



# PULSE SD



SD Dept. of Health — Office of EMS & Trauma

OFFICE OF EMS & TRAUMA'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

December 2023

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## Administrator's Update

By Marty Link, Office of EMS & Trauma Administrator

I wanted to write a final note for the 2023 newsletter. I'm thankful for the opportunity to have served such a wonderful industry of healthcare professionals in the EMS arena. I'm thankful for the funding from Governor Noem and the legislature. I'm grateful for our leadership within the Department of Health, particularly Secretary Melissa and Division Director Emily!

I'm also grateful for the men and women of EMS. Your dedication, resolve, unselfish ambition to help others in need continues to be humbling to me. We've accomplished so much over this past year; we've had mountaintop experiences and traversed through some dark valleys. Nevertheless, we continue to see a brighter future, hope, an impactful legacy, and service to others. Thank you for answering that God given calling on your life! Your rewards will be out of this world.

For 2024, be ready, be confident, remain steadfast. I believe this coming year will be a year of transformation for EMS in SD. We're accustomed to leading industry changing initiatives never seen before. As we look into 2024, we'll be looking to raise up a team of vested stakeholders so determined to rock the very core of what we thought EMS was—and we are going to reform it as a potter forms clay in his hands. That takes dedication and a strong spirit. It takes strength, unity, and forward vision. It will take a village. This will not be small potatoes; it won't be low-hanging fruit. It's going to take leadership and a group of people who see beyond themselves united for a common goal.

Are you up for the challenge?

For now, be blessed!

Marty



## South Dakota EMS Regional Service Designation Report

By South Dakota Department of Health

During each of our monthly EMS webinars and on several other occasions in the past two years, we spoke frequently about the work being done with the Regional Services Designation report. Thanks to Governor Noem and the 2022 South Dakota Legislature, \$20 million (ARPA federal funding) was infused into the South Dakota Department of Health to support three statewide Emergency Medical Services (EMS) initiatives. These dollars have significantly advanced EMS across South Dakota in the past two years; including the development of a one of a kind Telemedicine in Motion concept, LIFEPAK 15 replacement monitors, and this assessment of the sustainability of EMS in our state (or Regional Services Designation report).

This sustainability assessment (completed in partnership with Healthcare Strategists) provides a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the state of EMS across the state with the goal of ensuring long-term sustainability for the industry. The report was generated through a compilation of over 400 stakeholder interviews in 8 months and a comprehensive review of historical performance data and surveys. Thanks to many of you and your teams! This was the largest lift among the 3 initiatives and nothing to this magnitude had ever been done before.

EMS stakeholders participated at meetings within each ambulance district, during the annual conferences for the South Dakota Ambulance Association and EMS Association, the statewide trauma conference, remote interviews, and 7 virtual listening sessions.

Understanding the current ambulance system and identifying the strengths and improvement opportunities was essential in this report and through the gathering of recommendations.

**The two reports can be found on our website: [EMS.sd.gov](https://www.ems.sd.gov)**

- Full Report (41 pages)
- Briefing (3 pages) which includes the **key findings that we will be embarking on in the short term and the next steps.**

Within the full report, each recommendation has a designated time period starting with short-term (less than 24 months), medium-term (24-48 months), and long-term (greater than 48 months). The terms are based on the complexity and number of stakeholders necessary for implementation. They are estimates that will need further review before establishing related action items.

We will continue to keep you informed on the work that is underway through our monthly EMS webinars.

On behalf of the team at the Department of Health, thank you for allowing us to share this work and these documents with you.



## New South Dakota Trauma Medical Director

By Jamie Zilverberg—Office of EMS & Trauma



The Office of EMS and Trauma has designated a new Trauma Medical Director.

As of December 1, 2023, Dr. Michael Person, MD, has assumed this position, taking over from the former co-medical directors, Dr. Paul Bjordahl, MD, and Dr. Robert Miller, MD, whose term concluded on November 30, 2023.

Dr. Michael Person, MD, will work in close coordination with Trauma Program Manager Jamie Zilverberg to advance the ongoing development of the South Dakota trauma system.

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## EMT Recertification

By Lance Iversen—Office of EMS & Trauma

EMTs who's South Dakota EMT Certification will expire this cycle (March 31, 2024) can log into their E-Licensing account (<https://southdakota.imagetrendlicense.com/lms/public/portal#/login>) and apply for recertification.

If your SD EMT certification expires, you are not legally able to function as an EMT on a SD Licensed Ambulance Service.

