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Director's Welcome
By Marty Link—EMS Director

It’s hard to believe that we are nearly half-way through 2021. This year seems to transient similar to 2020. Fortunately as of this writing, we are seeing our COVID numbers continue to decline, less masks abound due to successful vaccinations, and we’re blessed to once again see the smiling faces of friends as we continue this transition back to normal. Each of you deserve a pat on the back for all the hard work, determination of spirit, and great achievements over this past year and a half. EMS, as a profession, has always remained resilient in times of great turmoil. That speaks to the commitment and resolve each of you share with others. I cannot express how grateful I am for those who dedicate their lives to help someone else in need.

I want to officially welcome Jamie Zilverberg as the state’s new Trauma Program Manager. Jamie started with our office on May 17th, 2021, and has hit the ground running. Jamie is an experienced registered nurse with a BSN and brings tertiary and rural level trauma care experience to the state trauma program. Jamie is working hard to continue the great work the trauma system has been doing with a key focus on trauma facility designation visits, regional performance improvement, and planning for our upcoming September trauma conference. Welcome, Jamie!

The EMS Compact was recently signed by Governor Noem making South Dakota the twenty-second state to join the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice. With HB1065 signed into law, the EMS Program, along with the Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners, have been working on two primary components of the bill - FBI fingerprint checks for new EMS professionals and integration of personnel data to the Interstate Compact. Lance has been working diligently to assure the required data requirements of the Compact are effective shortly after July 1, 2021, when the law becomes official.

(continued on next page)
The remainder of 2021 will be especially busy for the EMS Program. We are currently working on a num-
ber of initiatives that will move EMS forward in an exponential fashion. Please keep an eye out and
focus on these below; should you have any questions, please do not ever hesitate to reach out to us.

EMS Program Initiatives:

- EMS Agenda for 2040 planning
- Community Healthcare Worker (CHW) mini-grants
- Helmsley AED First Responder grant
- Continued Naloxone Project
- Continued support for the Halo Project
- P25 Digital Radio Initiative
- ODMAP Integration
- EMS Vaccination support

As we navigate the remainder of 2021, you will start to hear of concepts that will have a dramatic
impact on EMS in Rural America. As you hear of initiatives, such as the Community Health Worker, start to
broaden your vision of EMS in the future. As I shared with my staff not too long ago, Blockbuster video
failed, and the company dissolved because they didn’t effectively appreciate the market and adjust to future
“market” trends. The EMS industry in Rural America is fragile - we need to adjust to the changing market.
We assume EMS in its current state will always be around - that’s a false assumption. Sure, there will be
transport capacity for the most critically ill or injured - we all know that. But, there is a greater need out
there. That need includes people who do not have transportation or money to see a doctor, people who have
elderly loved ones who need reassurance and home support, people who suffer illness or injury due to current
living conditions, and people who simply need assistance navigating the complexity of our healthcare
systems as they exist today. EMS can and will fill some of these gaps as we transition; especially, as we start
to transition towards a paid part and/or full-time workforce.

This is the market we need to turn our attention to—in addition to the great work you are already doing;
we have a great deal of work ahead!

Sincerely,

Marty
New Trauma Program Manager/Eastern EMS Specialist
By Jamie Zilverberg - Trauma Program Manager/Eastern EMS Specialist

My name is Jamie Zilverberg, and I am the new Trauma Program/Eastern EMS Specialist for the South Dakota Department of Health. I started my new role May 17th, 2021- I am pretty fresh, so bear with me!

I graduated from Mount Marty College with my Bachelors of Science in Nursing. I currently live in Highmore with my husband and son. I have held many different roles as a nurse including, but not limited to a tertiary setting, as well as a Critical Access Hospital. The Critical Access Hospital setting has been my favorite, and I am so excited to get back to working with these hospitals and their EMS services! I hope to be a great support for you and to help in any way that I can. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me for anything. If I don’t know the answer, I will do my best to find the answer for you!

National EMS Advocate of the Year Award
By Eric Van Dusen, President of SDEMSA

We were notified by the NAEMT that Maynard Konechne was a recipient for National EMS Advocate of the Year Award!

Maynard Konechne has been an EMT in the state of South Dakota for over 45 years. In truth, he was an advocate for EMS for nearly as long, even before receiving an appointment as such from any association. He began in 1985 as a proponent for 2 bills. Coming from a rural town and serving as his ambulance services director for over 30 years. He has first-hand knowledge of the impact legislation can have on our EMS services. Over the years, Maynard has ensured that EMS, both large and small, has a voice as decisions are being made.

