North Dakota Pilot Community Paramedic Program

An Overview for the North Dakota Legislative Health Services Committee

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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
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
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
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
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
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
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?