

**Research in Progress:
What Is the Potential of Community
Paramedicine to Fill Rural Healthcare Gaps?**

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Agenda

- Community paramedicine/mobile integrated healthcare brief updates:
 - Reforming States Group meeting
 - Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program Measurement Strategy
- WWAMI RHRC research project:
What is the potential of community paramedicine to fill rural healthcare gaps?

Reforming States Group meeting

- Reforming States Group session, organized by Milbank Memorial Fund - November 6, 2014, New Orleans
 - "The Milbank Memorial Fund is an endowed operating foundation that works to improve the health of populations by connecting leaders and decision makers with the best available evidence and experience. Founded in 1905, the Fund engages in nonpartisan analysis, collaboration, and communication on significant issues in health policy."
- 2-hour session on community paramedicine, followed by 2 hours on community health workers.
- Presenting on the evidence for community paramedicine, followed by Buck McAlpin, Director of Government Affairs for North Memorial Health Care
- Responding to interest especially from rural constituents

RSG meeting *continued*

- RSG convenes state legislative (both red and blue from each state) and executive branch staff for “Vegas rules” discussions on current topics
- What’s the best way to make it easy to connect RSG attendees with state EMS offices and SORHs?

MIH Program Measurement Strategy

- Objective: to assess outcomes and value of mobile integrated healthcare programs
 - Promote uniform measurement and reporting
 - Build the evidence base
- Ultimate goal: demonstrate value to CMS for reimbursement

New WWAMI RHRC study

- ***What Is the Potential of Community Paramedicine to Fill Rural Healthcare Gaps?***
- Funded by Federal Office of Rural Health Policy
- Study collaborators: the Paramedic Foundation

New WWAMI RHRC study

- What Is the Potential of Community Paramedicine to Fill Rural Healthcare Gaps?

= What is the evidence?

Study questions

- What are CP program goals, target populations, and services offered, and how are these similar and different comparing rural with urban programs?
- How are programs measuring program processes, outputs, and outcomes (i.e., patient and population health status)?
- What is the evidence that CP programs are successful at improving patient and population health, patient experiences of care, and reducing healthcare costs?
- Which kinds of services have demonstrated success, and with which populations, in rural areas?

How many rural programs are there?

- 39% of 232 CP/MIH programs in a 2013 NAEMT survey identified themselves as being in rural areas
 - new NAEMT survey of programs in the field now

Partial List of Community Paramedicine Programs Collecting Outcome Data, Serving Rural Populations, or Both

State	Program	Outcome Data Collection	Rural	Urban
Alabama	St.Vincent's Hospital	Yes	*	*
California	San Diego Fire-Rescue	Yes	*	*
California	13 pilot programs	Yes	*	*
Colorado	Espele County	Yes	*	*
Colorado	Pagosa Springs Medical Center EMS	Yes	*	*
Georgia	Pilot programs	Unknown	*	*
Idaho	Ada County Community Paramedics	Yes	*	*
Maine	12 pilot programs	Yes	*	*
Minnesota	Albina Emergency Medical Services	Yes	*	*
Minnesota	North Memorial Medical Center	Yes	*	*
Missouri	Christian Hospital EMS	Yes	*	*
Nebraska	Valley Ambulance, Kearney	Yes	*	*
Nebraska	Scottsbluff Regional Medical Center	Yes	*	*
Nevada	Humboldt County EMS	Yes	*	*
Nevada	REMSA	Yes	*	*
NewYork	Livingston County	Yes	*	*
North Carolina	Wake County EMS	Yes	*	*
Pennsylvania	Center for Emergency Medicine - Western Pennsylvania	Yes	*	*
South Carolina	Abbeville	Yes	*	*
Texas	MedStar	Yes	*	*
Washington	Prosser (PMH Medical Center)	Yes	*	*
Wisconsin	Baraboo County EMS	Contingent on funding	*	*

Sources: Pearson et al., 2104; NAEMT, 2013;Wingrove, 2014

Method

- Proposed a survey, but targeted identification through networks/word of mouth may be more feasible. Possible sources:
 - Paramedic Foundation
 - NAEMT
 - ORHP SHIP grantees that have programs
 - Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation
 - Community Paramedicine Insights Forum
 - JCREC
 - other?

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