake-Sumter Emergency Medical Services, Inc. \$68,850.00	
	Liberty County Board of County Commissioners \$237,936.00	

Annual State EMS Awards

Each year, the bureau selects several individuals or emergency medical service providers for statewide recognition. The event is sponsored by the Florida Emergency Medicine Foundation and was held on July 7th in Orlando. This marks the fifteenth year of this collaborative effort to recognize Florida's outstanding EMS providers. This year's EMS Week theme was "Ready, Responsive, Reliable." Awards were given for photographs and a video best depicting this theme.

The following is a list of the 2005 EMS Awards recipients:

Video of the Year—Nature Coast Emergency Medical Services, filmed by Ken Watson

Best Black & White and Color Photographs—Rural Metro Orlando, photographed by Eddie Sperling

Florida EMT of the Year – John F. Barfield, St. Petersburg Fire Rescue

Florida Paramedic of the Year – Michael Hamel, Lee County Emergency Medical Services

Florida EMS Dispatcher of the Year – Daniel Dunlap, Okaloosa County Department of Public Safety

Florida EMS Nurse of the Year – David Summers, RN, St. Mary's Trauma Center

Florida EMS Educator of the Year – Malcolm "Mac" Kemp, Leon County Emergency Medical Services

Emergency Medical Services for Children – Sunstar, Pinellas County

Florida EMS Provider of the Year – Martin County Fire Rescue

Raymond H. Alexander EMS Medical Direction – Laurie Romig, M.D., Sunstar, Pinellas County

Larry S. Jordan EMS Hall of Fame – C.T. "Chuck" Kearns, Sunstar, Pinellas County



Florida Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

Mailing address:

4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C-18
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1738

Physical address:

4025 Esplanade Way, 3rd Floor
Tallahassee, Florida 32311-7829

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
8:00a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
excluding state holidays.

Telephone: (850) 245-4440

E-mail: DEMO_EMS@doh.state.fl.us

Web: www.fl-ems.com

Tip of the Month

Subscribe to the
Florida
Administrative
Weekly to track
announcements
regarding rules,
workshops,
hearings, and
other official
business.

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Congratulations to all the award recipients and thank you to all of the members of the EMS community that nominated such outstanding individuals and organizations.

The pictures below were recognized for depicting this year's EMS Week Theme: "Ready, Responsive, Reliable."



Rural Metro Orlando
Photographer Eddie Sperling

EMS Memorial

The Annual State Awards ceremony was concluded with a video memorial paying tribute to those that lost their lives this past year. We honor and remember:

Benjamin M. Lang – Polk County Fire Department

Donna Read – Calhoun County Emergency Medical Services

Donna L. Miller – Sunstar, Pinellas County

Air Heart 2 Flight Crew – Tom Palcic, Jack Chase & Robert Heighton

Air Trek Flight Crew – Morris Morrow, Hayward Daisey, Barry White, and Steve Heberle

Karl "Kliff" Kramer – Jacksonville Fire Rescue

Lt. Frank Kucera – Seminole County Fire Rescue

All will be honored on the EMS Memorial Plaque located at the Bureau of EMS in Tallahassee.



This issue is dedicated to Honorary Lt. Justin Cole Worley (pictured here) and the Worley family. Justin truly touched and saved lives. He was a hero before his time.