



PULSE SD



SD Dept. of Health—Office of EMS & Trauma

OFFICE OF EMS & TRAUMA'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

December 2022

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Director's Update

By Marty Link, EMS Program Director

We are a month away from closing out another year. Time seems to go by so quickly in the business of life. I hope each of you have an opportunity to spend time with friends and family during the holiday season reflecting on the many blessings in life and remembering those who have gone before us.

This year has been incredibly busy for our team. During the legislative session, Governor Noem advocated for and the SD legislature approved nearly \$20 million for Emergency Medical Services. In June, the Department of Health conducted a reorganization moving the EMS Program from under the Office of Rural Health to form a new office - The Office of EMS and Trauma. South Dakota was the third state to adopt the National EMS Information System version 3.5 upgrade. And recently, our office underwent a three phased strategic planning process with the final version to be completed by year's end.

In addition, we partnered with the Avel eCare Medical Group and are well underway of creating the first of its kind - Telemedicine in Motion - a transformational endeavor to bring telemedicine in the back of ambulances. We've ordered 345 LIFEPAK monitor/defibrillators to be placed in every licensed ambulance in the state and we are in the final stages of securing a contract for our Regional Service Designation initiative with Healthcare Strategists - a consulting firm out of California.

On a national level, we advocated for various EMS initiatives at the National Association of State EMS Officials annual and mid-year meetings, NASEMSO Board meetings and retreats, and took leadership roles in chairing the NASEMSO Western Plains Region meetings.

As I glance back at our full calendars and the tremendous amount of work invested in EMS, I believe wholeheartedly all the work will be worth the effort. I can say this in confidence knowing that the work supports the brave men and women serving our citizens day in and day out.

Continued on next page

Director's Update Continued

By Marty Link, EMS Program Director

I also know the work you do can take a toll physically, mentally, and emotionally. Please know there are resources available, people that care, arms ready for an embrace, and shoulders available to take a tear or two... I recently read an obituary written by a mom who lost her 21-year-old son to suicide. It was one of the most profound obituaries I have ever read - and I cannot imagine how difficult it was to write.

Those who know me well understand I have a heart for people - please make sure your tank is full, it's ok to take some time for yourself, refill, refresh, and continue the great work you all do!

Be blessed,



Outstanding Contribution to Public Health Award

By Josie Petersen, Health Program Specialist, SD DOH

Marty Link is an individual with a passion to help others and to provide healthcare services across South Dakota. He has been involved in numerous projects over his 20+ years of working in Emergency Medical Services. These projects have included EMS Workforce, EMS Leadership, SIM_SD, establishing a Trauma program, dispersing medical equipment, providing trainings, and working to ensure reliable ambulance coverage across South Dakota. He works on a regular basis with many partners across the state and is known for his knowledge, dedication, and passion for EMS.

Marty continues to work to ensure state access for healthcare services across South Dakota by helping to implement telehealth services in ambulances, distribute defibrillator devices, and looking at sustainability of ambulance services.

His commitment to providing quality emergency medical services to the citizens of South Dakota was recognized with the "Outstanding Contribution to Public Health Award" given by Joan Adam, Cabinet Secretary, SD DOH on December 7, 2022 in Pierre.



New NEMSIS V3.5 ePCR Form Going Live January 1st, 2023

By Lance Iversen, EMS Data Manager & Educational & Professional Standards Coord.

All Direct Users of the DOH's ImageTrend Elite ePCR system will be moved to the new NEMSIS Version 3.5 ePCR form on or before January 1st, 2023.

All Third-Party Users/Vendors will have until the end of the first quarter of 2023 to transition/import V3.5 data into our repository – and import data going back to January 1st, 2023.

If your service is ready to move to the new form now (or prior to January 1st), please let Lance know and we will turn on 3.5 and inactivate the current/old ePCR form.

If you would like to look at the new form or do practice charts before your transition, instead of entering your username and password you will enter:

Username: Training3

Password: Training@2

Thank you to the 25 services who have transitioned to the new V3.5 ePCR Form early!

Telemedicine in Motion

By Marty Link, EMS Program Director

Many of you are aware of the partnership between the Department of Health and Avel eCare Medical Group. For the past several months, we have gone from first time introductions to what feels like an extended family. I have been incredibly impressed by Avel's team, dedication, and commitment to this partnership.

