



# PULSE SD



SD Dept. of Health — Office of EMS & Trauma

OFFICE OF EMS & TRAUMA'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

March 2023

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## Director's Update

By Marty Link, EMS Program Director

It's hard to believe March is already here. As you can imagine, the past two months have been extremely busy. The Office of EMS and Trauma continues to work on our three major initiatives.

- Telemedicine in Motion is now live in 19 services.
- 42 LIFEPAK 15s have been delivered to services most in need of replacement.
- Healthcare Strategists have begun the great work of conducting a statewide assessment of EMS.
- Over 150 boxes of Naloxone have been distributed amongst EMS agencies, law enforcement, and public school systems.
- The 2023 legislative session is nearing its end.

We are excited for what the remainder of this year will bring to EMS. Our role is to advocate for the great work you have done and continue to do across this great state.

Thank you!

Marty Link



SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

## Office of EMS & Trauma's Ambulance Service Leadership Webinar

By Marty Link, EMS Program Director

Each month, the Office of EMS & Trauma hosts a webinar of what is happening with EMS in South Dakota. The webinar targets EMS Officers and Leaders within the state. These webinars are the first Monday of the month at 2pm (central) for an hour.

February Topics included:

- Telemedicine in Motion update
- LifePak 15 update
- Regional Service3 Designation update
- SD Statewide Radio System Project 25 update
- Naloxone Project update
- Helmsley AED Project (First Responders - Highway Patrol, law enforcement, Tribal BIA, and GFP)
- Community Health Worker EMS Perspective
- Trauma Team Activation Criteria
- ImageTrend Elite - New NEMSIS V3.5 ePCR Form
- EMT Recertification Reminder

Next Webinar is Monday, April 3, 2023 at 2pm (central).

## Regional Service Designation (\$8 million)

By Marty Link, EMS Program Director

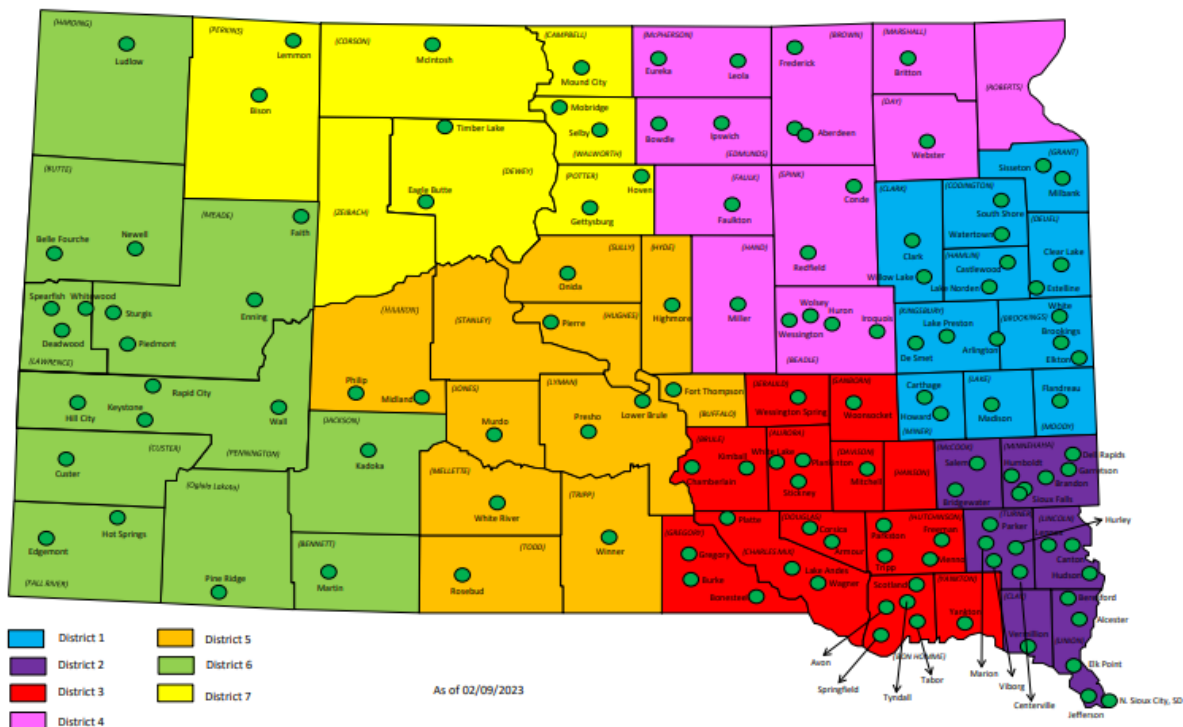
Regional Service Designation will provide a comprehensive analysis of the state of EMS in SD followed by planning grant opportunities e.g., development and implementation of regional hubs, billing software solutions, supply procurement systems, and more.

The Department has contracted with Healthcare Strategists (HS). They have a combined experience of over 200 years with subject matter expertise in each of the respective areas above. They have presented a forward vision of EMS systems development and have familiarity with working with ImageTrend—our ePCR and LMS vendor; this is essential for data analysis, reporting, and understanding of the National EMS Information System structure.

