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**Annual Report on the Maine EMS Community
Paramedicine Pilot Project**

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January 8, 2013

To: Sen. Stan Gerzofsky, Rep. Mark Dion, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, and to;

Sen John Patrick, Rep Erin Herbig, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

From: Jay Bradshaw, Director, Maine EMS

Re: Annual Report on the Maine EMS Community Paramedicine Pilot Project

During the 2nd Regular Session of the 125th Legislature, LD 1837 was signed and enacted to authorize the Board of EMS to approve up to 12 Community Paramedicine (CP) Pilot Projects and require an annual report on these pilot projects to the Legislature no later than January 30th of each year (32 MRSA §84, sub-§4).

Community Paramedic Pilot Program Activities

On June 6, 2012, the Board of EMS approved the CP application process and directed that after the effective date of the legislation (August 30, 2012), with input from the CP Steering Committee, Maine EMS staff may approve CP applications. The CP Steering Committee members are:

- Dan Batsie, Community Paramedicine Coordinator
- Jay Bradshaw, Director, Maine EMS
- Myra Broadway, JD, RN, Director, Maine State Board of Nursing
- Matt Chandler, Maine Rural Health (recently replace by Cari Balbo)
- Steve Diaz, MD, Chief Medical Officer, MaineGeneral Medical Center
- Amy Madden, MD, Family Practice Physician, Belgrade Health Center
- Tim Pieh, MD, Emergency Physician, Maine General Medical Center
- Matthew Sholl, MD, Emergency Physician, Maine Medical Center and State EMS Medical Director
- Gordon Smith, Esq., Maine Medical Association
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Maine EMS also utilizes a CP “Task Force” as a resource for all interested parties to obtain information about CP pilot projects. The Task Force held three in-person meetings during 2011-2012 and members receive periodic e-mail updates. The next in-person meeting is being planned for this spring, at which time there will be informational presentations made by services participating in the pilot projects.

During 2012, Maine EMS went through the Request for Proposal process and subsequently contracted with Atlantic Partners EMS, Inc. to provide administrative and technical coordination for the CP Pilot Project. Dan Batsie, NREMT-P, is the primary contact for this project.

The Steering Committee met on August 30, 2012, and again on October 18, 2012, to review pilot program applications and updates. To date, two pilot projects have received initial approval:

Delta Ambulance, Waterville, Maine

Delta is partnering with the Belgrade Health Center (BRHC) and MaineGeneral Medical Center to reduce the number of Emergency Room visits, hospital admissions, and direct encounters with the BRHC staff through episodic home visits by Delta staff. Patients will be assessed for eligibility to this program by BRHC and will focus on the following patient populations:

- Patients at home after recent hospital discharge who may not qualify for home health care visits, or who have used their allotted home health care visits.
- Patients at home after recent surgical intervention where significant recovery time is expected who may not qualify for home health care visits, or who have used their allotted home health care visits.
- Patients with multiple medical comorbidities which increase their risk of emergency room use or hospitalization who would benefit from episodic assessments of weight, blood pressure, heart rate, oximetry or would benefit from assistance in self-management.
- Patients about whom concern exist for safety in the home and would benefit from a home safety/medication assessment.

Delta is working on completing their staffing, training, and data collection plans; with a goal of establishing a starting date within the next few months.

Northeast Mobile Health, Scarborough, Maine

Northeast Mobile Health (NEMHS) is partnering with Robert Anderson, MD, Maine Medical Center, to address a gap in falls prevention in at-risk populations. Dr. Anderson has in place a “house call” program for patients who suffered a fall and were seen in the emergency department.

The “gap” was identified as patients seen by EMS for a fall-related 911 call who refuse treatment or transport to the hospital. It is well documented in medical literature that these patients are likely to fall again, and the consequences can range from disabling to life-threatening. Because these patients may not come to anyone’s attention as needing follow-

up, including their primary care physician, the NEMHS program will take referrals from community EMS agencies for patients they are able to successfully enroll in the program, and follow up with a home visit.

NEMHS staff will utilize the falls assessment tool developed by Dr. Anderson. Dr. Anderson will review the assessment and forward the results and recommendations to the patient's primary care provider.

North East Mobile Health is working on completing their staffing, training, and data collection plans; with a goal of establishing a starting date in the Spring 2013..

Letters of interest have also been received from the following services:

- St. George Ambulance (Tenants Harbor/Port Clyde)
- Camden First Aid
- United Ambulance (Lewiston/Auburn)
- Calais Fire Department Ambulance
- Mayo Hospital Ambulance (Dover-Foxcroft)
- Searsport Ambulance
- Crown Ambulance (Presque Isle)

Maine EMS and Mr. Batsie are working directly with each of these services to provide technical assistance as needed. Once complete, these applications will be presented to the CP Steering Committee.

Education and Outreach

Community Paramedicine was the topic of a workshop conducted by the Maine Ambulance Association in November 2012. As awareness and interest about this project spreads, Maine EMS and Atlantic Partners EMS continues to meet (as requested) with home health agencies, the Patient Centered Medical Home Steering Committee, the Community Care Team Steering Committee, and many others.

Work plan for 2013

During 2013, Maine EMS will:

- Continue to provide technical assistance for CP application development
- Provide educational opportunities for interested parties
- Develop the methodology for program assessment
- Commence collecting data as services implement their pilot projects.

Maine EMS appreciates the opportunity to provide this information to you, and will be pleased to respond to any questions about this exciting project.