

# North Dakota Pilot Community Paramedic Project



# Community Paramedics in N.D., Why?

- Inconsistent Access to Healthcare in State
  - Insufficient providers at all levels
  - Disparity between urban and rural N.D.
- Diminishing Volunteer EMS staffing
  - Low Volume – Critical Placement of EMS Services
  - Inadequate Financing for Continuous EMS coverage
- Evolving focus in Healthcare to wellness and preventative medicine
  - An aging and less mobile vulnerable population
  - Differing needs for services among the regions and age groups of N.D.



# What the Community Paramedic model offers:



- Enhanced utilization of an existing healthcare resource under the current scope of practice.
- Coordinated and integrated care with:
  - Clinics
  - Hospitals
  - Public Health Departments
  - Home Health Agencies
  - Long Term Care Facilities

# The Community Paramedic model will NOT:

- Replace current healthcare systems or positions.
- Change the current defined scope of practice of EMS Personnel.
- Remove patient populations from existing healthcare providers or services.
- Decrease the level of care provided.



# How Do You Know if a Community Paramedic is needed in your Community?

- Perform a Analysis to see if there are gaps in each local system that might be addressed by a Community Paramedic program
- Students are required to do this as part of the course research project
- Involves all healthcare entities in the community.



# Pilot Project Goals

- # 1 - Develop Criteria for Participating EMS Agencies

- Sponsoring Health entity

- A Community Paramedic program must have an affiliation with a healthcare entity such as Hospital, Accountable Care Organization (ACO), Public Health Agency, Clinic or Rural Primary Care provider. This affiliation will be the referring source for patients needing care by the EMS service's CPs.

- Scope of the project and target population(s)

- What patient populations and/or specific community health concerns will your pilot project be serving?
- What services do you anticipate to be offering as part of your pilot project?



# Pilot Project Goals

- What hours of operation do you anticipate your services will be available to your community?
  - How many personnel will be involved in your project?
  - How will your CPs respond to requests for service?
    - Part of an on-duty 911 ambulance
    - Separate response vehicle
    - Physical facility based
- How will patient encounters be documented?
  - Do you anticipate your CPs utilizing any specific Electronic Health Record (EHR)?
  - Will the system utilized be part of your sponsoring health entity's HER?
  - If paper-based, how do you anticipate sharing patient information?
- Who will be responsible for the development of care protocols for your CPs?



# Pilot Project Goals

- How do you plan to measure outcomes and effectiveness of your pilot project?
  - By what criteria will you measure success or impact?
  - How will you gather your data?
  - Who will be responsible for monitoring and quality improvement of the CPs involved in the pilot project?
- What funding are you requesting?
  - Training
    - We anticipate utilizing the CP training program operated by the Hennepin Technical College in Eden Prairie, MN via their distance education program to train CPs for the ND pilot program
    - Estimated tuition and books are \$2500.
    - No funds are available for wages/staffing
  - Information Technologies
    - Portable computing devices for access to Electronic Health Records/systems
  - Diagnostic Equipment
    - Point of Care diagnostic testing devices/supplies
    - Other portable equipment specific to your target population/health concerns

# Pilot Project Goals

- # 2 – Sponsor Community Paramedic Sites that offer the greatest range of potential services
  - Urban
  - Hospital-Based
  - Public Health Affiliated
  - Rural Community with limited Medical Services
  - Oil-Impacted Sites



# Pilot Project Goals



- # 3 - Develop an In-State Training Resource
  - Solicit College Affiliated Training Site to offer Community Paramedic Training program
  - Based on National Curriculum published by North Central EMS Institute
  - State-wide program accessible via distance learning technologies.

# Current Training Site



**H**  
Hennepin Technical College<sup>®</sup>  
CUSTOMIZED TRAINING SERVICES

 **COMMUNITY<sup>™</sup>  
PARAMEDIC**

**Community Paramedic  
New Certification Training Program**

# Current Pilot Site Projects

- FM Ambulance – Fargo

- Primary Focus

- High Utilizers of 911/ED Services.
- Small percentage of patients that account for a high number of ambulance transports and ED visits.
- Decrease impact on 911 system through frequent visitation and follow-up



- Rugby EMS

- Limited Home Health/Public Health services

- High Risk patients for readmission
- Monitoring of chronic disease patients
  - Point of Care testing
  - Progress noted in EHR
- Support of Hospital Hospice program



# Long Term Projects



- Enabling Legislation that will recognize Community Paramedics as a licensed healthcare provider
- Obtain recognition of CP services by 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Payers
- Work to further integrate EMS into Primary care services

# Perspectives of Other Healthcare Groups



- Physicians
- Nurse Practitioner's
- Paramedics