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1. NASEMSO Expresses Support for Public Safety Broadband Trust

NASEMSO has joined other organizations in expressing support for Cyren Call Communications' proposal to create a public safety wireless broadband network. The plan calls for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish a public safety broadband trust to hold the license for a key segment of spectrum in the 700 megahertz (MHz) band, and to structure innovative arrangements for its use, placing public safety needs first but requiring commercial usage secondarily. Learn more at http://www.cyrencall.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=59&Itemid=42.

2. NASEMSO Provides Feedback to HHS to Add EMS to List of Stakeholders

NASEMSO members recently provided feedback to the Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the proposed Emergency Response Electronic Health Record Use Case Synopsis. Association comments were coordinated by Kevin K. McGinnis, MPS, EMT-P, NASESMO program advisor. Comments included a recommendation that the EMS system be added to the list of applicable stakeholders. Additionally, NASEMSO recommended that emergency medical dispatchers, state and national repositories of EMS data, and state EMS agencies and NEMSIS be included. For more information, contact Mr. McGinnis at mcginnis@nasemsso.org.

3. NASEMSO Provides Comments to OSHA on Best Practices Document

NASEMSO members recently provided comments to OSHA on its working draft of a best practices document for EMTs exposed to hazardous substances. Comments were coordinated by Leslee Stein-Spencer, RN, MS, NASEMSO program advisor. For more information, email lesleeSS@aol.com.

4. NASEMSO Members Asked to Review Draft Guidance Document

NASEMSO members were asked to review the draft guidance document for states on air medical services, which represents the results of a multi-year effort by a special task force composed of representatives from AAMS, NASEMSO and NAEMSP. The document is designed as a resource guide for state EMS system leaders, planners and regulators to appreciate the similarities and differences between the ground and air components of the EMS system, and their development, integration and regulation within that EMS system. You can download a copy of the draft from the AAMS Web site at <http://www.aams.org/Content/NavigationMenu/MemberServices/GovernmentAffairs/default.htm>.

5. Secretary Leavitt Issues Third Pandemic Planning Update

On Nov. 13, 2006, Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt issued his third *Pandemic Planning Update*, one year after the President unveiled a National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza. This report provides up-to-date information on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) efforts to prepare the nation for the possibility of a pandemic. Along with a message from the Secretary, it presents efforts in six categories: monitoring and surveillance; research; vaccines and vaccine production capacity; antiviral drugs; state and local preparedness; and communications. The *Pandemic Planning Update III* is available at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>.

6. EMSC Program Launches New Web Site

The EMSC Program launched a new Web site at <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/emsc>. The old site at <http://www.ems-c.org> is no longer available and individuals linking to the old address will be automatically transferred to the new site. The new site has many special features, including a toolbox with compiled information on specific topics, important EMSC news items, and quick links to helpful information.

7. Role Announces Departure from EMSC National Resource Center

Susan Eads Role, JD, MSLS, announced her departure from her position as public policy and partnerships director for the EMSC National Resource Center effective Nov. 9. She has accepted a position as assistant director, public health and scientific affairs, at the College of American Pathologists. For matters involving public policy, national organization projects and the EMSC Partnership for Children Stakeholder Group, contact Karen Belli at kbelli@emscnrc.com. For other EMSC National Resource Center matters, contact Jane Ball at jball@emscnrc.com.

8. ENA Releases Scorecard – Washington, D.C. and Washington State Receive Perfect Scores

Washington, D.C. and the state of Washington were the only locations to receive perfect scores in an Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) study released in November that ranked states on a scale of one to ten for having highway laws that promote safety and injury prevention. Arizona ranked at the bottom.

The scorecard is designed to educate legislators and the general public about their state's strengths, weaknesses and level of risk at a time of increased travel during the holiday season. For more information, visit <http://www.ena.org/ipinstitute/AutoSafety/scorecard/default.asp>.

9. NHTSA Office of EMS Announces New Staff Member

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration announces the hiring of Gilbert Torres. His primary responsibilities in the Office of Emergency Medical Services will include providing support to the newly created Federal Interagency Committee on EMS (FICEMS) and the management of other EMS constituent and partner committees. Torres previously was the regional director of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Trauma Council in Harlingen, Texas. He also served on the Injury Prevention Committee of the Governor's EMS & Trauma Advisory Council. He is a licensed paramedic, and served as both an EMS provider and instructor in Texas. For more information, contact Drew Dawson, director of the Office of Emergency Medical Services at Drew.Dawson@dot.gov.

