

**EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**

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**DATE:** June 18, 2014

**TO:** Commission on EMS

**FROM:** Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP  
Director

**PREPARED BY:** Lisa Witchey, Manager  
Personnel Standards Unit

**SUBJECT:** Community Paramedicine

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive information regarding Community Paramedicine.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None.

**DISCUSSION:**

As part of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) review process of the Community Paramedicine Health Workforce Pilot Project (HWPP) application submitted by the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMS Authority), a public meeting was held on April 9, 2014. The meeting provided a second opportunity for OSHPD to receive public comment through testimony, in addition to the 45-day public comment period.

Many of the pilot project participants attended the public meeting to provide comment and support the need for the pilot. Each spoke about their dedication and passion for participating in a Community Paramedicine pilot project and how paramedics can safely and effectively work in an expanded role within a community-based healthcare system to improve health care efficacy, cost effectiveness, patient-centered care, and integration of health system resources.

Also in attendance were representatives from a number of the Healing Arts Boards, several speaking in opposition to the concept of Community Paramedics, while others cited that additional details would be needed before they could consider supporting the Application. In view of these concerns, it was necessary for the EMS Authority to provide an addendum to the HWPP application, addressing the concerns over lack of detail. Specifically, the EMS Authority is amending the application to provide additional project site detail to describe the need for each project, project methodology and protocols, provisions for patient safety and local site specific curriculum.

*Next Steps*

The application addendum will be submitted to OSHPD for review, and made available for public comment through a public meeting. A public hearing will also be scheduled prior to receiving a final decision from OSHPD approving or denying the application for the pilot project.

We anticipate receiving the final decision from OSHPD by August 2014, at which time the pilot sites will identify Community Paramedics who will participate in core and local training beginning in September 2014. Pilot sites are on target for an implementation date of January 2015.

The EMS Authority will continue to keep the Commission informed on the progress of the Community Paramedicine pilot program.