Director’s Welcome
By Marty Link—EMS Director

Welcome to the latest edition of PULSE SD!

This newsletter continues to serve as a communication tool to reach hundreds of EMS stakeholders across the region. Positive feedback from the EMS industry continues to show the value of open communication. Communication, however, is a two-way street. The EMS Program wants to hear from you too. What are your challenges, what are your successes, what do you feel most passionately about in moving EMS forward? Please feel free to share your thoughts with us anytime.

In light of this, the EMS Program recently initiated a new communication tool. Once a month, our Program will be reaching out to ambulance service directors across SD in an effort to maintain open channels of communication. It is vitally important for us all to be on the same page, to share the same message, and to work together as a team. We do have real challenges in SD, especially with workforce. By working together, much can be accomplished in facing our challenges head-on.

Many of you who have followed this newsletter and subsequent mailings from the EMS Program understand the busy fall and winter season approaching. Our Program has been busy customizing a new electronic patient care reporting system through ImageTrend, which will collect data statewide by January 1, 2018. We are extremely excited about this new platform and know you will be too.

Thanks again for all you do! Please be safe on the roadways!

Sincerely,

Marty
The Office of Rural Health’s EMS Program is pleased to share with you a number of great initiatives that will be implemented over the next several months. Since the transition from the Department of Public Safety to the Department of Health, the EMS Program has enjoyed two successful years of legislative activity, along with many other project milestones. Last year, Senate Bill 27 repealed the hardship exemption and redefined personnel requirements for ambulance services. This year, the passage of Senate Bill 48 allowed for the certification of the Emergency Medical Responder.

**Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)**

EMR is defined in statute as, “any person certified by the Department of Health trained to provide simple, noninvasive care focused on lifesaving interventions for critical patients. The Emergency Medical Responder renders on site emergency care while awaiting additional emergency medical services response from an emergency medical technician or higher level personnel. An Emergency Medical Responder may not make decisions independently regarding the appropriate disposition of a patient.”

The passage of SB48 allowed for the creation of the EMR level and authority to promulgate Administrative Rules defining the certification, recertification, and reciprocity processes along with the scope of practice for the EMR. The Administrative Rules were officially approved mid-July and took effect July 27, 2017. Since SB27 redefined personnel requirements for ambulance services and SB48 allows for the EMR as a certification level in SD, ambulance directors can now utilize EMRs as part of an ambulance response. Please note an individual who has completed the “Driver” components or an EMR can only function on an ambulance with an EMT or higher level of provider.

The Administrative Rules defined procedural steps necessary for certification, recertification, and reciprocity of EMRs. Individuals wishing to become certified as an EMR in the state of South Dakota may visit the EMS Program’s website for the appropriate application and requirements.

**Naloxone Project for First Responders**

The South Dakota Department of Social Services (DSS) recently received a grant award similar to many other states to combat what has been called a nationwide opioid epidemic. As part of South Dakota’s target response to this epidemic, the Department of Health (DOH), in collaboration with DSS, has established training sessions to equip and educate first responders including hospital staff, Emergency Medical Services, and law enforcement, specifically local sheriff offices, local police departments, and highway patrol agencies statewide. (Continued on next page)
Naloxone Project for First Responders (continued)

First responder agencies are on the front lines of the opioid crisis and are challenged with the many dangers of opioids and the result of potent synthetic manufacturing thereof; some synthetics are 100 times more powerful and require special handling for responder safety. During these training sessions, DOH will educate responders about the opioid crisis, the symptomatology of an opioid overdose, and general treatment and safety recommendations of a patient suffering a suspected opioid overdose. Furthermore, DOH will equip first responder agencies with Naloxone, a medication intended to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

DOH plans to conduct training sessions during the months of October, November, and December in various communities across SD. The coordination of these efforts will be through the Office of Rural Health’s EMS Program. It is anticipated that over 500 first responders will be trained in the initial phase of this project by attending one of the training sessions. Participants will be asked to return to their respective agencies and provide an overview of the training to remaining staff. Handouts and online resources will be available to assist in this process.

There are two main takeaways to this training. First, the safety of our first responders is our utmost concern. DSS and DOH encourage all first responders to be knowledgeable of the potential side effects of handling these drugs as well as the treatment of peers should a responder be inadvertently exposed. Secondly, DSS and DOH want to provide first responders with reversal medication for the treatment of peers and patients who present with the symptomatology of a suspected opioid overdose.

