

North Dakota Pilot Community Paramedic Program

An Overview for the North Dakota Legislative
Health Services Committee

Presented by Ken Reed

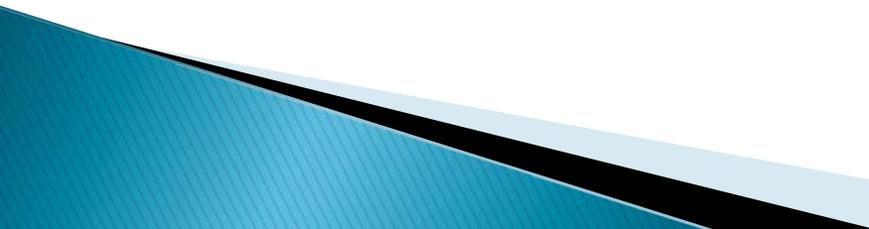
Project Oversight and Coordination

- ▶ North Dakota Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC)
 - 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

Qualifications of Community Paramedic Coordinator

- ▶ Current Director of EMS in Rugby, ND
 - ▶ 40 years of clinical experience
 - ▶ Experienced EMS Educator
 - ▶ Completed Community Paramedic training program at Hennepin Technical College in 2013
 - ▶ Currently licensed Community Paramedic in State of Minnesota
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Progress of Pilot Project

- ▶ Conducted “Stakeholder” Informational Meetings in March and April, 2014
 - Invited a wide range of potentially impacted agencies and 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

Pilot Project Sites

- ▶ Rugby – Heart of America Medical Center/Rugby EMS
 - Three 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 five county hospice program
 - Diversion of non-emergent ER visits/Ambulance trips

Pilot Project Sites (cont.)

- ▶ Fargo – FM Ambulance
 - Five 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

Pilot Project Sites (cont.)

- ▶ Bowman – SW Health Systems
 - Two paramedics enrolled in training program starting August 27, 2014
 - Facility has applied for CMS waiver for cost reimbursement of EMS service (35 mile rule)
 - Program Goals
 - Outreach to clinic patients
 - Diversion of non-emergent ER visits/Ambulance trips

Pilot Project Sites (cont.)

- ▶ Belfield/Medora/Beach – Billings County EMS
 - Three paramedics enrolled in training program starting August 27th
 - Service was awarded a grant from the Bush Foundation
 - Sponsored by the Southwestern District Health Unit in Dickinson
 - Program Goals
 - Behavioral Health Services
 - Support of Public health outreach in a three-county region in SW section of N.D.

Pilot Project Sites (cont.)

- ▶ Other potential sites in N.D.
 - Carrington Health Center/Ambulance
 - Essentia Health – Fargo
 - Medicare Accountable Care Organization
 - Services in Minnesota

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 proposal to all health care education programs in N.D.
 - To date, only Dakota Community College of Bottineau has submitted a proposal to develop a CP course

Financing

- ▶ Initial discussions with third party payers has begun
 - Blue Cross
 - N.D. Department of Human Services (Medicaid)
- ▶ Medicare unlikely to provide fee-for-service reimbursement in the near future
 - Supporting CP services via Accountable Care Organizations
 - Is finding several demonstration projects that include CP programs
 - Reno, Nevada

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

Questions?

