

STATE BUREAU OF EMS HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2008

GENERAL INFORMATION

EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Next Meeting

July 8-10, 2008

[The Rosen Centre Hotel](#)

9840 International Drive

Orlando, FL 32819

(800) 800-9840

Please make hotel reservations at the Rosen Centre Hotel by calling (800) 800-9840 by June 13, 2008. The group conference rate of \$132.00 is reserved under "EMLRC ClinCon 2008". Check in time is 3:00 p.m. Cancellation within five days will result in a penalty of one night stay. Reserve your room early!! For more information regarding room reservations, please visit: <http://www.emlrc.org/>.

Future Meeting Dates:

October 1 ~ 3, 2008 (Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club)

January 28 ~ 30, 2009 (Daytona Beach – Fire East)

EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL VACANCIES

The EMS office is still soliciting nominations to fill the upcoming vacancies on the EMS Advisory Council. The following six positions will become vacant on June 30, 2008, and will expire on June 30, 2012:

- EMS Administrator (non-fire)
- Lay Elderly
- Emergency Nurse
- EMS Administrator (fire)
- EMT (non-fire)
- Commercial Ambulance Operator

If you would like to be a candidate or nominate a candidate for any of these positions, please send a letter of nomination, a current resume and any other information that you believe will help in assessing the nominee's potential contribution to furthering the objectives of the council to:

Desi Lassiter
DOH/Emergency Medical Services
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C18
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1738
Phone (850) 245-4055
FAX (850) 488-9408

ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY MAY 1, 2008.

Please consider the diversity of Florida's population when making your nominations so that the entire population will be represented. The State Surgeon General, Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H. will make appointments. Representatives appointed to these positions will begin their four-year terms on July 1, 2008.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

State Surgeon General Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H., made the following appointments to the Emergency Medical Review Committee (EMRC):

Chairman	Joe Nelson, DO, MS, FACOEP, FACEP State EMS Medical Director, Florida Department of Health
Ex-Officio Position	Steve McCoy, EMT-P Florida Department of Health
Fire-Based Position	Chief John Gardner, EMT-P, Firefighter Miami-Dade Fire Rescue
Non-Firebased Position	Captain Arthur Garcia, EMT-P Lee County Emergency Medical Services
Air Medical Position	Maria Fernandez, MSN, ARNP, MBA, HSA, EMT, CMTE Miami Children's Hospital
Quality Improvement Officer Position	Jeffrey R. Barnard, NEMT-P, BHRM Emergency Medical Services Group, Inc. and Office of the Medical Director for Pinellas County EMS
At-Large Position	Battalion Chief Cory S. Richter, EMT-P,

	Firefighter Indian River Fire Rescue
Pediatric/Neonatal Position	Salvatore Silvestri, MD, FACEP Orlando Regional Medical Center and Orange County Emergency Medical Systems

The appointed members will serve four-year terms that will expire on March 28, 2012. The Bureau of EMS congratulates the appointees and looks forward to working with them on our continued journey of statewide EMS quality improvement.

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY (COPCN)

The Bureau of EMS held an additional workshop on March 13, 2008, at the Orange County Emergency Operations Center to continue discussions on COPCN. The finalized language will be noticed for a public hearing following the April EMS Advisory Council meeting. Updates on the progress of this issue continue to be posted on the bureau's listserve (flemscomm).

To subscribe to flemscomm visit:

<http://ww7.doh.state.fl.us/mailman/listinfo/flemscomm>

EMS WEEK

National EMS week is May 18, 2008 – May 24, 2008 with the theme of “**EMS: Your Life Is Our Mission.**” Please contact the bureau regarding your planned EMS Week activities so we may feature them on flemscomm and in the EMS newsletter. We will not be sending out the planning guides this year. Providers may download the guides, logos, and other resources from the American College of Emergency Physician's website at:

<http://www.acep.org/practres.aspx?id=30212>

Questions regarding EMS Week may be directed to Lisa Walker at (850) 245-4440 ext. 2733 or Lisa_Walker2@doh.state.fl.us.

2008 ANNUAL EXCELLENCE IN EMS AWARDS

The Bureau of EMS is pleased to be joining forces again with the Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center (EMLRC) to present the *18th Annual Excellence in EMS Awards* to Florida's real life heroes.

The ceremony will take place on Wednesday, July 9, 2008 from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m., as part of the EMLRC's *34th Annual Clinical Conference on Emergency Medical Services (ClinCon)*, which will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, FL. The awards will honor outstanding Florida EMS organizations and individuals who have made a positive impact on emergency medical services throughout the state.

This event is sponsored by
American Heart Association/American Stroke Association
Florida Association of Rural EMS Providers, Inc.
Lake Sumter EMS

*If you are interested in supporting this event and becoming a sponsor, please contact Wesley Houtz at 407-281-7396 x-12 or via e-mail at whoutz@emlrc.org.