Fall Regional EMS Sessions

During the fall of 2016, the EMS Program held seven Regional EMS Sessions across South Dakota. These sessions were so well received, the Program decided to host another round throughout October, November, and December. The intent of the 2016 Regional EMS Sessions was to share the recent needs assessment survey of ambulance services and to listen and learn from local EMS agencies regarding local challenges. This year, we will still provide listening and learning sessions; however, we will also focus time on the Naloxone Project and the new ImageTrend ePCR platform.

The Office of Rural Health is making this required training for licensed ambulance services in South Dakota. We are asking each ambulance service to send one to two individuals to represent their agency and function as train the trainers. CME hours will be provided for those in attendance. If your service absolutely cannot attend the training for one reason or another, please contact our office for alternative solutions.

The Regional EMS Sessions will be held from 5:30 PM to approximately 10:00 PM Central Time with the exception of sessions held in Rapid City and Spearfish, which will be Mountain Time. (Locations of the Regional EMS Sessions are on the next page. For more information, visit EMS.sd.gov.)
Fall Regional EMS Sessions (continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 16, 2017</td>
<td>5:30pm – 10pm</td>
<td>Sioux Falls – Kenny Anderson Community Center, 3701 East 3rd Street, Sioux Falls (Anne Sullivan School)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 17, 2017</td>
<td>5:30pm – 10pm</td>
<td>Watertown – Codington Co. Extension Building, 1910 West Kemp Ave, Watertown</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 18, 2017</td>
<td>5:30pm – 10pm</td>
<td>Aberdeen – Police Dept. Public Safety Building, 114 2nd Ave SE, Aberdeen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 20, 2017</td>
<td>5:30pm – 10pm (Mnt.)</td>
<td>Rapid City – Pennington Co. Emergency Management, 130 Kansas City Street # 130 A, Rapid City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 21, 2017</td>
<td>5:30pm – 10pm (Mnt.)</td>
<td>Spearfish – Spearfish Ambulance Service, 715 East Colorado Blvd., Spearfish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 11, 2017</td>
<td>5:30pm – 10pm</td>
<td>Mitchell – MTI Tech Center Theater, 1800 East Spruce Street, Mitchell</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 12, 2017</td>
<td>5:30pm – 10pm</td>
<td>Pierre – Red Rossa, 808 West Sioux Ave., Pierre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 13, 2017</td>
<td>5:30pm – 10pm</td>
<td>Mobridge – Family Worship Center, 1708 West Grand Crossing, Mobridge</td>
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**ImageTrend Electronic Patient Care Reporting System**

In 2009, the EMS Program began using a National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) compliant software vendor for electronic patient care reporting (ePCR) for ambulance services. As NEMSIS has evolved over the years from one standard to the next, several positive changes have occurred. The current version allows for more customization of the data elements collected, more specificity of the data elements, and more data elements to potentially choose from.

NEMSIS standard has evolved so much that the current ePCR platform utilized by ambulance services across the state will need to be replaced to remain compliant with NEMSIS and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s efforts. To that end, the Office of Rural Health published a Request for Proposal, reviewed vendor proposals, and selected and signed a contract with ImageTrend, a leading ePCR software vendor located in Minnesota.

The Office of Rural Health is extremely happy with this new partnership and is actively engaged in implementation efforts. This implementation, however, will be expeditious.

Due to constraints with our current vendor (Intermedix), the new ePCR platform with ImageTrend has a go-live date of January 1, 2018. Once the transition occurs on January 1, 2018, the contract with Intermedix will expire, along with the platform and any access to ePCR reports you have on record through WebCUR. Although this may seem somewhat innerving, it is common business practice to print off ePCR reports for billing purposes. Codified Law requires ePCR reports to be saved for up to four years; current industry practices suggest up to seven years. (Continued on next page)
ImageTrend Electronic Patient Care Reporting System (continued)

The EMS Program would recommend visiting with your billing administrator to ensure they have secured agency ePCRs outside of WebCUR or have printed copies for reference after January 1, 2018, should the need arise. There are also a number of ways of extracting data from WebCUR, such as canned reports or exporting data directly to Excel. The EMS Program has already exported data dating back to 2009 that will be used for statistical purposes; however, this data is de-identified and does not contain all of the information EMS providers input in routine medical records. Therefore, it is essential you ensure access to your medical records outside of the Intermedix platform prior to January 1, 2018.

