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SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Division of Health Systems Development and Regulation

Health Protection

Licensure and Certification

Public Health Preparedness and Response

Rural Health

September 1, 2016

The Department of Health remains committed to working with the industry to ensure there are a variety of options available to providers to assist in meeting continuing educational requirements. As part of this commitment, the Office of Rural Health has held numerous workgroup meetings exploring various alternatives for EMS education. The group met several times identifying the needs, challenges, opportunities, and next steps related to continuing medical education.

After many meetings, the group recognized there are several "tools" in an educational "toolkit" that will assist EMTs meet their recertification requirements. There is no one silver bullet for CME—there are numerous options such as:

- SD EMS Conference
- Mini-Conferences
- Refresher Courses
- EMT District Meetings
- Canned Courses (PHTLS, PALS, AMLS, etc.)
- Online content both free and for profit,
- Local instructor education
- Attending local EMT courses
- Hospital Symposiums (Trauma, Stroke, STEMI, etc.)
- SIM-SD, etc.

In addition, the Office of Rural Health is in the process of developing lesson plans, Power Points, and videos that local EMS providers can use to obtain CME. This will be a great option for local instructors who do not have the time to develop their own content. It will also provide some consistency for EMS education across the state.

Last year, upon submission of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) grant application, the Office of Rural Health was requested to reduce dependency on these federal funds which have historically been used to provide the monthly training contract. In response to this request, the Office of Rural Health completed a three year transition strategy and is currently in the process of administering this plan. Messaging regarding this transition began at the annual EMSA conference in October of 2015 and has continued over the past year through various platforms such as the newsletter, EMT Thoughts, mailings to service

directors, etc. South Dakota has been extremely fortunate to have had access to such funding for the past 20 years, unfortunately, now, we are faced with change. Change is never easy, but it is required given recent federal requirements. Effective October 1st, 2016, due to federal funding reductions, the EMS Program will no longer be able to fund the current monthly training platform.

We appreciate your patience as we await word from NHTSA regarding funding for year two of the transitional plan. This should come within the next month. Following that announcement, ORH will use any dollars awarded to further develop educational opportunities for local EMS providers.

The Board and the EMS Program are committed to working together to assist, communicate, and inform ALS providers. Please do not hesitate to contact either director at any time:

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