This is highly deserving recognition for Maynard for his continuous advocacy of EMS within South Dakota throughout the years.

Congratulations Maynard, we appreciate your dedication and sacrifice for EMS!!
Community Health Worker

By Marty Link, EMS Director

As many of you may know, the Department of Health, along with the Department of Social Services, has been working on the Community Healthcare Worker (CHW) initiative. Below is an abbreviated historic timeline of the CHW initiative:

2014 - Medicaid Reimbursement: the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) created a rule allowing state Medicaid agencies the option to reimburse for CHW services.

2016 - the SD DOH and the SD DSS formed a diverse workgroup of constituents to explore the establishment of a statewide CHW program in SD.

2017 - the SD DOH and the Cardiovascular Collaborative finalized a strategic plan including the CHW profession.

2019 - the SD DSS approved Medicaid coverage for CHW services; Lake Area Technical College began an on-campus CHW program with certificate and Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.) degree options. These are projected to be available on-line soon.

2020 - the SD DSS approved Medicaid coverage for CHW delivery of Better Choices Better Health curricula and the National Diabetes Prevention Program.

In May of 2021, the DOH was awarded a multi-million dollar grant to promote CHW in South Dakota. The EMS Program contributed and was awarded close to $1 million to develop and integrate CHW with EMS personnel. This grant and subsequent work has the capacity of providing reimbursable non-transporting services to people in communities across South Dakota. Stay tuned as much more content and communication will be shared in the near future.

South Dakota EMS Program Webinar

By Julie Smithson, Western EMS Specialist

On June 16th, the SD EMS Program hosted a webinar on EMS updates in South Dakota. The numerous topics are listed below. The webinar will be posted on our website for those who missed it. Next webinar is scheduled for July 14th. Watch your email for more information.

- Infection control update
- EMS and Trauma update
- Community Health Worker initiative
- Trauma System
- Naloxone project
- ODMAP
- Halos
- DOH digital radio project
- Drought conditions
- Sturgis motorcycle rally planning update
- COVID Vaccination update
- Ambulance Inspection module
- Testing equipment distribution
- Rural Healthcare Facility Recruitment Assistance Program
EMS Compact
By Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice

Welcome South Dakota to the EMS Compact!

South Dakota is now to become the twenty-second state to join the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice, known as the ‘EMS Compact’. On March 25th, Governor Kristi Noem signed the bill, which will become law on July 1, 2021.

The EMS compact enables licensed EMS personnel to cross state borders using a privilege to practice in other EMS Compact member states without obtaining a separate license. Other provisions of the EMS Compact legislation include coordinated personnel licensing data system for member states to share information on their licensed personnel. The Compact also supports expedited licensing in member states for military personnel and their spouses upon discharge from service.

“We are happy to be joining the EMS Compact,” said Marty Link, SD EMS Director. “This is great news for the citizens of our State, our EMS personnel, and our neighbors in the surrounding states. Given our strategic location with neighboring states, we recognize we are an important part of the National EMS Compact puzzle.”

Joseph Schmider, Director of the Office of EMS and Trauma System Coordination, Chairperson, Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice, said, “South Dakota is an especially key state to the Compact. They border North Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Wyoming, which are already members of the Compact. South Dakota’s entry is a big boost to EMS in the North Central Region of the United States.”

South Dakota’s legislation was supported by the South Dakota EMS Association, South Dakota Ambulance Association, and State EMS Office. “The South Dakota Legislature meets for only two months each year, so their consideration of this legislation is especially remarkable,” said Dan Manz, Educator for the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice.

South Dakota joins Louisiana in entering the EMS Compact on July 1, 2021, as that is the date both state’s bills will become law.

For more information visit EMSCompact.gov.
Education & Training

Part of our commitment to support our communities is to provide education and training opportunities. Several programs exist to provide education and training to medical professionals in our service area. We began this service in 2011.

EMS/FIRST RESPONDER Training

During a medical emergency, be it an accident or sudden illness, a team of EMS personnel, paramedics, flight nurses, and other professionals are often the first to arrive at the scene. During these crucial moments, life-saving skills need to be implemented. Because most first responders may not be routinely exposed to performing these skills on a daily basis, how can they be trained to know the exact procedure and have the confidence to perform it under extreme circumstances? That is the question Dakota Lions Sight & Health answered.

With unselfish wishes, family honor, and specific authorization, the donor can become a “teacher” in addition to providing the gifts of sight and health.

