



# FLORIDA'S RURAL EMS & TRAUMA PROJECTS

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FLORIDA OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH

August 2011



# Florida Office of Rural Health EMS & Trauma Projects

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- Statewide Rural EMS Provider Network (2003 - 2011)
- Trauma & ED crash carts (2009 - 2011)
- Rural hospital trauma training (2009 - 2011)



# Statewide Rural EMS Provider Network

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**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

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- **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

Florida Association of Rural EMS Providers

## **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

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## **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)



# Trauma Crash Cart - History

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- **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

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**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

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**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 train the trainer sessions for other regional trauma centers in Florida.
- Seeking source of funding for PPS rural hospital training.