Renewing your National Registry Certification **does not** automatically renew your SD EMT Certification. If you plan to keep your SD EMT Certification you have to log into your E-Licensing account and apply for recertification.

If you need help navigating around your E-Licensing account, we have detailed step-by-step instruction guides for nearly every area of the system which are located on the Office of EMS & Trauma's website. This is the direct link to the page where all the instruction guides are located: <https://doh.sd.gov/health-care-professionals/ems-trauma-program/ems-licensing/>

Please keep your contact information up-to-date in your E-Licensing account, such as your phone number, mailing address and email address. All Reminder Notices to Renew (90 day, 30 Day and 15 Day Final Notice) is sent via email to the email address in the person's E-Licensing Account.

*System emails will come from either DoNotReplyEMS@state.sd.us or noreply@imagetrend.com. If it does not come to your inbox, check your Junk or Spam folder. Some email systems may block these emails as they are No Reply emails. You can add these email addresses to your email contact list or safe list so they come to your inbox.*

## Ambulance Inspections

By Julie Smithson—Office of EMS & Trauma

During the COVID 19 Pandemic in 2020, we allowed ambulance service leadership (Directors, Assistant Directors, and Operations Managers) to complete required inspections (Self-Inspections) of their ambulance(s)/vehicles.

Inspections of your ambulance(s) is required within your service's two-year license period and the application to do this is in your E-Licensing account under "Applications", then "View Service Applications" for your ambulance service.

Within your E-Licensing account, you can also complete an application to add a new vehicle, update, or remove a vehicle for your service. You can also view the status of your vehicles under your "Service" tab then "Vehicles". If you have a vehicle (ambulance, air or ground) that is coming up on its expiration date, please complete the self-inspection application before your Ambulance Service License expiration date (June 30, 2024), and before you submit your Ambulance Service License Renewal Application (between April 1 – June 30, 2024).

Beginning on your next ambulance service license period (July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2026) all ambulances (vehicles) inspection dates will expire at the same time as your service license and will match the vehicle permit stickers.

The Office of EMS & Trauma will perform random in-person inspections of ambulances throughout the two-year license period.

If you have any questions, please contact: Julie Smithson at [Julie.smithson@state.sd.us](mailto:Julie.smithson@state.sd.us)

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## Telemedicine In Motion

By John Gruber—Avel

### **92 ambulance agencies live with Avel EMS services and 900 encounters!**

It's been a great year for Telemedicine in Motion. So many memories come to mind as I reflect on this past year – from participating in an encounter with an EMT on her very first call, coordinating care for a level 1 trauma, meeting a number of you at training events and so many more. Avel has been so impressed by EMS personnel engagement across all areas of our partnership. Ultimately your commitment to your community and the people you care for has risen to the top. Our goal is to continue to provide you assistance and support during your ambulance calls in any way possible. As Avel enters the second full year of this partnership, I am excited to see the impact we will have together on prehospital care.

#### ***Telemedicine in Motion reminders;***

- Please ensure you or your staff are doing regular equipment checks, ideally once a week. This practice ensures that the equipment is functioning properly and will not be a barrier to utilization when you have a patient.
- Continue to respond to the post encounter surveys. This survey response helps Avel ensure our services are beneficial and will communicate value of the service to the state.
- Log in to AveLearn and take the EMS utilization course.

## 2024 EMS Day On The Hill

By Maynard Konechne

**EMS Day On The Hill is in Pierre on January 29, 2024.**

### **Attention all South Dakota EMS!**

During EMS Day, we will attend committee meetings at 7:30am and 10:00am.

If possible, we will have a picture taken with the Governor between 11:00am and 1:00pm.

The House and Senate convene at 2:00pm.

We will wrap up the day by having a social with legislators in the evening at the Ramkota Hotel from 5:30pm to 8:00pm.

If you plan to attend or have any questions, please let me know. - Maynard

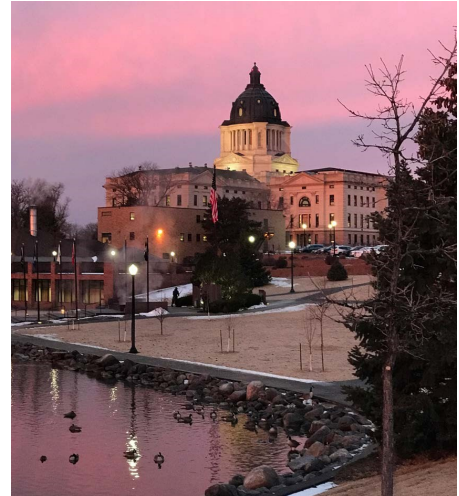
- Cell: 605-730-0462
- E-mail: [mjkemtkc@hotmail.com](mailto:mjkemtkc@hotmail.com)

Sponsored by:

South Dakota Emergency Medical Service Association (SDEMSEA)

South Dakota Ambulance Association (SDAA)

SDEMSEA Instructor Coordinator Society.



