

Texas EMS Trauma News

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Something Old and Something New: Blending the Landscape of EMS Education in Texas

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Education has evolved and the way we teach adults in EMS education must combine the old with the new to give EMS educators and our students the tools to become better providers of emergency medicine. Here are some techniques that can be employed to increase instructional performance and combine the tried and true with today's technology and tactics.

- **Visualization**

Bring dull academic concepts to life with visual and practical learning experiences, aiding your students to understand how their training or education applies to better patient care. (Sarah, 2018)

- **Cooperative Learning**

Encourage students of mixed abilities to work together by promoting small group or whole class activities. (Sarah, 2018)

- **Inquiry Based Instruction**

Create thought-provoking questions and scenarios which inspire critical thinking in your students to think for themselves and become more independent learners. (Sarah, 2018)

- **Introducing Technology in the Classroom**

Incorporating technology into your teaching is a great way to actively engage your students, especially as digital media surrounds millennial students (Sarah, 2018)

- **Instructor Professional Development**

Having instructors engaging in regular professional development programs outside of EMS is a great way to enhance teaching and learning in your classroom.

As "baby boomers" age we are seeing a shortage of workers who want to provide emergency medical services partly due to other occupations that are available that might pay more, be more glamorous, and are perceived as less dangerous. For those who want to enter the EMS field as providers, we must look at some specific process that faculty/instructors can employ to increase student success throughout the EMS program.

- **Adult learning-** Adult learners have unique needs compared to other students. The adult learner wants to be able to complete a volume of

education and be able to take what they have just learned and put it to use in their daily practice. (Karell, 2018)

- **Flipping the classroom-** The standard has been the typical classroom with an educator lecturing to students in the classroom. This will usually include power point slides, charts, and anatomical aids. Flipping the class room can have the students study outside of the classroom and coming to class asking questions over the assigned material instead of listening to a lecture. Scenarios can also be added over the material in class to reinforce critical areas of the topic(s).
- **Use of Blogs-** A blog is usually a website maintained by a person or a group of people to share thought and ideas. This allows people to post views and information via a chat room and provide threads on a variety of topics that are shared and give them the opportunity to learn from each other. The instructor can assign topics to be discussed and steer the discussion without being in a classroom.
- **Videos-** Some concepts, especially skills can be demonstrated with the introduction of videos to show the chronology, techniques, and evaluation for the process that might be more difficult in the typical classroom setting.
- **Peer Review-** Many seasoned educators may call this "see one, do one, teach one." It is a way to allow students to teach each other. The students should receive a mastery demonstration from the instructor and have the students demonstrate it back in group setting with students reviewing and correcting incorrect performance.
- **Testing-** Pencil and Paper Testing. Most of us are most familiar with pencil and paper testing. It is probably the easiest to develop and grade and is the current method most utilized. Computer Based Testing is very linear; meaning each student on the computer taking the exam receives the same test question as everyone else.
- **Computer Adaptive Testing-** CAT is very dynamic as the computer adapts the test questions to each individual candidate based upon their ability to answer the questions. This allows the instructor to test the material in a more precise manner and examine the student's ability to use critical thinking skills over the subject matter.

Adapting to our students requires faculty/instructors to face the challenge of reaching adult learners at different levels of ability to gather, learn, and perform the difficulties of EMS education. We must use a combination of instructional strategies to address the different learning styles of our students. As we make our techniques of presentation more diverse we have a greater chance of seeing more successful learners.

Karell, D. (2018). What Different about Teaching adults. Parkline University , 1. Sarah. (2018, February 23). 7 Effective Teaching Strategies For The Classroom. Retrieved September 8, 2018, from Quizalize Blog:

<https://www.quizalize.com/blog/2018/02/23/teaching-strategies>

Texas EMS Personnel

Median age by certification Level as of May 2018

| | |
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| Advanced Emergency Medical Technician | 41 |
| Emergency Care Attendant | 47 |
| Emergency Medical Technician | 36 |
| Emergency Medical Technician Paramedic | 39 |
| Licensed Paramedic | 43 |

State Trauma Director takes new position

State Trauma Director Colin Crocker has moved to the DSHS Center for Health Policy and Performance as a Public Health System Improvement Lead. Colin began his career at the Office of EMS Trauma Systems in October 2012 as a RAC Program Coordinator and became State Trauma Director in 2014. We wish Colin the very best in this next stage of his career and thank him for his dedicated work to the Texas EMS/Trauma System over the years.