10. Indian Health Service Releases Pandemic Workbook

The Indian Health Service (IHS) has published the "Pandemic Influenza Workbook," based on materials developed by the Dept. of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Public Health Agency for Canada. The workbook identifies specific activities that can be completed now at local (service unit/health care facility) and community levels. The 62-page workbook can be downloaded at http://www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/epi/pi/documents/Pandemic_Influenza_Planning_Workbook.pdf.

11. CDC Publishes Disability and State Health Chartbook

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has published a report of state-level data on the number of people with disabilities and the wide range of health differences that exist between people with disabilities and those without. The new report, *The Disability and Health State Chartbook 2006: Profiles of Health for Adults with Disabilities*, is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/dh/chartbook/>. About 50 million American adults have a disability, such as hearing loss, mental disability, physical limitation or vision loss. Improving the health of this large segment of the population is a central concern for public health. This report is the first in a series to present information about the health of people with disabilities by state and territory.

12. American College of Surgeons Publishes Book on Trauma Center Requirements

As an aid to the process of American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma verification and consultation for trauma centers, the organization's new book, "Resources for Optimal Care of the Injured Patient: 2006," outlines the essential and desirable requirements for trauma centers pursuing consultation or seeking to gain or maintain verification. These guidelines are used by the ACS Verification/Consultation Program to evaluate trauma centers. Copies may be purchased at https://web2.facs.org/timssnet464/acspub/frontpage.cfm?product_class=trauma.

13. New Resource on Injury Prevention for Children and Adolescents Now Available

A new monograph, "Injury Prevention for Children and Adolescents: Research, Practice and Advocacy" now is available through the American Public Health Association. It takes a detailed look at child and adolescent injuries, incorporating research, practice, and advocacy with recommendations for future work. Each chapter provides an account of a particular injury category; the injury's pertinent risk factors; up-to-date research findings and how research has led to successful action and practice; the important role of advocacy; and future research, practice and advocacy efforts. To order a copy of the book, visit <http://www.apha.org> and click on "Books & Other Media."

14. Web-Based Resource on Children with Special Health Care Needs Published

The Champions for Progress Center has announced the release of its "Focus on Progress," a Web-based reference tool that provides a concise "snapshot" of each U.S. state's system of care for children and youth who have special health care needs. The intent of the reference tool is that it be used to educate the public, including families, state and community programs, and elected officials. For each state, the Focus on Progress includes an overview of the state's CYSHCN services and contact information; a state data profile based on the National Survey of CYSHCN (2001); state accomplishments related to the six national outcomes for CYSHCN; a community snapshot of the state's CYSHCN in action; and useful websites and links. To learn more, visit <http://www.championsforprogress.org/main/fop.cfm?CFID%3D252442%26CFTOKEN%3D71433926>.

15. SAMHSA Announces Its Center for Trauma Informed Care

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recently launched its National Center for Trauma Informed Care (NCTIC). Its purpose is to provide trauma education and technical assistance to publicly funded systems, including mental health, substance abuse, criminal justice, victim assistance, education, hospital and primary care systems and programs. In addition, the center will house a speaker's bureau and a library of resources to help educate and foster a deeper understanding of the impact of trauma and the benefits of working with survivors in a trauma-informed setting. For more information, visit <http://www.mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/womenandtrauma>.

16. New Disaster Planning Guide Issued by AHRQ

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has released "Providing Mass Medical Care with Scarce Resources: A Community Planning Guide." This guide provides community planners, as well as planners at the institutional, state and federal levels, with valuable information that will help their efforts to plan for and respond to a mass casualty event (MCE). The guide examines MCE response and preparedness challenges across a wide range of health care settings and provides recommendations for planners in specific areas. It also discusses ethical and legal considerations related to MCE planning in pre-hospital, hospital, acute-care, and alternative-care sites. Planning for palliative care, or the aggressive management of symptoms and relief of suffering, that must be integrated into the planning for, and response to, an MCE is also covered. The publication is available at <http://www.ahrq.gov/research/mce/>.