### **2023 EMS Day On The Hill (pictured)**

**Front Row:** Emily McQuire - Spearfish; Brian Hambeck-Spearfish; Maynard Konechne-Kimball; Becky Van-deKieft-AVEL; John Grubber-AVEL.

**Second Row-**Dr. Price - AVEL; Tate Hayford-Madison; Doug Glover-Mitchell; Shawn Fischer-Sturgis; Dr. Kelly Rhone-AVEL.

**Back Row-** Scott Larson-Highmore; Chuck Hansen-Selby; Courtney Walker-Sturgis; Elizabeth Verhey-Spearfish





## DOH Secretary visits Rapid City EMS

By South Dakota Department of Health

On October 26, 2023, Melissa Magstadt, Cabinet Secretary with South Dakota Department of Health, and Emily Kiel, Director with DOH Division of Healthcare Access, toured EMS sites in Rapid City.

To better understand EMS in western South Dakota, Secretary Magstadt and Director Kiel visited Western Dakota Technical College; Monument Health’s SIM Program; and Rapid City Department of Fire & EMS

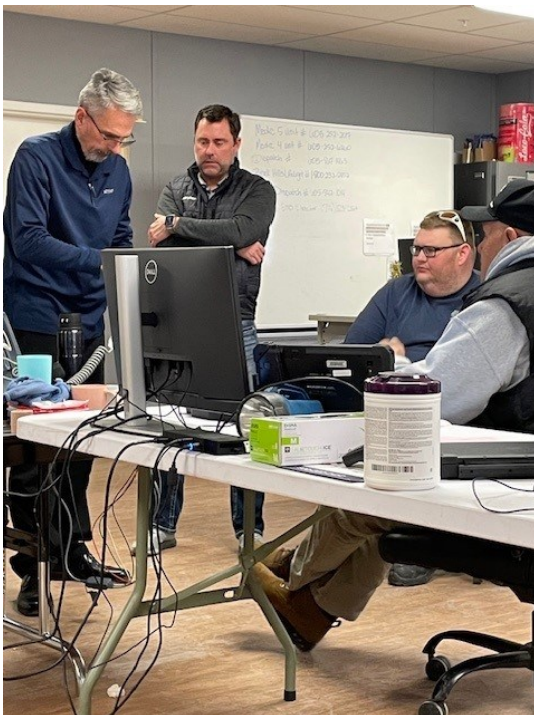
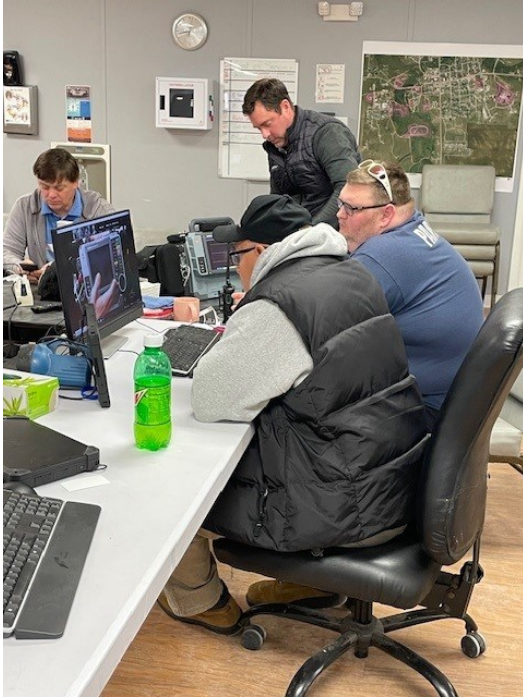




## LifePak 15 Initiative Ends

By South Dakota Department of Health

On November 29, the last of the LifePak 15 monitors and training were delivered to Pine Ridge, South Dakota. This completes the LifePak 15 for SD EMS Project.