Heads Up Brain Injury Awareness

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has online training, tools and resources for parents, coaches, school professionals and health care providers to help recognize, respond to, and minimize the risk of concussion or other serious brain injury. Help keep athletes safe from concussions and other serious head injuries. Learn more at <https://www.cdc.gov/headsup/youthsports/index.html>.

Stakeholder Meetings

October meetings are continuing across the State to discuss revisions to Trauma and Stroke Facility Designation. Go to the Rules in Revision page <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/drafrules.aspx> to view upcoming meeting dates.

Texas hospitals designated for Neonatal Levels of Care

The Office of EMS/Trauma Systems is pleased to announce that 233 hospitals have successfully met the standards established in Texas to receive initial designation for neonatal levels of care. Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapter 133, Subchapter J,

[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=25&pt=1&ch=133&sch=J&rl=Y](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=25&pt=1&ch=133&sch=J&rl=Y) required all Texas licensed hospitals to be designated prior to September 1, 2018, in order to be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement. There are four levels of care for Neonatal designation.

- Level IV (Advanced Intensive Care Unit) as the highest level and provides comprehensive care to the most complex and critically ill infants.
- Level III (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) provides care to infants of all gestational ages, with mild to critical illnesses or requiring sustained life support.
- Level II (Special Care Nursery) provides care to infants with immaturity or problems that are expected to resolve rapidly.
- Level I (Well Nursery) provides basic care to well infants.

The designation levels and number of hospitals designated at each level are as follows:

- Level IV: 20
- Level III: 57
- Level II: 75
- Level I: 81

To learn more on Neonatal Levels of Care visit:

<http://www.dshs.texas.gov/emstraumasystems/neonatal.aspx>.

Maternal Designation Begins for Hospitals in Texas

Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Chapter 133, Subchapter K,

[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=25&pt=1&ch=133&sch=K&rl=Y](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=25&pt=1&ch=133&sch=K&rl=Y) maternal designation rules became effective March 1, 2018.

The second phase of the implementation of House Bill 15 included the development of maternal designation rules recognizing four levels of maternal care and hospitals are required to be designated by September 1, 2020, to be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement for maternal services. On-site surveys began in July 2018 and have been conducted in facilities seeking level IV designation. Survey organizations are currently scheduling for facilities seeking level II, III or IV designation. To learn more on Maternal Levels of Care visit:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/maternal.aspx>.

Texas Shines

Linda Holt named 2018 Citizen of the Year *Photo used and story linked with permission from The Facts* Linda Holt was named Citizen of the Year at The Facts' 22nd annual luncheon. She is an "EMS Icon" who lead the way in founding Central EMS, serving West Columbia and the surrounding areas. Since 1978 she has helped

build Central EMS and the Brazosport College EMS education program. View the story at http://thefacts.com/special/page_8b806d14-fe54-5eab-b2fc-61d259629e89.html.

Austin-Travis County EMS featured on A&E's "Nightwatch Nation" ATCEMS personnel are appearing on the latest season of "Nightwatch Nation" along with their fellow EMTs from New York, Arizona and Louisiana. The first episode aired on August 2 with "Nightwatch Presents: First Responders" and will be running through mid-October. The show features the more dangerous parts of the job and for the first time will look at the inside the 911 call room. You can watch full episodes of the series online at <https://www.aetv.com/shows/nightwatch-nation>.

Where to Find It

When you are the one that responds to calls for help, it's easy to ignore triggers that first responders face due to crisis and stress. Symptoms can include, erratic sleep, sleep difficulty or dysfunction, anxiety, depression, substance use and abuse, PTSD, suicidal ideation, and suicide. Some strategies to alleviate these symptoms may include: Effective and thorough on-the-job training programs;

- Physical fitness;
- Strong social, organizational, and personal support systems;
- Self-care partnered with self-awareness,
- A commitment to help one another, and
- Professional help when needed.

While these may help, the risk will not be eliminated. There are a variety of ways to access free and confidential assistance for those who experience stress injuries or other behavioral health issues.

