



National Association of State EMS Officials

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Kansas Joins National Collaborative for Bio-Preparedness

November 20, 2017 (Falls Church, Va.) – The Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services has completed Data Use and Analytic Agreements with the University of North Carolina (UNC) to join the states of Florida and Rhode Island in the National Collaborative for Bio-Preparedness (NCBP). Kansas will be submitting National EMS Information System (NEMSIS) data elements both to assist in national preparedness and to enhance the state’s ability to visualize their data with other data layers of relevance.

Joe House, the Board’s executive director, is excited by the potential to link previously “unlinkable” data sources. “The enhanced picture of an issue will allow us to make a more educated and stronger, evidence-based decision,” stated Mr. House. “Ultimately, by linking the crash record database, the trauma registry, the ER discharge data, and EMS information, we are hoping to better understand the severity of injuries from crashes and to analyze that data for potential indicators of more severe injuries. Of course, the ability for automated trend analysis to determine anomalies in the system will be significant to our agency and local ambulance services.” Mr. House hopes to see Kansas’ participation in the NCBP to expand to the Department of Transportation, Department of Health and Environment, local health departments and emergency management at the state and local level. He feels the data sources will increase exponentially as the capabilities are developed.

The NCBP is a collaborative of state and local responders and the national preparedness enterprise to provide early warning of health events and trends not otherwise detectable. NCBP has been a groundbreaking, multi-year pilot cooperative research and development program between the University of North Carolina (UNC) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Through a new partnership between UNC and Biospatial Inc., NCBP is transitioning to a commercially-hosted system, while maintaining NCBP’s unique mission and capabilities through growing and sustaining our national network of data owners and NCBP users.

In exchange for access to EMS data, NCBP provides operational and clinical insight to state and local data owners to help improve operations and patient outcomes. NCBP provides alerts to anomalous health events, visualization of syndromic events and trends, and clinical and operational dashboards. The collaborative data network widens the context of events by enabling sharing of data and syndromic trends with neighboring jurisdictions. These capabilities are provided through a *no-cost subscription to state and local data owners*. NCBP also enables new health- and safety-related insights through multi-agency collaboration; such as linking motor vehicle crash records with injury severity derived from EMS revised trauma score.

Biospatial and UNC are working closely with the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) to develop and grow the Collaborative through state EMS offices. NASEMSO has

partnered with the NCBP because of the value the analytics can provide to the NEMSIS data that state EMS offices collect. The NCBP has created a pathway to contribute to state specific surveillance and offer real time value to state epidemiologists and state health officers.

The National Association of State EMS Officials is a leading national organization for EMS, a respected voice for national EMS policy with comprehensive concern and commitment for the development of effective, integrated, community-based universal and consistent EMS systems. Its members are the leaders of their state and territory EMS systems. State EMS Offices that are interested in participating in the NCBP should contact Joe Ferrell at joe@nasemso.org or 515-291-2550.

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