- Healthcare Strategists attended the SD Ambulance Association conference in February of 2023. In addition to attending this conference, Healthcare Strategists and their team attended two different districts meetings to gather information regarding EMS in South Dakota.
- Healthcare Strategists is currently developing a data summary request to the DOH.

The total project cost will not exceed \$187,000.00.

South Dakota EMS Association's District Map



## Telehealth (\$1.7 million) - Telemedicine in Motion

By Marty Link, EMS Program Director

Telehealth services will connect physician and nurse medical professionals with first responders in the field to improve efficiencies in patient assessment, treatment, and transfer to definitive care centers. Contract includes tablets for the EMS providers, training, telehealth service including unlimited data, software, professional support service, and project implementation. Additionally, the telehealth solution will be well-adapted to meet the needs of EMS agencies in both technical form and clinical function. The telehealth technology will leverage antennas and cellular boosters to support strong connectivity, powering a cabin-mounted telehealth-enabled tablet. The strong connectivity will allow for video connection in more remote areas of the state, while in transit and transitioning between cell towers.

This initiative will improve the coordination of care between our EMS providers and hospitals. 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 investment in the future of EMS in South Dakota ensures a seamless care experience in the most critical times.

Service is available 24/7/365, when and where it is needed.

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.

Currently 19 EMS agencies are live with Telemedicine in Motion. This partnership aims to have 60 services live by May 31st, 2023.

### Telemedicine in Motion

Learn how telemedicine is transforming healthcare delivery in South Dakota in this [Keloland Living interview](#).



## Telehealth: Where Technology Meets Healthcare

By Kristi Nogelmeier, Parker Ambulance

It was a big year for Emergency Medical Services in 2022, but watch out for what is coming in 2023! Governor Noem and the South Dakota State legislature approved nearly \$20 million in funding for EMS within three separate funding initiatives, one of those being Telehealth Services. As part of this next generation of EMS services, the South Dakota Department of Health – Office of EMS & Trauma has partnered with Avel eCare Medical Group. This venture is the first of its kind, literally bringing telemedicine into the back of our ambulances. Avel eCare: Telemedicine in Motion was born, and implementation has begun.

Avel eCare is located in Sioux Falls, and offers board certified emergency physicians and nurses to provide support to us in real time in the back of our ambulance. An EMT or our dispatching agency, Lincoln County Communications, can contact Avel eCare via the phone, and in seconds they show up on the screen of the iPad mounted in the back of our rig. Picture it as a FaceTime call with live consultation services with emergency physicians and nurses. Avel can assist with triage and care for both medical and trauma patients, read EKG's (electrocardiograms), assist with procedural decisions, review or advise on diagnostic testing, provide interpreting services, coordinate care by contacting poison control, calling report to the receiving hospital, as well as offering debriefing services after a run. Both services in Marion and Parker have been working with Avel eCare for the last 6 weeks. During this process, we have completed implementation calls, equipment installs and testing, as well as training that their staff conducted with us last week. On Thursday, February 16, 2023, both entities went live with this telehealth service. Marion and Parker were the 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> services, respectively, in the entire state to fully implement the Avel eCare: Telemedicine in Motion program.

The state of South Dakota has 122 licensed ground ambulance services in total. The South Dakota Department of Health – Office of EMS & Trauma has a goal to equip and go live with 60 ambulance services in the state by May 31, 2023. We are so very honored to be part of Phase I of implementation. We foresee this to be a highly utilized service with as rural as this state is. The Marion and Parker services have both officially used the amenity twice thus far, and it worked just as it should!

Lastly, we would like to thank Governor Noem, the South Dakota State Legislature, Marty Link, EMS Program Director, and his crew with the South Dakota Department of Health – Office of EMS & Trauma, and the team at Avel: Angel Luttmann, Sarah Barck, Becky Vande Kieft, and Jake Sheffield. We appreciate the time, energy, and commitment that so many people in the state and our communities, have shown us! We're fortunate to have the support, as well as the resources, to provide the very best care to our patients. We look forward to continuing to serve our wonderful communities to the best of our abilities during their times of need.

Continued on next page.

## Telehealth: Where Technology Meets Healthcare

Photos By Chelsea Konda (Marion Ambulance)



Pictured (top picture) are the crews from Avel, Marion, and Parker.

L-R: Angel Luttmann, Sarah Barck, Dennis Johnson, Denny Carda, Steve Albrecht, Ravila Berens, Michelle Kunkel, Chelsea Konda, Jake Sheffield, Brenda Kiggins, Jamie Boomgarden, Becky Vande Kieft, Eric Anderson, Tanya Schaeffer, Harvey Hertel, Kristi Nogelmeier, and Becky Buseman





# 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)

## LIFEPAK (\$11.6 million)

By Marty Link, EMS Program Director

The LIFEPAK initiative will provide 345 street ready LIFEPAK 15 devices to ambulance services statewide along with training and distribution, implementation and installation, 8 years of service support, and data integration.