As of this writing, we are well underway with our five pilot sites. Dell Rapids and Kimball Ambulance each have equipment installed and are live. Humboldt and Sturgis have already undergone implementation calls and will be live in the next few weeks.

As a reminder, ambulance service directors were emailed a short survey to complete indicating their level of interest in this pioneering initiative. We are currently seeking early adopters during our phase one approach with the aim of having 60 ambulances live by May 31st, 2023.



South Dakota Announces Next Generation of EMS Services

PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA: The South Dakota Department of Health (DOH) is pleased to announce the launch of a new telehealth partnership between DOH, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Agencies, and Sioux Falls-based telemedicine provider, Avel eCare. This initiative will use telemedicine to transform the delivery of care provided to patients throughout the state. During the 2022 Legislative session, Governor Noem requested, and the South Dakota Legislature approved, three funding initiatives to infuse up to \$20 million into EMS in South Dakota. Telemedicine in Motion is one of the three initiatives, with a budget of \$1.7 million dollars. Avel eCare was selected after a nationwide Request for Proposals process.

“Telemedicine in Motion will connect EMS agencies throughout South Dakota to board certified Emergency Physicians and registered nurses via telemedicine from Avel eCare,” said Joan Adam, DOH Cabinet Secretary. “Many of our EMS agencies experience long distances to travel, when our residents need care the most. Through Telemedicine in Motion, Avel will provide virtual triage and consulting services to EMS professionals through two-way audio and video in the back of the ambulance. This initiative will improve the coordination of care between our EMS providers and hospitals.”

The partnership with Avel offers each participating licensed ground ambulance service in South Dakota a telehealth solution that will include the necessary hardware, software, installation, training, support, and telehealth subscription for professional consulting services at no cost. Avel will work directly with EMS providers on the initial installation and continued support. The goal is to support the retention and recruitment of EMS workforce with access to on-demand support.

"Avel eCare is honored to partner with the South Dakota Department of Health to deliver telemedicine services to our EMS agencies across the state " commented Becky Vande Kieft, Vice President and General Manager of Emergency Services at Avel eCare. "We have deep roots in South Dakota, and our team of clinicians look forward to helping these EMS professionals - our friends and neighbors - manage patient care and promote high quality outcomes while in transit."

The communities of Dell Rapids and Humboldt have already received equipment installation and are undergoing testing this week. The DOH and Avel aim to have at least 60 EMS agencies up and running with virtual telemedicine capabilities by next spring.

“This investment in the future of EMS in South Dakota ensures a seamless care experience in the most critical times,” said Secretary Adam. “The model of care we established through this public-private partnership is unprecedented. This statewide initiative is the first of its kind and is a pioneering opportunity to advance care to patients and support pre-hospital professionals.”

Learn more by visiting <https://ems.sd.gov/initiatives/>





South Dakota EMS

TELEMEDICINE IN MOTION

ACCESS TO CARE,
ANYWHERE

Support for those who respond at a moment's notice

Telemedicine in Motion: EMS is a new program designed to provide telemedicine services to EMS agencies throughout the state of South Dakota. Agencies who participate will now be able to install an iPad in the back of their ambulance and use the tool to call Avel eCare's emergency medicine experts who are based in Sioux Falls. Now, whenever the EMS professionals need help, they can quickly call and interact with doctors and nurses while in transit. This partnership was made possible thanks to Governor Noem's leadership and call for increased funding to support local EMS agencies and the communities they serve. This program is a first-of-its-kind in the nation, and will help sustain the future of EMS in our state.



EASY

- EMS professionals call and are quickly connected to the Emergency team via a telehealth-enabled iPad
- The service is available 24/7/365, when and where it is needed

HIGH QUALITY

- Avel's board-certified Emergency physicians and expert nurses stand by to help the EMS teams
- Patient outcomes and EMS satisfaction will be closely tracked to ensure Avel is meeting expectations

RELIABLE

- This program uses cutting-edge technology that optimizes connectivity and helps ensure a low drop rate
- EMS crews can rely on Avel's ability to maintain a connection, even in some of the most remote and rural areas of the state



Learn More:

<https://ems.sd.gov/initiatives/>

Form 0004-22 CLIN.EMS (Rev. 11/22)

Rural Healthcare Facility Recruitment Assistance Program

The Rural Healthcare Facility Recruitment Assistance Program provides a \$10,000 payment to eligible health professionals who complete a three-year, full-time service commitment. The health professional must enter into a three-way contract between the employing facility and the state. Eligible facilities must be located in a community with a population of 10,000 or less. Applications must be submitted by employing facility with a limit of 3 participants per employing facility.

