



**Emergency Medical Services Committee
Annual Report
July 2017**

It has been a busy year for the Ohio Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services (EMFTS) Board. Included in the following report are some of the major highlights of the EMFTS Board and its efforts, along with some of the things planned for the upcoming year.

- Three seats on the EMFTS Board still remain vacant, leaving the Board shy of full strength. The open seats are Seat 2 (Trauma Surgeon) and Seat 5 (Trauma Program Manager), neither of which are nominated by fire and/or EMS specific organizations. Seat 10 (EMS Provider), nominated by the Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters and the Northern Ohio Firefighters' Association also remains open. Both OFCA seats are currently filled.
- ODEMS introduced their online certification and renewal system so that all certifications and renewals can be done online. The Division strives to make sure no one lapses with two postcard notifications, 13 email notifications, and a phone call one week from expiration. The site is mobile device compliant.
- For those considering paramedic training for their staff, remember that only CoAEMSP accredited schools or those with Letters of Review can graduate candidates eligible to take the National Registry examination. Chiefs and paramedic candidates need to ensure that one of these two things are in place when sending someone or attending paramedic initial training.
- EMS grant awards for FY2017-2018 have been announced. Responsible parties within their respective organizations can log on to the same portal where they applied for the EMS grants themselves. Awardees also need to be aware that there is a "split" performance timetable for this upcoming fiscal year, meaning no longer can an agency wait until June 2018 to spend all of its money. Agencies will be required to spend down their grant awards by December 31, 2017, and unspent monies from that period will be reallocated and the spend down period for the second period will be from March 1, 2018 until June 30, 2018. The split performance period should significantly reduce the amount of unspent funds each year.
- Some disposable items have been restored to the EMS Priority 1 Grant. Check the Grants page on the ODEMS website for approved items. Agencies are permitted to request the EMFTS Board consider currently excluded items on a per-item basis. Inquiries should be directed to ODEMS who will review them and present them to the Board. The Board's decision on approval will be final.
- EMS provider titles were formally changed to meet with the national standard:
 - First Responder is now *Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)*
 - EMT-Basic is now *Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)*
 - EMT-Intermediate/EMT-I is now *Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)*
 - EMT-Paramedic/Paramedic is now simply *Paramedic*.

- Three different additions (and probably more accurately clarifications) were made to the Ohio Scope of Practice:
 - EMRs may now apply and use chest compression assist devices
 - EMTs may now apply and utilize negative impedance threshold devices
 - EMTs may transport patients with central or peripheral IV access already established so long as there are no infusions running to any of those sites.

- The Ohio Patient Tracking System (OHTrac), which has been utilized by some hospitals in emergency and disaster planning for a few years now has been released for use for public safety agencies. This system will allow patient tracking from the field to the hospital and through to discharge. See <http://ems.ohio.gov/critical.aspx#ohtrac> for more information.

- All transporting EMS agencies should now be transmitting/entering completed electronic patient care reports (e-PCRs) into EMSIRS-3.

- Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH)/Community Paramedicine (CP) is a topic of frequent conversation for the EMFTS Board. The Board has limited oversight in regard to it; however, scope of practice (providers must practice within the state scope of practice) and medical direction (having a medical director that meets ODEMS/Board standards) still remain under EMFTS authority. Agencies are urged to involve their legal counsel prior to implementing any MIH/CP program and also to review Ohio Attorney General Opinion No. 2016-023 (Fairfield County Opinion Request).

- The Board is currently working on the following projects for the upcoming year:
 - A rewrite of the Medical Transportation database (applies to private, licensed ambulances).
 - A rewrite of the database for Investigations.
 - Evaluation of fire and EMS initial training program pass/fail rates, and a plan for performance improvement.
 - A review of continuing education requirements for Ohio in light of recent NREMT changes.
 - An overhaul of many fire and EMS rules and laws from an administrative standpoint, cleaning up language that has been in effect since the 1970s – along with streamlining rules and laws to be in single areas rather than in several areas for simplicity and organization.

A special thanks to Ohio Division of EMS Executive Director Melvin House for his assistance in preparing this report. Should there be any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. You are also encouraged to contact ODEMS with questions or needs as well.

Professionally,



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