- Fire/EMS Helpline: 1-888-731-3473,
- Safe Call Now: 1-206-459-3020,
- Crisis Text Line: text "Start" or "Help" to 741-741 (to talk to a trained crisis counselor),
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Helpline: 1-800-662-HELP (4357),
- SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline: 1-800-985-5990,
- The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255 (TALK), prefer to chat online, use their Lifeline Chat at <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/>,
- There is even a Grammy nominated song about the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline phone #, check it out. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ju6Q8Azcmg>.

You may have access to an employer-sponsored Employee Assistance Program (EAP) with other resources, or you can look through what is available on <http://codegreencampaign.org/resources/> for more options.

GETAC appointments

The Governor's Office notified the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems of five appointments to the Governor's EMS and Trauma Advisory Council. All terms expire January 1, 2024.

New Appointments

Sharon A. Malone, M.D., Van Altyne, Texas
Taylor K. Ratcliff, M.D., Belton, Texas
Shawn J. Salter, San Antonio, Texas

Reappointments

Karen M. Pickard, Ovilla, Texas
Alan H. Tyroch, M.D., El Paso, Texas

Thank you to Dr. Jeff Beeson, Jodie Harbert, and Shirley Scholz for your years of dedicated service to the GETAC council and the Texas EMS/Trauma Systems

Attention

The Center for Homeland Defense and Security is pleased to announce the next deadline for the "Emergence Program" will be October 24, 2018. The Emergence Program is a unique opportunity for homeland security/ public safety professionals who are in the early stage of their career. The program provides an educational forum and innovation lab for participants to explore "emerging" trends in the world around us – e.g. technology, environment, and terrorism. Program information, qualifications and the application are available on our website at: <https://www.chds.us/c/academic-programs/emergence>.

AED Reporting

We've had recent questions on whether AED acquisition and usage need to be reported directly to the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems ; no, this is not required. Per the Texas Administrative Code Rule §157.41 Automated External Defibrillators for Public Access Defibrillation states that the following notifications are required: (1) A person or entity that acquires an AED shall immediately notify all local emergency medical service providers of the existence, physical location and type of

device. (2) A person or entity that uses an AED shall notify the local emergency medical service (911) provider after the AED is used.

Ask Joe Q&A with the State EMS Director

Spend an hour getting answers to your questions and earn 1 hour of continuing education Spec Cons. Seating is limited. Donuts and coffee will be served. Tuesday, November 20, 9:15 a.m. Fort Worth Convention Center

News from the Web

Memorial Hermann and Baylor Scott & White Health create combined health system
<https://abc13.com/health/memorial-hermann-merger-creates-largest-health-system-in-texas/4384181/>

DHS Reissues the NTAS Bulletin

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2018/09/14/dhs-reissues-ntas-bulletin>

Nerve agent information for EMS and hospitals

https://www.ems.gov/pdf/Nerve_Agent_Info_for_EMS_and_Hospitals.pdf

Additional Reading

NHTSA's EMS Update:

<https://www.ems.gov/ems-update.html>

Homes for Texas Heroes Home Loan Program:

www.tsahc.org/homeownership/loans-down-payment-assistance

The program, spearheaded by the Texas legislature, provides a 30-year fixed rate home loan to Texas EMS personnel, firefighters, peace officers and others. In addition, this program offers down payment and closing cost assistance of up to 5% of the mortgage loan amount, in the form of a grant.

Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons:

<http://bulletin.facs.org/>

The Bulletin of the American College of Surgeons is published monthly by the American College of Surgeons.

Washington Update: <http://www.nasemso.org/WashingtonUpdate/>

The Washington Update is produced bi-monthly by the National Association of State EMS Officials in cooperation with NHTSA OEMS, with funds also provided by HHS EMSC.

NACo County News:

<http://www.naco.org/news>

The voice of American counties.

The Pony Express:

<https://www.bcm.edu/departments/pediatrics/texasemsc/?pmid=15790>

Official Newsletter of the EMSC State Partnership, Texas.

Integrated Healthcare Delivery:

<https://www.emsworld.com/article/11294452/integrated-future>

Integrated Healthcare Delivery focuses on improving the patient experience of care through inter-professional collaborations

Questions, comments or suggestions about Texas EMS Trauma News?

Contact us at EMSTraumaNews@dshs.state.tx.us.