Eligible occupations

Dietitian or Nutritionist
Nurse (LPN or RN)
Occupational therapist
Respiratory therapist
Laboratory technologist
Pharmacist
Physical therapist
Paramedic
Medical technologist
Radiologic technologist
Speech therapist
Healthcare social worker

Eligible facilities

South Dakota licensed:
Hospitals
Nursing homes
Federally certified home health agencies
Chemical dependency treatment facilities
Community support providers
Community mental health centers
Ambulance services
ESRD facilities
Community health centers (FQHCs)
Intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities

The Rural Healthcare Facility Recruitment Assistance Program accepts [applications](#) from May 1 - December 31 each year. After printing, please sign and date the form. Applications can be mailed to the Office of Rural Health, 600 East Capitol, Pierre, SD 57501, or faxed to 605-773-5683.

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

For more information contact the South Dakota Office of Rural Health, 600 E. Capitol, Pierre, SD, 57501; phone 1-800-738-2301.

<https://doh.sd.gov/providers/ruralhealth/recruitment/Facility/default.aspx>

2023 EMS Day at the Capitol in Pierre on January 30, 2023

By Maynard Konechne

Attention all South Dakota EMS,

Committee meetings at 7:30 and 10:00

Possible picture with the Governor between 11:00 and 1:00 if she is around.
(never know until usually Friday sometimes.)

House and Senate convene at 2:00 we go to both and usually get recognized when they see us
gather in the gallery

Social at the Ramkota (Lake Sharpe Room) 5:30-8:00 Legislators come and go as they wish

If you plan to attend let me know if possible.

Cell: 605-730-0462

e-mail: mjkemtkc@hotmail.com



Sponsored by South Dakota Emergency Medical Service Association (SDEMSA), South Dakota Ambulance Association (SDAA), and SDEMSA IC Society.



2022 EMS Day Picture

2022 Trauma Conference

By Jamie Zilverberg, Trauma Program Manager/Eastern EMS Specialist

The South Dakota Department of Health in conjunction with the ATLS Taskforce put on the Annual South Dakota Statewide Trauma Conference.

The conference took place in Spearfish on September 27th and 28th.

There was over 100 of individuals in attendance with 42 different healthcare facilities represented.

The conference was attended by individuals of multiple different disciplines within the healthcare field, with the main focus on Trauma Coordinators/ Registrars and Trauma Medical Directors.

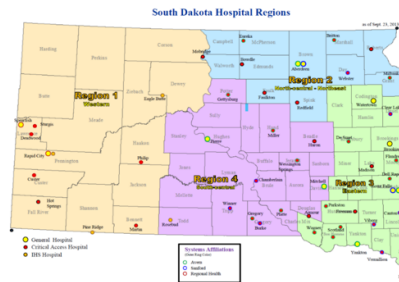
The theme for this years conference was Performance Improvement, and focused on maturing Performance Improvement Programs within the state’s trauma system. Individuals were educated on best practices, and what it takes in order to have a successful PI Program, which in turn should improve trauma patient outcomes.



Thank you to all who made sure this conference was a success!

Trauma PI Meetings

By Jamie Zilverberg, Trauma Program Manager/Eastern EMS Specialist



Regional Trauma Performance Improvement State Calls 2023

REGION 1 Held at Noon MT	REGION 2 Held at Noon CT	REGION 3 Held at Noon CT	REGION 4 Held at Noon CT
February 16 th	February 16 th	January 19 th	March 16 th
May 18 th	May 18 th	April 20 th	June 15 th
July 20 th	August 17 th	July 20 th	September- CONFERENCE
September- CONFERENCE	September- CONFERENCE	September- CONFERENCE	December 14 th
November 16 th	November 16 th	October 19 th	

Remainder of the Calls for 2022

- Region 1- November 17th- Held at Noon MST
- Region 2- November 17th- Held at Noon CST
- Region 4- December 1st- Held at Noon CST

****PLEASE reach out to your local Trauma Coordinator for an invite.**

MUST sign Confidentiality Statement and submit to Jamie.Zilverberg@state.sd.us

EMS Welcome

2023 South Dakota Ambulance Association Conference

REGISTRATION FEE:
Current SDAA Members
 \$150- prior to 01/27/2023
 \$175- on or after 01/27/2023