17. Lessons Learned Web Site Launches School Emergency Planning Page

The Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (MIPT), in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of Grants and Training, has developed Lessons Learned Information Sharing, a secure, national, online network of lessons learned and best practices designed to help emergency response providers and homeland security officials prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism. Recently, this site launched a new School Emergency Planning page. This page houses resources on the topic of school emergency planning, including after-action reports, documents, templates, plans, related links, recent news, upcoming conferences and more. To access the site, visit <https://www.llis.dhs.gov/about.cfm>.

18. ASTHO Releases Two Publications on Efforts to Protect Against Public Health Threats

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials has released two publications that highlight the important work that states have undertaken to strengthen U.S. defenses against public health threats. The publications are "State Mobilization of Health Personnel During the 2005 Hurricanes" and "States of Preparedness: Health Agency Progress 2006." These and other publications are available online at <http://www.astho.org/?template=preparedness.html>.

19. Florida Releases EMSC Advisory Committee Information Packet

During the 2006 Annual EMSC Grantee Meeting, Florida EMSC participated in the panel discussion “EMSC Advisory Committees: How to Develop and Utilize the Best Team for EMSC Initiatives” by sharing its accomplishments, techniques, and approach in establishing the Florida EMSC Advisory Committee. At the request of several EMSC grant coordinators, the Florida EMSC team developed an information packet highlighting best practices in developing and managing an advisory committee. The packet is available at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/EMS/EMSC/EMSCHome.html>.

20. FEMA Releases Fiscal Year 2007 NIMS Compliance Package

The Fiscal Year 2007 NIMS compliance package was sent to U.S. governors on Oct. 23, and has been posted in its entirety at http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims_compliance.shtm. By Sept. 30, 2007, jurisdictions will be required to comply with the FY 2007 NIMS requirements to receive FY 2008 emergency preparedness grants. In FY 2007, all jurisdictions must comply with specific performance-based metrics. These metrics were derived, in part, from the FY 2006 required compliance activities and also include some new performance measures. Download the NIMS Alert: FY 2007 NIMS Compliance Metrics Fact Sheet at http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/com_met_fact.pdf.

21. NIMS Compliance Will Be Tied to Performance-Based Metrics

Homeland Security Presidential Directive 5, “Management of Domestic Incidents,” required that states, territories, local jurisdictions and tribal entities adopt the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Over the past two years, all of these entities have made significant progress in implementing the NIMS system. The implementation of NIMS across the nation creates a baseline capability that, once established, will be the foundation for our prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies. During FY05 and FY06, states were asked to “self-certify” their NIMS compliance. By Sept. 30, 2007, jurisdictions will be required to comply with the FY07 NIMS requirements to receive FY08 emergency preparedness grants. In FY07, all jurisdictions must comply with specific performance-based metrics. These metrics were derived, in part, from the FY06 required compliance activities and also include some new performance measures. Metrics will be used to gather information on the current state of NIMS compliance; identify best practices and areas that may require further technical assistance; provide continued guidance and feedback; and assist with the refinement of metrics and/or data-gathering tools. The nation’s governors received a FY07 NIMS compliance package that can be downloaded at http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/nims_compliance.shtm.

22. NOAA Tide Stations Upgraded to Better Detect Tsunamis

NOAA has upgraded 33 tide stations in an effort to detect tsunamis quicker as part of the National Water Level Observation Network. Network tide stations normally equipped to record tidal data once every hour now can collect tidal data every six minutes, and can transmit that data through NOAA’s Geostationary Operational Environmental satellites (GOES). The upgraded tide gauges also collect one minute averaged tide data that are available to the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center and the West Coast/Alaska Tsunami Warning Center. This enhances the tsunami detection and confirmation capability of the centers, allowing forecasters to view real-time data of any station in the network. For more information, visit <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2006/s2750.htm>.

23. CAAS Accredits First Massachusetts Agency

The Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) has accredited its first Massachusetts agency, Professional Ambulance of Cambridge, Mass. This brings the total CAAS-accredited agencies to 103 in the United States and Canada. CAAS is a standard bearer for medical transportation systems, sponsored in part by NASEMSO. To learn more, visit <http://www.caas.org>.