We are pleased to report this initiative continues to move forward aiming to have all devices distributed by September of 2023. EMS directors received an email requesting selection of one of 10 regional training locations. Once this data has been collected, the DOH will send training dates and physical locations to EMS agencies. We're excited to provide training, distribution and these lifesaving devices into the hands of EMS providers statewide.





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

By Maynard Konechne

We had EMS Day on Monday, January 30. Nine EMS around throughout the day at the capitol.

That evening, we had our social at the Ramkota with the following in attendance: EMS-11, DOH Employees-6, Avel personnel-6, Legislators-48 and one spouse, PUC board-1, Lobbyist-3, Interns-5, and Pages-17 for a total of 97 in attendance.

HB 1007 the bill to move EMS into the Class B retirement will be heard on Wednesday afternoon. Crossover Day is Feb. 22 so all bills will have to be out their house of origin by this date or will be dead with March 9<sup>th</sup> being the last day of session and March 27<sup>th</sup> as Veto Day.

EMS Day at the Capitol was sponsored by South Dakota Emergency Medical Service Association (SDEMSA), South Dakota Ambulance Association (SDAA), and SDEMSA IC Society.

### 2023 EMS Day Picture



**The front row:** Emily McQuire-Spearfish; Brian Hambeck-Spearfish; Maynard Konechne-Kimball; Becky VandeKieft-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 Hanse-Selby; Courtney Walker-Sturgis; Elizabeth Verhey-Spearfish

## 2023 EMS Week

President Gerald Ford declared November 3 – 10, 1974 as the first “National Emergency Medical Services Week.” This annual observance continued for four more years and was then reinstated by American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) in 1982. Around this time the observance of EMS Week was moved to September. In 1992, EMS Week was again moved to be the 3rd week in May. The move was made to separate EMS Week from Fire Prevention week in October. The rationale for the move was the majority of fire and EMS services felt having the two events back to back hurt the effectiveness of each program so EMS Week was moved to May.

ACEP began collecting and distributing ideas and information for EMS Week in the early 1980s. Professionally printed and prepared EMS Week Planning kits were developed starting in the late 1980s. These guides contains ideas for local EMS Week activities and highlights EMS Week programs held by EMS services during the previous year. The guides are no longer available in print but online at [www.emsweek.org](http://www.emsweek.org).

National Emergency Medical Services Week brings together local communities and medical personnel to publicize safety and honor the dedication of those who provide the day-to-day lifesaving services of medicine's "front line." This information can be used throughout the year for public education and safety programs.



### **EMS Week-EMS Strong Theme: “Where Emergency Care Begins”**

#### **Theme Days for 2023**

- **Sunday** - Mental Health
- **Monday** - Education
- **Tuesday** - Safety Tuesday
- **Wednesday** - EMSC Day
- **Thursday** - Save-A-Life (CPR and Stop the Bleed Challenge) "National Stop the Bleed"
- **Friday** - EMS Recognition Day

What is your EMS department doing for EMS Week this year?

## Hearts on Duty Program

By Julie Smithson, Western EMS Specialist

This program is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the lives saved by Law Enforcement officers utilizing AEDs granted by The Helmsley Charitable Trust.

In 2022, the Office of EMS & Trauma partnered with Stryker to donate additional AEDs annually with a goal to increase community protection from Sudden Cardiac Arrest.

To qualify, a Helmsley Charitable Trust granted LIFEPAK CR2 AED must have been used on a survivor of a Sudden Cardiac Arrest. Through a Hemsley grant in 2019, the state of South Dakota was able to put one of these AEDs in every law enforcement emergency response vehicle in the state.

South Dakota had four law enforcement departments qualify in 2022. The four agencies were: Clay Co SO, Stanley Co SO, Meade Co SO, and Box Elder PD.

The law enforcement agency and/or Officer involved in the save case may donate an AED to a non-profit organization of their choosing.

The donated AED will be a HeartSine Samaritan PAD 350P or a 360P AED from Stryker.

Thank you for all that you do!



## Wanted: EMS Departments for Service Spotlight for PULSE-SD

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](mailto:Julie.smithson@state.sd.us)



**SD EMS Spotlight Service**  
 Nicole Neumann — 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 EVOG 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 SDA's 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—RHS Program



SOUTH DAKOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

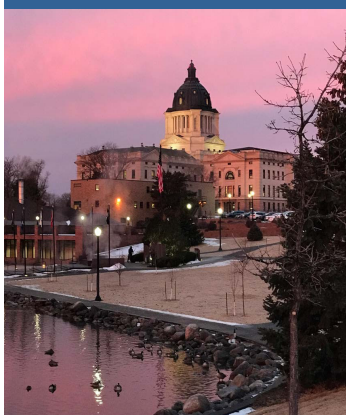
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## South Dakota Office of EMS & Trauma

IMPROVE

SUPPORT

STRENGTHEN



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### Websites

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