Non-Members
 \$225- prior to 01/27/2023
 \$250- on or after 01/27/2023

FEES INCLUDE:
 All classes Saturday and Sunday
 Lunch & Dinner Saturday

Extra Dinner Ticket
 \$20 - Extra Dinner Ticket for
 Saturday Dinner

PRE-CONFERENCE:
Current SDAA Members
 \$50 - prior to 01/27/2023
 \$75 - on or after 01/27/2023

Non-Members
 \$150 - prior to 01/27/2023
 \$200 - on or after 01/27/2023

ACCOMMODATIONS:
 Rooms are available at:
 (Mention that you need to be in
 the block of rooms for the SD
 Ambulance Association
 Conference)

Clubhouse Hotel & Suites
 Phone: 605-494-2582

OUR PURPOSE
 THIS IS A NON-PROFIT, NON-SECTARIAN, VOLUNTARY, PRIVATE ORGANIZATION
 INCORPORATED FOR THE FOLLOWING:
 TO PROVIDE AN ORGANIZED AND UNIFIED VOICE FOR AMBULANCE
 SERVICES TO INTERMEDIARIES, LEGISLATORS AND REGULATORY BODIES.
 TO DEVELOP AND PROMOTE A CODE OF ETHICS FOR AMBULANCE
 SERVICES.
 TO PROVIDE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF APPROPRIATE INFORMATION WITH
 THOSE INTERESTED IN AMBULANCE SERVICES AND PRE-HOSPITAL
 MEDICAL CARE.
 TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING, COOPERATION AND COMMUNICATION
 AMONG AMBULANCE SERVICES.
 TO DEVELOP AND PROMOTE PROFESSIONALISM AND QUALITY STANDARDS
 OF PATIENT CARE AND ASSURANCE OF QUALITY IN THE AMBULANCE
 INDUSTRY.
 TO INITIATE, SPONSOR AND PROMOTE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, COST-
 SAVING PROJECTS AND RESEARCH IN THE AMBULANCE INDUSTRY.
 TO ASSEMBLE AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ISSUES AND
 NEEDS OF AMBULANCE SERVICES.
 TO ESTABLISH COOPERATIVE LIAISON ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER
 ASSOCIATIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES INTERESTED IN THE
 IMPROVEMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL
 PROVIDERS OF AMBULANCE CARE IN GENERAL.
 TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA.

More Info :

- 605-641-1876. Brian
- 605-499-8852 Shawn
- 605-661-2246 Nicole
- www.sdambulance.org
- PRESIDENT@SDAMBULANCE.ORG
SHAWN@STURGISGOV.COM
- PO Box 543
Spearfish, SD 57783



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY
10-11-12th



PRESENTORS



FRIDAY

10AM-5PM
LEADERSHIP TRAINING

THE HARD WORK OF BECOMING A
 BETTER LEADER STARTS WITH
 OURSELVES. "THE INNER GAME" IS ALL
 ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO TO
 IMPROVE YOURSELF AND IN TURN,
 YOUR LEADERSHIP.



LEAH BRAUN IS MANAGING PARTNER WITH
 NSIGHT PARTNERS. LEAH RETIRED FROM THE
 SOUTH DAKOTA NATIONAL GUARD AT THE
 RANK OF MASTER SERGEANT AFTER 22 YEARS
 OF MILITARY SERVICE, WHERE SHE BEGAN TO
 HONE HER PASSION FOR WORKING WITH
 PEOPLE.

SATURDAY

11:30-12:30
REPORT WRITING
1:15-2:15
DOCUMENTATION

2:30-3:00
BRAD WILSON/SDML

3:30-4:30
**COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE
 WORKER GRANTS**

4:30- 6:00
**MEDICAID SUPPLEMENTAL
 PAYMENT - PCG**

7:00
**BANQUET FOLLOWED BY
 ENTERTAINMENT**

SUNDAY

8:30-9:30
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 UPDATES**

10:15 - 11:15
ROUND TABLE
11:30-12:30

BUSINESS MEETING

SATURDAY

8:00 -8:30
REGISTRATION

8:30-10
**MEDICARE COST
 REPORTING**

10:15 - 11:15
QA / QI

2023 Homeland Security Grants—Open Application Period

By June Snyder, Program Manager, Department of Public Safety

Applications for Homeland Security grant funding are being accepted from January 1 - February 17. The South Dakota Office of Homeland Security provides grant funding through an application and award process to a variety of organizations including fire departments. Funding will be awarded for one-time projects that have a connection to Homeland Security by providing protection against terrorism threats.

