

Washington Update February 27, 2004

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1. Collins Urges Senate to Block White House's First Responder Cuts

According to a report in the Congressional Quarterly, Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) urged her Senate colleagues on Feb. 18, 2004, to oppose a White House proposal to cut \$1 billion from the State Homeland Security Grant Program for fiscal year 2005. Collins, who chairs the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, said in a letter to other senators that, "reducing the level of funding for the State Homeland Security Grant program would hurt the ability of our first responders to prevent and respond to a terrorist attack."

2. ComCARE-Virginia Hospital Interoperable Emergency Communications Project Summary Available

For the past few years, ComCARE has been working with public safety leaders in Virginia to demonstrate and deploy a modern interoperable emergency communications system. From the work done in the Northern Shenandoah Valley, ComCARE assembled a team of companies to demonstrate a version of the E-Safety Network to show that with the right mix of public and private leadership, the rapid deployment of interoperable communications tools is possible at a reasonable cost. This past October, ComCARE worked with the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association in demonstrating this system during a statewide bioterrorism drill sponsored by the Virginia Department of Health. With only brief training by ComCARE staff, hospitals and other agencies were able to use the Network to communicate quickly, accurately, and efficiently. A full account of this event, as well as a history and list of participants is found at www.comcare.org/projects/states/va/ExecSum.pdf.

3. Grants Management Specialists Assigned to the Trauma-EMS Systems Program

Two Grants Management Specialists were introduced at the 2004 Leadership Meeting for the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The Grants Management Specialists are Tammy Jeffs and Pamela Baker. These grant managers work with the Trauma-EMS Systems Program Director Cheryl Anderson and Scott Dugas, senior public health analyst for the program. As grants management specialists with the Division of Grants Management Operations (DGMO), Ms. Baker and Ms. Jeffs are responsible for all business management (budgetary) aspects associated with the review, award and administration of grants. Contact Ms. Jeffs via email at tjeffs@hrsa.gov. Ms. Baker's email address is pbaker@hrsa.gov.

4. EIIP Live Chat on National Mutual Aid and Resource Management Initiative – 3/3/04

The EIIP will host a "live chat" presentation and interactive Q&A session, March 3, 2004, beginning at 12:00 noon eastern. The topic will be the National Mutual Aid and Resource Management Initiative, a system under development designed to enhance preparedness and the ability to respond to an

emergency on all levels. The guest speaker will be Gil H. Jamieson, director, Program Coordination Division, department of Homeland Security and Preparedness Directorate. If this is your first time participating in an EIIP Live Chat, please review the instructions on the background page and check your connection in advance. To login, use the "Chat Login" link on the EIIP Virtual Forum homepage, www.emforum.org.

5. ComCARE Panel to Select Honorees in 2nd Annual Telematics Awards

Telematics Update Magazine is sponsoring the Second Annual Telematics Awards on May 26, 2004, in Detroit's Cobo Center. Like last year, ComCARE is coordinating the Safety Awards. A ComCARE panel of safety experts will select the winners. All finalists will be listed on ComCARE & Telematics Update's Web sites and be featured in a press release as well as the magazine. The Telematics Awards recognize industry participants – suppliers, OEMS, service providers, software developers, and others – who have created real value for telematics' products and services. The "Telematics in Action" safety awards are open for nominations of companies, individuals, and public safety staffers who have made a significant difference to safety using telematics: with a product, a service, or individually. To make a nomination, visit www.telematicsupdate.com/detroit2004/awardsmailshot/index.htm.

6. Online Resources Available for National Public Health Week

The observance of National Public Health Week (NPHW) is April 5-11, 2004. With the event less than two months away, the American Public Health Association (APHA) has developed several tools and resources to help plan local NPHW activities. Visit <http://www.apha.org/NPHW/> to download the toolkit.

7. Model Systems of Care Posters Available

The National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research (NCDDR) has created three NIDRR Model Systems of Care Posters. The posters' topics are: "Model Spinal Cord Injury Systems," "Burn Injury Rehabilitation Model Systems," and "Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems." Each poster is 17" x 24". To obtain a free copy of each poster email admin@ncddr.org or call 800-266-1832.

8. Emergency Response to Terrorism, 2nd Edition, Released

The second edition of the Emergency Response to Terrorism Job Aid by the National Fire Academy has been released. This resource provides good response information and guidance for first responders. It has been released electronically and will not be available in hard copy. To download a copy, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/fire-service/c-terror/download-jobaid.shtm.

9. IOM Committee Workshop Presentations Available

The recent workshop of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on the Future of Emergency Care in the U.S. Health System was a great success. For the benefit of all, IOM has posted the presentations from the workshop on the project Web site, www.iom.edu/emergencycare. The presentations can be accessed either from the project homepage or from the agenda page for the workshop. Additional presentations will be added as they become available.

10. Job Opening – WMD Program Specialist

Seven Mountains Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc., has an opening for a WMD Program Specialist. This full-time position will provide administrative support to coordinate daily activities and on-going planning projects for and in conjunction with an eight county Regional Counter-Terrorism Taskforce. For more information, email ssrhoat@smemsc.org or call 814-355-1474.

11. Upcoming Events

ComCARE Alliance Capital Hill Technology Demonstration, March 11, 2004, Cannon House Office Building, Caucus Room, Washington, D.C. For more information, contact Jason Conley, jconley@comcare.org.

Homeland First Response Conference and Exhibition, March 29-April 2, 2004, Raleigh, N.C. This conference includes an EPAD session, which is the Electronic Access Provider Directory project that is supported by NASEMSD staff. Information is available at www.homelandfirstresponse.com.

Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services Spring Accreditation Seminar, April 28, 2004, Orleans Hotel, Las Vegas, Nev. Information is available at www.caas.org.

American Telemedicine Association 9th Annual Meeting and Exposition, May 2-5, 2004, Tampa Convention Center, Tampa, Fla. Information is available at www.americantelemed.org.

NASEMSD Mid-Year Meeting, June 26-27, 2004, Washington, DC. A program and registration details will be posted soon at www.nasemsd.org.

Drive for Live, 2004 MADD National Conference, Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 2004, Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center, Grapevine, Texas. Information is available at www.madd.org.

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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 two times a month by e-mail for association members and partners. Comments should be directed to the editor, Dawn M. Shiley at dshiley@asmii.net.

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