Thanks to all who took the time to nominate individuals or agencies for their extraordinary service. Winners will be announced prior to EMS Week.

APRIL EDITIONS OF EMS VITALS NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE

The Spring Issue of *EMS Vitals* is now available on the Bureau's website at: <http://www.fl-ems.com/index.html>. The newsletter is a great avenue to share/learn best practices, recognize members of the EMS community, provide updates on strategic planning efforts, and more. The Bureau would like to thank all who have contributed to *EMS Vitals*. Your continued partnership strengthens the success of the newsletter. Contact Lisa Walker at Lisa_Walker2@doh.state.fl.us or Alex Macy at Alexander_Macy@doh.state.fl.us for deadlines and article length requirements.

THE PRUDENTIAL – DAVIS PRODUCTIVITY AWARDS

On March 21, 2008 the 2008 Davis Productivity Award Winners were announced. Among the list of recipients included two Bureau of EMS Teams:

- **2007 EMS Week Development Team**, Alexander Macy and Lisa Walker, for the development and execution of a large scale public service educational event at no additional cost to the department (2007 EMS Week Kick-Off Celebration).
- **EMS for Children Program**, Patricia Kenyon and Melia Jenkins, improved access to EMS for Florida's Children.

Certificates of Commendation will be presented to the recipients at the Awards Gala/Dinner in June at the Leon County Civic Center. Congratulations Alex, Lisa, Patricia, and Melia!!!

Since 1989, the Davis Productivity Award program has publicly recognized and rewarded state employees and work units whose work significantly and measurably increases productivity and promotes innovation to improve the delivery of state services and save money for Florida taxpayers and businesses. The awards program also recognizes achievements that are particularly beneficial to citizens and the private sector and that further the [Priorities](#) of the Crist/Kottkamp Administration, which are: safety and security, property tax and insurance reform, education, adoption/abuse prevention, civil rights, healthcare, open government and plain language.

The Davis Productivity Program welcomes and encourages all state government employees and private citizens to submit nominations, and looks forward to even greater taxpayer improvements in next year's program. For more information, please contact Clarissa Dunlap, Executive Director of the Prudential Davis Productivity Awards at (850) 222-5052 or email cdunlap@floridataxwatch.org

DATA SECTION

PILOT TESTING & JULY STARTUP

In February 2008, the EMSTARS Project Team initiated the newest phase of pilot testing. The Stage two Pilot agencies are now submitting live data to EMSTARS. The pilot testing has been a success with testing and verifying software and data configurations at both the local provider levels, and also for the EMSTARS statewide database. The pilot agencies are to be applauded for the dedication that they have put forth in making a difference for the agencies that will follow (please see *Data Quality Improvement* in the following section).

The pilot agencies are working very closely with their vendors to work out the problems that exist with mapping, validation, exports, etc. The pilot testing has already begun to provide Best Practices and Lessons Learned that other agencies will be able to use as they move forward in becoming EMSTARS compliant.

All of the participating agencies are to be commended for their commitment and dedication to the improvement of patient care in Florida.

These EMS providers have reinforced their commitment to evidenced-based decision making and are truly leading our state's EMS system into the future.

PILOT PROGRAM

Baker County EMS	Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department, City Of	North Lauderdale Fire Rescue
Collier County EMS Department	Lauderhill Fire Rescue	Oakland Park Fire Rescue
Coral Gables Fire Rescue Department	Lighthouse Point Fire Rescue	Polk County Public Safety Department, EMS Division
Florida Medi-Van Ambulance Service, Inc.	Manatee County Department Of Public Safety	Pompano Beach Fire Rescue
Gadsden County EMS	Marion County EMS Alliance, Inc.	Reedy Creek Emergency Services
Hallandale Beach Fire Rescue	Miami Beach Fire Rescue Department, City Of	Sanford Fire Department
Hialeah Fire Rescue Department, City Of	Miramar Fire Rescue, City Of	Sunrise Fire Rescue, City Of
Indian River County, Department Of Emergency Services	Monroe County Fire Rescue	Tampa General Healthcare
	Nassau County Rescue Service	The Sheriff Of Broward County, Florida

CHARTER PROGRAM

Alachua County Dept. Of Fire/Rescue Services	Dania Beach Fire Rescue	Escambia County Department Of Public Safety/EMS
Bayfront Medical Center DBA Bayflite	Davie Fire Rescue, The Town Of	Flagler County Fire Rescue
Bonita Springs Fire Control & Rescue District	Deerfield Beach Fire Rescue	Florida Hospital EMS
Brevard County Fire Rescue	Delray Beach Fire-Rescue	Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue
Casselberry Fire Department	Desoto County Fire/Rescue Department	Gilchrist County Emergency Medical Services
Century Ambulance Service, Inc.	Dixie County Emergency Medical Services	Glades County Emergency Medical Services
Charlotte County Fire and EMS Department	Edgewater Fire Rescue, City Of	Gulf County Emergency Medical Services
Clay County Fire Rescue		