Examples of allowable expenses include for public or private/non-profit Emergency Medical Services include P25 radios compatible with the State Radio system, pagers for 1st responders, radio signal amplifiers, repeaters, specialized medical equipment, training and exercises.

Awards are competitive and will be based on recommendations of regional review committees. Funding for projects will become available on or about Sept. 1, 2023. Award agreements will be generated after funding becomes available; projects cannot start before the award date.

Questions? Find more information on the [South Dakota Homeland Security Grants](#) webpage or call 605-773-3450.

To apply for a Homeland Security grant, apply online at <https://sddpsigx.intelligrants.com/> by Feb. 17, 2023.

Wanted: EMS Departments for Service Spotlight for PulseSD

By Julie Smithson, Western EMS Specialist

Do you want to tell the state about your Emergency Medical Service? We are looking for EMS Department to feature in our quarterly newsletter.

If interested, please contact Julie Smithson at Julie.smithson@state.sd.us



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SD EMS Spotlight Service

Nicole Nengsthaus — Douglas County Armour Ambulance

Douglas County Armour Ambulance started in 1970 after a new mortician moved to town. The ambulance has sustained itself through various trials. It is currently owned by the county and managed/run by the county and hospital. We have seven active EMTs and three EVOIC drivers. We are all volunteers and take pride in what we do.

This past year, we encountered various problems with our ambulance and decided we needed to purchase a new vehicle. Through a lot of hard work from our crew, we were able to raise \$127,000 in donations in four months. Our community is very supportive and our crews committed to keeping our ambulance service alive and prosperous so that we can be available when needed.

DC Armour Ambulance does an average of 150 calls per year. This includes transfers to other higher-level facilities. We do monthly training, along with other special training throughout the state. We also provide training throughout the year, such as CPR in Schools, Stop the Bleed, Seat Belt Safety, Trauma Awareness, Bike Helmet safety, etc. We are currently the host location for the online Sanford EMT class and provide Practical training on Saturdays to 21 students in our area.

Our service is a member of the South Dakota Ambulance Association and our crew is all members of the South Dakota EMS Association. We are involved with the legislature to help guide and sustain EMS in SD for the future. Armour Ambulance received the 2021 EMS Volunteer Service of the Year Award at the EMS convention in October. We also received the 2021 Safety Award at the SDAA conference in February of this year. Awareness of EMS is very important to us, and we are available for any emergency need that arises.

South Dakota Department of Health—Office of Rural Health—EMS Program

EMT Recertification Reminder

By Lance Iversen, EMS Data Manager & Educational & Professional Standards Coord.

SD Certified EMTs who will expire on March 31st, 2023 can log into their E-Licensing account now thru the end of March to recertify.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If the EMT fails to renew prior to his/her expiration date (their SD EMT Certification is expired), the person will have to go through the Federal (FBI) and State (SD DCI) Criminal History Background Checks (fingerprinting), before we can reinstate their SD EMT Certification.

We require EMTs to have a minimum of 20 hours of EMS Continuing Education in different topic areas:

- Airway, Respiratory & Ventilation – 1.5 Hours
- Cardiovascular – 6 Hours
- Trauma – 1.5Hours
- Medical – 6 Hours
- Operations – 5 Hours
- Plus CPR for Healthcare Providers

If you will be renewing your SD EMT Certification using National Registry, be sure you upload your NEW National Registry Card in your application and not your expiring National Registry Card.

If you will be renewing your SD EMT Certification using Continuing Education Hours (not National Registry), please be sure you have the required hours before you submit your application, or your application will be rejected.

NOTE: Renewing your National Registry Certification does not automatically renew your State EMT Certification. Everyone has to log into their E-Licensing account and apply for their SD EMT Certification.





SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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

South Dakota Office of EMS & Trauma

IMPROVE

SUPPORT

STRENGTHEN



Office of EMS & Trauma Contacts



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Websites

[EMS Program Website](#)
[SD Dept. of Health Website](#)
[Trauma Program Website](#)
[E-Licensing Website](#)
[South Dakota Govt. Website](#)