

Washington Update January 30, 2004

Table of Contents

1. Central Connecticut Proposes EMS Academy
2. Big Cut Planned in Medical Emergency Response Program
3. CDC Seeks Applications to Develop Injury Research Agenda
4. Health Care Spending Reaches \$1.6 Trillion in 2002
5. The Institute of Medicine Launches a New Project
6. Premier Issue of the EMS Management Journal
7. Notification of Fire Act Grant Workshops
8. CDC Public Health Emergency Response Guide
9. Study Says Federal Bioterrorism Spending Not Preparing States
10. Leo R. Schwartz
11. Public Safety Wireless Network Program Goes to SAFECOM
12. New York City Trains Homeless People to be Ambulance Drivers
13. IRC Study Finds Skyrocketing Auto Injury Losses Despite Declines in Serious Injuries
14. Upcoming Event
 - AAMS 2004 Spring Conference
 - NASEMSD 2004 Mid-Year Meeting

1. Central Connecticut Proposes EMS Academy

Central Connecticut State University is proposing the creation of an EMS academy to train, centralize, and pool resources among responders, and create a hub for emergency response training in New England. The program would begin as a continuing education program; however, it could eventually evolve into a degree program. For more information, contact Susan Penny at susan.penny@scni.com.

2. Big Cut Planned in Medical Emergency Response Program

The Department of Homeland Security is planning an 80 percent reduction in funding of a program that enhances local emergency responses to public health crises, particularly those involving weapons of mass destruction. Taking funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) could run into stiff opposition at the House Appropriations Committee. To learn more, contact Dalen A. Harris at dharris@naco.org.

3. CDC Seeks Applications to Develop Injury Research Agenda

The Centers for Injury Control and Prevention announced funding for a cooperative agreement to assist an injury control research group to promote collaborative, educational, and scholarly activity in defining the research and training needs for injury control professionals and in developing the field of injury prevention and control. The cooperative agreement will be funded for \$250,000 annually for five years. The application deadline is March 8, 2004. For more information, contact Marcia Mabee at mmabee@ix.netcom.com.

4. Health Care Spending Reaches \$1.6 Trillion in 2002

Health care spending in the United States rose to \$1.6 trillion in 2002, up from \$1.4 trillion in 2001 and \$1.3 trillion in 2000, according to a report issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The growth rate of 9.3 percent for 2002 compared to 8.5 percent in 2001, which marked the 6th consecutive year in which health spending grew at an accelerated rate. To learn more, contact Marcia Mabee at mmabee@ix.netcom.com.

5. The Institute of Medicine Launches a New Project

The Institute of Medicine has formed a group for a new project entitled, "The Future of Emergency Care in the United States." The goal of the project is to examine the current and future roles of emergency care in the United States health care system. The National Association of State EMS Directors will be represented on this project. For more information, visit <http://www4.nationalacademies.org/cp.nsf/Projects+by+PIN/HCSX-H-03-01-A?OpenDocument>.

6. Premier Issue of the EMS Management Journal

The National EMS Management Association and the National Association of State EMS Directors, in collaboration with HealthAnalytics, are proud to announce the release of the premier issue of the *EMS Management Journal*. To download the issue as a single PDF file, visit <http://www.emsmj.com/v1n1/EMSMJJanMar2004.pdf>.

7. Notification of Fire Act Grant Workshops

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP), in conjunction with the United States Fire Administration (USFA), has announced the regional workshop schedule for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP). For a complete list of the currently scheduled workshops, visit www.usfa.fema.gov.

8. CDC Public Health Emergency Response Guide

An all-hazards public health emergency response guide will be drafted by April 2004 and sent to state, local, and tribal public health officials for review and comment. The guide will serve as an easy-to-use reference tool for public health officials who are responsible for initiating the public health response during emergencies and disasters. For more information, contact Rhyne at gjr1@cdc.gov.

9. Study Says Federal Bioterrorism Spending Not Preparing States

Despite nearly \$2 billion of federal bioterrorism funding to states over the past two years, states are largely unprepared for a major public health emergency, according to a report released by the Trust for America's Health. To read the complete story, visit <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/1203/121103cdpm2.htm>.

10. Leo R. Schwartz

Leo R. Schwartz, retired Chief of Emergency Medical Services Branch and creator of the "Star of Life" emblem, passed away on January 14, 2004, at Bethesda Naval Hospital from complications from leukemia and COPD. The National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians honored Leo by designating its Annual EMS Service of the Year award in his name, The Leo R. Schwartz EMS Service of the Year Award. The Emergency Medical Services Magazine presents this award at the Annual EMS Banquet to commemorate Leo's contributions to the EMS community. To learn more about Leo Schwartz or send your condolences to his family, contact his daughter, Marie Hamill, at mlh125@juno.com.

11. Public Safety Wireless Network Program Goes to SAFECOM

As part of the Federal Government's efforts to address public safety wireless communications interoperability in a more efficient way, the Public Safety Wireless Network Program (PSWN) is being folded into SAFECOM and will no longer function as a separate program. Through SAFECOM, the Federal Government is addressing public safety wireless interoperability issues in a more coordinated, comprehensive, and effective way. For more information, visit <http://www.safecomprogram.gov>.

12. New York City Trains Homeless People to be Ambulance Drivers

In a new initiative that New York's Senator Hillary Clinton called "an exceptional opportunity," a New York City suburb will begin using homeless persons living at the two city-owned shelters to become ambulance drivers. The program will be funded through a federal grant, with aid from the Yonkers Order of St. Vincent DePaul. For more information, contact Robert Bass at rbass@miemss.org.

13. IRC Study Finds Skyrocketing Auto Injury Losses Despite Declines in Serious Injuries

A new study by the Insurance Research Council (IRC) finds that the reported losses in auto injury claims are escalating in spite of the fact that the rate of serious auto injuries has decreased. For more information, contact Elizabeth Sprinkel at irc@cpcuiia.org or visit <http://www.ircweb.org>.

14. Upcoming Events

AAMS 2004 Spring Conference, March 3-6, 2004, Hilton Embassy Row, Washington, DC. To learn more, visit <http://www.aams.org/midyear.html>.

NASEMSD 2004 Mid-Year Meeting, June 26-27, 2004, J.W. Marriott Hotel, Washington, DC. Program details and registration information will be posted at <http://www.nasemsd.org>.

NASEMSD Staff Contacts

Elizabeth B. Armstrong, CAE, MAM, Executive Director	(703) 538-1799 ext. 5	armstrong@nasemsd.org
Peter Casals, Program Manager	(703) 538-1799 ext. 3	casals@nasemsd.org
Sharon Kelly, Executive Assistant	(703) 538-1799 ext. 2	kelly@nasemsd.org
Amy S. Starchville, MSW, Washington Update Editor	(703) 538-1794 ext. 2	Astarchville@asmii.net

201 Park Washington Court
Falls Church, VA 22046
Phone: (703) 538-1799
Fax: (703) 241-5603
Website: <http://www.nasemsd.org/>

The Washington Update is supported by a cooperative agreement between NASEMSD and HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau's Partnership in Communication. Feel free to share this publication with your colleagues.

NASEMSD Washington Update is published monthly by e-mail for association members and partners. Comments should be directed to the editor, Amy S. Starchville at astarchville@asmii.net.