

# North Dakota Pilot Community Paramedic Program

An Overview for the National Rural  
EMS Conference  
2015



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# Project Oversight and Coordination

- North Dakota Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council
  - Community Paramedic Subcommittee
    - Representatives from multiple disciplines
      - EMS, Nursing, Nurse Practitioners, Rural Health
    - Chairman also serves as half-time Community Paramedic Coordinator within the Department of Health, Division of EMS & Trauma
    - Meeting regularly since beginning of 2014



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# Progress of Pilot Project

- Conducted “Stakeholder” Informational Meetings in early 2014
  - Invited a wide range of potentially impacted agencies & professional groups
  - Presented rationale and potential benefits of program
  - Developed relationships that led to inclusion onto the EMSAC subcommittee for wider representation.



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# Progress of Pilot Project (cont.)

- Solicited North Dakota licensed Ambulance Services to participate in pilot project
  - Developed proposal criteria
    - Impact and planned utilization
    - Measurement of effectiveness
    - Delivery systems
    - Required funding assistance for implementation
  - Proposals reviewed and approved by EMSAC subcommittee



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# Pilot Project Sites

- Rugby – Heart of America Medical Center/Rugby EMS
  - 3 Paramedics completed Community Paramedic course in June = Completing clinical rotations
  - Facility has applied for CMS Waiver for cost reimbursement of EMS service (35 mile rule)
  - Program Goals
    - Prevention of high-risk readmissions
    - Outreach to clinic patients
    - Support of 5 County Hospice program
    - Diversion of non-emergent ER visits/Ambulance trips



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# Pilot Project Sites (cont.)

- Fargo - FM Ambulance
  - 5 Paramedics completed Community Paramedic course in June = Completing clinical rotations
  - Program Goals
    - Diversion of non-emergent ER visits/Ambulance trips
    - Focus on “high-volume” users of EMS transport



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# Pilot Project Sites (cont.)

- Essential Health - Fargo
  - Utilizes ER Paramedics cross-trained as CP
  - Pilot CMS ACO program
  - Program Goals
    - Referral and Visitation in support of their health system
      - Home Health, Care Coordination, CHF Program
    - Diversion of non-emergent ER visits/Ambulance trips



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# Pilot Project Sites (cont.)

- Belfield/Medora/Beach – Billings County EMS
  - 3 Paramedics enrolled in training program starting August 27th
  - Service was awarded a grant from the Bush foundation
    - Sponsored by the Public Health unit in Dickenson
  - Program Goals
    - Behavioral Health Services
    - Support of Public health outreach in 3 county region in SW section of State.



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# Community Paramedic Education

- Based on a National Consensus Curriculum
- Initial Community Paramedics are trained through Hennepin Technical College based in Twin Cities
  - Supports internet accessible delivery
- EMSAC subcommittee disseminated a request for proposals to all health care education programs in N.D.
  - ND State College of Science/Sanford EMS Education has program in development – targeted for Fall of 2015.



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# Financing

- Legislative Medicaid funding for Community Paramedic services approved in 2015 legislative session
- Initial discussions with other third party payers has begun
  - Blue Cross
- Medicare unlikely to provide fee-for-service reimbursement
  - Supporting CP services via Accountable Care Organizations



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# Continuing Projects

- Administrative rule process to recognize Community Paramedic as licensure level in N.D.
- Developing program evaluation metrics to establish effectiveness
  - Reporting mechanisms for participating agencies
- Establish inclusion criteria for other licensed EMS Providers
  - AEMT and EMT
  - Community Health Worker model



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Questions?



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