

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
FICEMS NATIONAL EMS STAKEHOLDER MEETING
MARCH 17-18, 2010

The Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS) held a National EMS and 9-1-1 Stakeholders meeting on March 17-18, 2010 in Washington, DC. The meeting was sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Health Affairs. DHS understands the critical role EMS plays in health care, public health, and public safety by frequently providing immediate life sustaining care and making decisions with limited time and information. Because EMS is a critical point of access to the health care delivery system for all Americans, FICEMS has taken the initiative to promote evidence-based health care delivery and regional systems of care.

The FICEMS was established by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (42 U.S.C. § 300d-4). FICEMS is charged with coordinating Federal EMS efforts for the purposes of identifying state and local EMS needs, recommending new or expanded programs for improving EMS at all levels, and streamlining the process through which Federal agencies support EMS.

At the FICEMS Stakeholders meeting, FICEMS leadership presented a brief overview of current Federal EMS and 9-1-1 related activities, responded to questions and listened to the opinions and ideas of national organizations and interested individuals about national EMS priorities and future directions. FICEMS proposed the meeting as one way to improve communications between EMS stakeholders and Federal agencies.

The meeting was intended to solicit suggestions about national EMS priorities and future directions, but not to establish a group consensus. While the detailed meeting minutes will be available later, the following is a very brief overview of some recurring comments. This is not an exhaustive list of the suggestions:

1. **EMS Standardization** – Some stakeholders suggested there should be enhanced national standardization of the nomenclature and training of all prehospital EMS providers as well as critical care levels, emergency medical dispatch and medical direction. There were recommendations to review areas in which there has already been nation-wide standardization of state-licenses such as drivers licenses and nursing licenses.
2. **Facilitate the Collection, Access, and Use of Research and Evaluation that Informs Clinical Practice** – Suggestions included the posting on www.ems.gov of a consolidated list of recognized peer-reviewed EMS journals that publish EMS research. Some suggested there should be incentives for EMS systems to adopt NEMESIS compliant data collection and reporting. There were suggestions that an EMS-specific national Institutional Review Board would facilitate additional research and would help to ensure patient discharge information is available to researchers.
3. **Safety** – Ensuring the safety of EMS providers and their patients was an issue frequently mentioned by stakeholders.

4. **Funding** Many stakeholders stressed the importance of dedicated funding to support clinical care initiatives and for prehospital EMS including supporting the cost of readiness...not just transport. Some suggested a series of meetings throughout the nation focused on funding and sustainability of EMS systems.
5. **Lead Federal Agency** Many stakeholders suggested the need for a Federal lead agency with authority to establish a strong agenda and to serve as a liaison with Congress. Some of its suggested activities include data and research, providing funding, creating partnerships, ensuring the health and safety of EMS providers and patients, supporting EMS education, improving the EMS workforce, and establishing standards.
6. **National Performance Standards** – Some stakeholders encouraged the development of mandatory national standards and encouraged the Federal partners to pursue rigorous, evidence-based standards and guidelines for EMS and 9-1-1 services and the use of incentives to help ensure compliance.
7. **Vision for Next Generation EMS** – Stakeholders suggested the need for a national consensus on the future vision of EMS...one that would enable all to speak with one voice, while still recognizing State, regional and local variations.
8. **National Responder Database** – Some stakeholders felt there is a need for a federally operated National Responder Database, based on uniform responder definitions to enhance surge capacity, verify credentials and track line of duty deaths and injuries.
9. **National EMS Academy** – A National EMS Academy was suggested by some to mirror, for EMS, the mission and purpose of the National Fire Academy including Federal oversight.

The more detailed minutes of the Stakeholder Meeting will be made available later. The input of the Stakeholders meeting will be reviewed by the Technical Working Group with recommendations to FICEMS. The stakeholder input will also be made available to the National EMS Advisory Council and to others.