As noted earlier, the implementation of ImageTrend is on a consolidated timetable. Below are the dates and locations for the Train-The-Trainer & early Agency Training Sessions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 10, 2017</td>
<td>1pm – 5pm</td>
<td>Pierre (This session is for the designated Super Trainers Only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 10, 2017</td>
<td>6pm – 10pm</td>
<td>Pierre – Red Rossa, 808 West Sioux Ave., Pierre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 11, 2017</td>
<td>1-5pm or 6-10pm</td>
<td>Mitchell – MTI Tech Center Theater, 1800 East Spruce Street, Mitchell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 12, 2017</td>
<td>1-5pm or 6-10pm</td>
<td>Vermillion – Vermillion Fire EMS Department, 820 North Dakota St., Vermillion</td>
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</table>

We will also have a room set up at the SD EMS Association Conference in Spearfish for additional training opportunities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me by email at Marty.Link@state.sd.us or phone at 605-367-5372.

Sincerely,

Marty Link
Director of EMS and Trauma
ImageTrend Operating/Browser Requirements
By Lance Iversen—EMS Program

The EMS Program, along with the ImageTrend Implementation Team, key stakeholders, and outside contractors have been busy over the past few months developing and designing South Dakota’s new ePCR system.

Unlike our current ePCR system, ImageTrend Elite is web-based, meaning there is no software to install on your computer(s). You will just need to have internet access, log into your ImageTrend Elite account, and begin entering your patient care information.

Below is information on ImageTrend’s supported operating systems and supported web browsers:

Elite Platform System Requirements † (client-side access)
The ImageTrend Elite platform was built for a variety of device platforms. ImageTrend recommends using or procuring device platform, operating system and browser combinations that have been tested and on which ImageTrend will support the use of Elite. Elite may also work on other devices not yet tested.

Supported Operating Systems
• Window 7 (all versions)
• Windows 8/8.1 (Standard, Pro, Enterprise)
• Windows 10* (Standard, Pro, Enterprise)
• Android 4.0 or greater*
• Apple iOS8 or greater
• Mac OS X

Supported Web Browsers
• On iPad/iOS: Safari only
• All other hardware/OS platforms:
  ◊ Edge (25.10586.0+), EdgeHTML (13.10586+)
  ◊ Latest Chrome, Chrome Mobile, Safari, or Firefox
  ◊ IE 11 or greater
  ◊ IE 10 for all of Elite, except EMS/Fire incident forms

* Not supported: Kindle devices (software has security and functionality issues).
† Requirements and supported systems as of 04/01/16. See website for updates: ImageTrend.com

There will be much more information to come as we move closer to our/your implementation date. If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Marty Link or myself: Marty.Link@state.sd.us (605) 367-5372 or Lance.Iversen@state.sd.us (605) 394-6027.
Castlewood Ambulance District Spotlight
By Lance Iversen—EMS Program

Castlewood Ambulance District is located in the small community of Castlewood in northeast Hamlin County.

Established in 1975, their 17 volunteer members—consisting of EVOC Drivers to EMTs to RNs—have been providing high-quality Emergency Medical Services to their community/area 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Thank you Castlewood Ambulance District for all your years of volunteer service to your community!
“With respect to all injury deaths, rural Americans are 50 percent more likely to die from trauma than their urban neighbors. In response to this disparity, a group of rural surgeons came together to address the problem with the creation of the Rural Trauma Team Development Course (RTTDC). This educational offering teaches rural physicians, nurses, paramedics, and hospitals critical elements of injury resuscitations.”

Ronald M. Stewart, MD, FACS
Chair of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma

Rural Trauma Team Development Course (RTTDC) was held at Avera St. Benedict Hospital in Parkston on July 12, 2017. Dr. Michael Person, MD, FACS with the Surgical Institute of SD, traveled to Parkston from Sioux Falls to deliver this important course which brings trauma education to rural facilities. The class was attended by 24 people, included EMS, nursing, advanced practice providers, and physicians. A second class was held in Watertown on July 13, which was attended by 20 people of the same clinical disciplines. A third class was held in Winner on August 30.

These courses provide critical clinical education to improve patient outcomes as well as positive relationship building environment. This is an important benefit of RTTDC as it serves to open lines of communication and champions positive relationships between providers for optimal care of the injured patient.

For more information on this topic, please contact Rebecca Baird at Rebecca.Baird@state.sd.us.
New Western EMS Specialist
By Lance Iversen—EMS Program

The EMS Program has hired Julie Smithson for the Western EMS Specialist position.