24. CDC Releases Annual Compilation of Health Statistics

The latest compilation of government health statistics, *Health United States, 2006*, reports that life expectancy at birth reached a record high of almost 78 years in 2004, up from 75 in 1990. This is one of many statistics published in the 500-page report. Visit <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/hus.htm> for complete information.

25. Newest NEMSIS Compliant Software Packages Announced

Recently, the National EMS Information System's Technical Assistance Center announced software packages that have completed the compliance test cycle. Three EMS software packages achieved Gold Compliance and three achieved Silver Compliance. A list of NEMSIS compliance software is available at <http://www.NEMSIS.org>.

26. NEDARC Posts Job Opening for EMS Program Specialist

The National EMSC Data Analysis Resource Center (NEDARC) has an opening for an emergency medical services program specialist within the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Utah School of Medicine. Job responsibilities include: providing technical assistance to state EMSC programs on emergency medical data collection, analysis, and utilization; writing grants; conducting program evaluation and quality improvement in EMS; implementing specific EMSC program performance measures; helping to develop resource materials; preparing presentations for workshops and other conferences; and participating in research projects. Interested parties may contact Michael Ely at (801) 585-9761 or apply for Job #26992 directly at <http://www.hr.utah.edu/joblist/>.

27. Texas Health Resources Has Opening for Director of Patient Transfer

Texas Health Resources (THR) is initiating a national search for the newly created position of director of patient transfer. Headquartered in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Texas Health Resources is one of the largest faith-based, non-profit health care delivery systems in the United States. The system serves more than 6.2 million people living in 29 counties in north central Texas. The new director will report to a senior vice president of THR and will be responsible for developing, implementing and directing the strategic and operational components of a system-wide patient transfer center. The position will serve as the primary contact for patient transfers throughout the system, including regular updates to the THR senior leadership and physicians regarding operations, trends and progress. For additional information contact Sandra Robinett at (817) 462-7226 or apply online at <http://www.JobsTHR.com> referencing Job ID number 618.

28. Upcoming Events (*denotes event is newly added)

IOM Dissemination Workshop: Capstone Workshop, December 11, 2006, NAS Building, Washington, DC. Information is available from <http://www.iom.edu/emergencycare/workshops>.

NEDARC's Advanced Statistical Analysis for EMS and EMSC Workshop, January 10-12, 2007, Salt Lake City, UT. Information is available at http://www.nedarc.org/nedarc/workshopsTutorials/workshopDetails.jsp?workshop_id=9.

NAEMSP Annual Meeting, January 11-13, 2007, Naples Grade Resort & Club, Naples, FL. Information is available at <http://www.naemsp.org/meetings.html>.

**Second National Pay for Performance Summit, February 14-16, 2007, Beverly Hilton, Los Angeles, CA. Sponsored by the Integrated Healthcare Association. Information is available at <http://www.PFPsummit.com>.

**International Congress of Victims of Terrorism, February 20-21, 2007, Oklahoma City, Okla. Information is available at <http://www.victimscongress.org>.

**National Emergency Management Summit, March 4-6, 2007, New Orleans, LA. Sponsored by *Harvard Health Policy Review*, *Health Affairs* and the Louisiana Hospital Association. Information is available at <http://www.EmergencyManagementSummit.com>.

**Second Medical Device Regulatory and Compliance Congress, March 28-30, 2007, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Information is available at <http://www.DeviceCongress.com>.

**Fourth HIT Summit, March 28-30, 2007, Hyatt Regency, Washington, DC. Sponsored by the eHealth Initiative. Information is available at <http://ccbh.ehealthinitiative.org>.

**Fourteenth National HIPAA Summit, March 28-30, 2007, Hyatt Regency, Washington, DC. Information is available at <http://www.HIPAAsummit.com>.

**2007 Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference, "Continuing to Build Partnerships," April 10-11, 2007, Tacoma, Wash. Information is available at <http://capps.wsu.edu/conferences/emergencyprep/>.

**The Disease Management Colloquium, May 7-9, 2007, Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, PA. Information is available at <http://www.DMConferences.com>.

EMS Week 2007: "EMS: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Service", May 20-26, 2007. Information is available at <http://www.acep.org/emsweek>.

****NASEMSO Annual Meeting, October 28-November 2, 2007, Hyatt Regency Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN.**

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