Florida Office of Rural Health
EMS & Trauma Projects

- Statewide Rural EMS Provider Network (2003 - 2011)

- Trauma & ED crash carts (2009 - 2011)

- Rural hospital trauma training (2009 - 2011)
Statewide Rural EMS Provider Network

**Background:** 2001 - Rural EMS recruitment & retention is identified as a priority issue. FORH spends $180K in 2001-03 FLEX funding for rural EMS provider recertification training.

**Problem:** FORH does not have the funding or staff resources to effectively address rural EMS issues on an ongoing basis.

**Solution:** Establish & support an organization that will identify needs, seek funding, and address the ongoing needs of Florida’s rural EMS providers.
Statewide Rural EMS Provider Network - History

- **Spring 2003** – FORH & Bur of EMS hold a meeting of FL rural EMS agencies to identify rural EMS needs and issues, and interest in organizing a statewide rural EMS provider network.

- **Fall 2003 & 2004** – FORH & Bur of EMS prepare and coordinate the submission of a rural health network planning grant application to ORHP to establish a statewide rural EMS network.

- **Feb 2005** – HRSA network planning grant is awarded to rural Suwannee County for rural EMS network; project coordinator hired.

- **Fall 2005** – FORH assists project coordinator to prepare a HRSA network development grant application that is submitted.

- **March 2006** – FL Association of Rural EMS Providers incorporated.

- **June 2006** – 3 year HRSA network development grant is awarded.

- **2006 thru 2011** – FORH provides funding support for FAREMS activities.
FAREMS Activities:

- Rural EMS needs assessments
- EMT and paramedic scholarships for rural counties;
- Obtain grants and coordinate EMS clinical training
  - American Heart Association's 12-Lead and Pharmacology/STEMI Provider Course;
  - Pediatric/neonatal training for prehospital and hospital professionals
- EMS agency administrative office training;
- EMS staff recruitment & retention manual for rural agencies;
- Community paramedic program (under development)
- Web-based certification training (under development)
Trauma & ED Crash Carts

Problems:

- CAHs lack emergency department crash carts that properly organize and secure equipment & supplies in compliance with Medicare & Joint Commission requirements.
- CAHs lack basic trauma equipment & supplies.
- FORH lacks the funding to address needs.

Solution: Partner with trauma & emergency management agencies to identify and secure funding to address needs.
Sears Craftsman Emergency Department Crash Cart

Retails for $499
On sale now for $349!
(Locks, cables, & eye-bolts needed to secure the contents are sold separately)
March 2009: Consultants for FL’s CAH patient & medication safety program report a lack of adequate crash carts & supplies in CAH Emergency Departments.

April 2009: FORH contacts FL Office of Trauma for assistance who unsuccessfully requests funding from the HRSA hospital emergency preparedness program grant.

Spring 2010: State Trauma Director states that CAH trauma equipment & supplies are worse than that found in some 3rd world countries.

May 2011: FORH notified of the availability of $250K of 2009 HRSA hospital preparedness grant funds that will expire June 30.

June 2011: FORH works with FL Office of Trauma and rural hospitals to identify vendor & recipients, and purchase trauma carts prior to June 30. Two trauma carts with equipment, & supplies are purchased and delivered to 15 rural hospitals.
Rural Hospital
Trauma Training

Problem: Rural hospital ED staff lacked the skills to effectively stabilize trauma patients for transport to a regional trauma center.

Solution: Train rural hospital ED staff using the Rural Trauma Team Development Course developed by the Rural Trauma committee of the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma.

Partners:
- Florida Office of Trauma
- Sacred Heart Trauma Center (Level 1)
- Shands Trauma Center (Level 1)
- Tallahassee Memorial Trauma Center (Level 2)
- Ryder Trauma Center (Level 1)
- Rural Hospitals
Rural Hospital
Trauma Training - History

2002-2008: FORH unsuccessfully partners with FL Office of Trauma to secure trauma related grant funding for trauma training of rural hospitals.

February 2009: FORH approached by FL Office of Trauma for funding to provide for trauma training for rural hospitals by a regional trauma center.

2009 - 2011:
- FLEX grant funding provided to 13 CAHs for rural hospital ED trauma training to stabilize patients prior to transport to a regional trauma center. 10 CAHs trained.
- FORH works with FL Office of Trauma to coordinate trainer sessions for other regional trauma centers in Florida.
- Seeking source of funding for PPS rural hospital training.