Julie comes to us from the Nebraska Department of Health—Emergency Medical Services Office where she has worked since 2004.

Julie is a Nationally Registered Paramedic and the position she held with the NE EMS Office is similar to her new position with us.

Julie’s official start date with the EMS Program will be October 2nd. She will be located in the Rapid City office and her contact information can be found on our website: EMS.sd.gov under “Contact EMS”.

Once Julie gets settled in, we will be reaching out to the providers in her service area with introductions.

Please join us in welcoming Julie to her new position and to South Dakota.

My New Office Location
By Lance Iversen—EMS Program

For those of you who may not have heard, I transferred from the Pierre office to our Rapid City office on September 5.

Below is my new contact information:

Lance Iversen, NRP
Educational & Professional Standards Coordinator
State EMS Data Manager
909 East St. Patrick Street, Suite 7
Rapid City, SD 57701
605-394-6027 (office)
605-394-1677 (fax)
Lance.Iversen@state.sd.us

If you’re in the area, stop in to say hi and meet our new EMS Specialist when she starts on October 2.
South Dakota EMS Association’s 42nd Annual Conference
By Lance Iversen—EMS Program

The SD EMSA Annual Conference will be held in Spearfish October 27 – 29. If you have never been to one of these conferences, or if you are a lifetime member, the conference is filled with outstanding presenters, lectures, and vendors; it’s a great place to meet old friends and new friends from around the state, share your stories, best practices, etc.

Below are some of the presenters and their courses for this year’s conference:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pre-Conference (Oct. 26)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn Riemer</td>
<td>Trends in Substance Abuse: Street Drugs—what you need to know</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corolla Lauck</td>
<td>PEPP (Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Conference (Oct 27 – 29)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Lial</td>
<td>EMS and the Iron Horse Culture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Ebright</td>
<td>The Day the Blue Bloater Met the Pink Puffer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Lial</td>
<td>There is no I in Airway</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Ebright</td>
<td>The Miracle of Life…Almost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deb Von Seggern-Johnson</td>
<td>Pour Some Sugar On It</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divyajot (DJ) Sandhu</td>
<td>Emergency Management of Large Vessel Ischemic Stroke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deb Con Seggern-Johnson</td>
<td>Recreational Trauma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Ebright</td>
<td>In an Instant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deb Con Seggern-Johnson</td>
<td>The Process of Dying</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Lial</td>
<td>It’s Not Business, It’s Personal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Lial</td>
<td>Normal vs. Special Needs Patients: Let’s Redefine “Normal”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Ebright</td>
<td>Hit Me with your Best Shot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deb Von Seggern-Johnson</td>
<td>What are you on?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brent Williams</td>
<td>FirstNet Mobile Broadband: Coming Later this year. Are you ready?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Ebright</td>
<td>Droolers, Wheezers, and Sneezez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Lial</td>
<td>Trains, Trauma, and Teamwork…One Man’s New Life</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the most up-to-date information, register for the conference, or become a SDEMSA Member, please visit their website: [http://www.sdemta.org/](http://www.sdemta.org/)

We hope to see you all there!
2017 Sturgis Motorcycle Rally
By Lance Iversen—EMS Program

We would like thank all of the ambulance services, hospitals, and supporting agencies/personnel for their outstanding service to this year’s Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

During the Rally week, Sturgis and the surrounding areas in the Black Hills have an influx of hundreds of thousands of bikers and visitors in a short period of time. With this, it takes hundreds of hours to prepare for the event each year and collaboration with dozens of other state and federal agencies to make the Rally as safe as possible.

It goes without saying that Shawn Fischer with Sturgis Fire and Emergency Services is the expert in the state for EMS Planning/Implementation for large events. Year after year, under Shawn’s leadership, the EMS side of the Rally goes off without a hitch, and the Sturgis community should be proud of the job she does, as well as her team and the Fire Department.

The Sturgis Rally is truly a team event. All of the services work hand-in-hand with one another, share information and resources, and back each other up however and whenever needed.

Each morning during the Rally week, we have a conference call with all the area ambulance services and hospital representatives, as well as other state and federal agency representatives to share information on the previous day numbers, issues/concerns, any resources needed for the day or following days, upcoming events, staging/planning, as well as information from the Fusion Center, Homeland Security, etc.

For this year’s Rally, the area ambulance services transported over 900 patients from August 4 - 13.

Questions or More Information? Contact:

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605-941-1209 (cell)
605-367-5366 (fax)
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Eastern EMS Specialist
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