**SDAA Annual Conference**  
**February 10 & 11, 2024**  
**AmericInn, Ft. Pierre, SD**



**Intended Audience:**

- Directors
- Chiefs
- Coordinators
- \* Managers
- \* Supervisors
- \* Anyone interested leadership topics

**Presenters Include:**

- Steve Wirth - PWW
- Matt Zavadsky - MedStar Mobile Healthcare
- OPMAP - Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program
- SD Health Department - Office of EMS & Trauma
- And more

**Friday, February 9, 2024**

- 10:00am - 5:00pm - **Certified Ambulance Documentation Specialist (CADS) Course**  
 10:00am - 5:00pm - **Ambulance Billing & Communication Building Trust Performance Management**

**Saturday, February 10, 2024**

- 8:30am - 9am - **Registration**  
 9:00am - 10:00am - **Slaying EMS Sacred Cows**  
 10:15am - 11:15am - **Navigating the Perfect Storm**  
 11:30am - 12:30pm - **Malpractice or Murder**  
 1:30pm - 2:30pm - **EMS on the Hot Seat**  
 2:45pm - 3:45pm - **Community Paramedic vs CHW**  
 4:00pm - 5:00pm - **Question Answer Session**

**Sunday, February 11, 2024**

- 9:00am - 9:30am - **OD MAP Presentation**  
 9:30am - 10:30am - **DOH Office of EMS & Trauma** with Marty Link & Emily Kiel  
 10:30am - 11:30am - **Round Table**  
 11:30am - **SDAA Business Meeting**

For more information, go to: <https://sdaa.wildapricot.org/>



## **SDAA Pre-Conference CADS Certification Course**

By South Dakota Ambulance Association

**February 9, 2024**  
**AmericInn, Ft. Pierre, SD**  
**Class Time 10am - 5pm**

In the Certified Ambulance Documentation Specialist (CADS) certification is the first offered by NAAC that is specifically geared for EMTs, paramedics and other EMS field practitioners. It is also appropriate for EMS QA/QI personnel, supervisors/managers, compliance officers, billers and anyone else involved in EMS clinical care or any aspect of the ambulance service revenue cycle.

Every one of your agency's EMS field providers should take the CADS course. Having providers at your agency with the CADS credential shows a true commitment to quality care and top-notch documentation by your agency.

The CADS certification can give providers the edge by:

- Opening new doors
- Advancing their career
- Improving their status as a healthcare professional

For more information: <https://sdaa.wildapricot.org/>

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## **SDAA Pre-Conference Leadership Track**

By South Dakota Ambulance Association

**February 9, 2024**  
**AmericInn, Ft. Pierre, SD**  
**Class Time 10am - 5pm**

Ambulance Billing  
&  
Communication Building  
Trust Performance Management  
Presented by PCC Billing & Matt Zavadsky

For more information: <https://sdaa.wildapricot.org/>



SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

600 East Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501  
(605) 773-4031

## South Dakota Office of EMS & Trauma

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## Office of EMS & Trauma Contacts

[EMS.sd.gov](http://EMS.sd.gov)



### Sioux Falls

#### **Marty Link**

*Office of EMS & Trauma Administrator*

4101 W. 38th Street, Suite 102

Sioux Falls, SD 57106-0741

(605) 367-5372 (office)

(605) 941-1209 (cell)

[Marty.Link@state.sd.us](mailto:Marty.Link@state.sd.us)

### Pierre

#### **Bob Hardwick**

*Central EMS Specialist*

*Recertifications*

600 East Capitol Ave.

Pierre, SD 57501

(605) 773-4031 (office)

[Bob.Hardwick@state.sd.us](mailto:Bob.Hardwick@state.sd.us)

#### **Jamie Silverberg**

*Trauma Program Manager*

*Eastern EMS Specialist*

600 East Capitol Ave.

Pierre, SD 57501

(605) 773-3308 (office)

[Jamie.Silverberg@state.sd.us](mailto:Jamie.Silverberg@state.sd.us)

### Rapid City

#### **Lance Iversen**

*Educational & Professional Standards Coordinator*

*EMS Data Manager*

221 Mall Drive, Suite 202

Rapid City, SD 57701

(605) 394-6027 (office)

(605) 394-1677 (fax)

[Lance.Iversen@state.sd.us](mailto:Lance.Iversen@state.sd.us)

#### **Julie Smithson**

*Western EMS Specialist*

221 Mall Drive, Suite 202

Rapid City, SD 57701

(605) 394-5113 (office)

[Julie.Smithson@state.sd.us](mailto:Julie.Smithson@state.sd.us)