First Responders are able to learn and practice the following:

- Chest tube placement
- Endotracheal Intubation
- Needle Decompression
- Needle Cricothyrotomy
- Surgical Cricothyrotomy
- Advanced Airway Management

In addition, we provide unmatched educational opportunities to learn about anatomy and physiology to first responders.

Dakota Lions Sight & Health has been approved by the South Dakota Department of Health EMS Program, South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners, and North Dakota Department of Health Division of EMS and Trauma to provide CEU credits for EMS personnel who participate in our programs. If you would like more information or for your EMS program to participate, please contact Connie Putnam at 605-553-3754 or cputnam@dakotasight.org.

Thank you so much for your support and for working with us!!
The statewide EMS response area map is almost complete. By now, all the EMS departments would have received an email confirming their response area. South Dakota EMS Program is doing the final review for accuracies and then this map will also be available on the EMS.sd.gov webpage. This map will be very beneficial to multiple state and local agencies.

The South Dakota EMS Program would like to say thank you to all the Emergency Medical Services for submitting their information.
Landing Zone Training
By Black Hills Life Flight

On May 13, 2021, Black Hills Life Flight hosted Landing Zone Training at Roy’s Black Hills Twin Drive-In. The course included the LZ beacon demo; Aircraft familiarization, and a Landing Zone Presentation that began at dusk on the big screen as participants sat comfortably in their vehicles.

South Dakota EMS Patches
By Lance Iversen—EMS Data Manager / Ed. & Prof. Standards Coordinator

If you or your service are interested in purchasing South Dakota Emergency Medical Service (EMS) patches, you can send a check or money order, made out to DOH/EMS, and mail it to:

DOH-EMS
Attn. Bob Hardwick
600 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Patches are $1.00 each
EMS Week Highlights
By Julie Smithson, Western EMS Specialist

May 16-22, 2021, is the 46th annual National EMS Week.

Spink County Ambulance Service
May 16–22 is EMS WEEK. We want to show you our appreciation for your support this past year. We are serving BBQ's, chips and cookies Wednesday.

Yankton County EMS
Administrator Steve Hawkins and Senior Paramedic Toy Comman did a live interview on KNTT radio this morning to promote National EMS Week.
EMS Week Highlights
By Julie Smithson, Western EMS Specialist

May 16-22, 2021, is the 46th annual National EMS Week. In 1974, President Gerald Ford authorized EMS Week to celebrate EMS practitioners and the important work they do in our nation’s communities. This year’s theme is This is EMS: Caring for Our Communities.

This past year has been a strain on all EMS systems around the world. Join with us in celebrating this year’s EMS week. Some gracious businesses have given us a few tokens of appreciation that we will be drawing for this week to acknowledge the hard work the Lennox Area Ambulance EMTs have given to the community. As our motto says, “Dedication and Service that others may live.”
EMS Spotlight Service
By Terah Schoenfish, Menno Ambulance Service

Menno Ambulance was started in 1955 when Ellis Aisenbrey saw a need for an ambulance service in the community. He, along with Clarence Simonsen and a few other volunteers, used Larry Hyde’s 1955 Pontiac Ambulance to start taking hurt and sick people to the hospital. People needing the ambulance would call Ellis’ home phone. These volunteers had no formal education but took care of community members needing emergency care.

In December of 1967, the city of Menno bought the service from Ellis for $1, and a 22-hour course was required to be an EMT. There were eight volunteers that received calls on the fire phone. This meant that someone called a number and everyone on the “fire phone” line would get a phone call and they all talked to decide who would or could go.

In the 1970s, the service got pagers, and eventually 2-way radios. We still use radios today, along with text notifications of ambulance calls. Our six current volunteers can communicate with dispatch and each other using the radios or a cell phone. We respond to approximately 80 calls per year in parts of Hutchinson, Turner, Yankton, and Bon Homme counties. We provide coverage for football games and mud drags during the power show. We have participated in the community by taking blood pressures during the car show, working with preschool/Kindergarten students, and teaching the students about the ambulance and to dial 911 in an emergency. We have had a mock car crash exercise with the high school which included Avera Careflight, fire, police, highway patrol, EMSC, and Volunteers of America.

We now require much more than 22 hours of education and participate in monthly education with our meetings. We are working toward pediatric readiness with EMSC and are always needing to update equipment, which we are able to do with grants and donations from members of the community. Currently, we are working to raise the money to replace our manual cot in our secondary ambulance (which we have been using as our “covid rig”) with a power cot. One thing that hasn’t changed in all these years is that we are always looking for volunteers wanting to take the EMT classes and serve our community and the surrounding area.