Hamilton County Ambulance Service	MCT Express, Inc DBA Miami-Dade Ambulance Service	San Carlos Park Fire Protection & Rescue Service District
Hardee County Fire Rescue	Melbourne Fire Department	Sarasota County Fire Department
Hendry County Emergency Services	Nature Coast Emergency Medical Services	Shandscair, Shands Hospital
Highlands County EMS	New Smyrna Beach Fire Department	South Walton Fire District
Hillsborough County Fire Rescue	North Palm Beach Public Safety	St. Johns County Fire Rescue Department
Hollywood Fire Rescue, City Of	Ocean Reef Public Safety Department	St. Lucie County Fire District
Holmes County EMS	Okaloosa County Emergency Medical Services	Tamarac Fire Rescue, City Of
Islamorada Village Of Islands Fire Rescue	Orange County Fire Rescue Department	Tampa Fire Rescue, City Of
Jackson County Fire and Rescue Unit	Orlando Fire Department	Temple Terrace Fire Department, City Of
Kissimmee Fire Department	Orlando Regional Healthcare-Air Care Team	Tequesta Fire Rescue
Lake-Sumter Emergency Medical Services, Inc.	Ormond Beach Fire Department, City Of	Village Center Community Development District
Lee County Emergency Medical Service	Osceola County Fire Rescue	Village Of Key Biscayne Fire Rescue
Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District	Palm Beach Gardens Fire Rescue	Volusia County Fire Services
Leon County Emergency Medical Services	Pasco County Fire Rescue	Wakulla County Ambulance Service
Levy County EMS	Pinellas County EMS Authority DBA Sunstar	Walton County Emergency Medical Service
Liberty County Ambulance Service	Plantation Fire Department	Washington County Ambulance Service
Lifeflight Variety Children's Hospital	Port Orange Department Of Fire And Rescue	Weems Hospital Ambulance Service
Lifeguard Ambulance Of Florida, LLC	Positive Mobility, Inc.	Wewahitchka Emergency Medical Services
Margate Fire Rescue	Putnam County Emergency Rescue Service	Winter Park Fire Rescue Department
Marion County Fire-Rescue	Rocky Mountain Holdings L.L.C. Dba Lifenet	Winter Springs Fire Department

DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

As the Pilot Programs have progressed, and more providers have begun submitting live data, software vendors and Data Unit technical staff have been able to identify and fix problems on an increasing basis. This has been reflected in the overall quality of the data that is being transmitted to the EMSTARS statewide database.

The table below indicates the top scoring agencies, and their software vendor, for the period of January 1, 2008 to March 15, 2008:

EMS Provider	Software Vendor	Data Quality Avg	Records Submitted
EMS Alliance of Marion Co., Inc.	Sansio HealthEMS	99.57%	3,758
Manatee County EMS	Healthware Solutions	98.51%	2,649
Jacksonville Fire Rescue	Documed Emergency Pro	98.31%	12,417
Polk County EMS	Sansio HealthEMS	98.18%	29,030
Tampa General Areomed	emsCharts	97.22%	554
Nassau County EMS	Documed Emergency Pro	95.04%	1,445
Gadsden County EMS	Documed Emergency Pro	91.19%	10,461

REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS

The Project Team will once again be visiting several cities within Florida to conduct training on EMSTARS for all interested agencies. The regional workshops will begin in May 2008 and continue into June 2008.

While the training is aimed at Key Users within the agency, all staff is welcome to participate. Each provider agency may send up to three people to this training. Space will be limited and attendees will be asked to request a reserved seat at the training location of their choice. Some locations will have more available seating than others and reservations will be confirmed on a first-come-first served basis.

Visit the website at www.floridaemstars.com for further details on the upcoming Regional Training Workshops to include travel reimbursement and registration information.

LOCATION	DATE
Pensacola	Wednesday, May 21
Destin	Thursday, May 22
West Palm Beach	Tuesday, June 03
Ft. Lauderdale	Wednesday, June 04
Miami	Thursday, June 05
Fort Myers	Monday, June 09
Sarasota	Tuesday, June 10
Tampa	Wednesday, June 11
Ocala	Thursday, June 12
Jacksonville	Friday, June 13
New Smyrna Beach	Tuesday, June 17
Melbourne	Wednesday, June 18
Orlando	Thursday, June 19
Crawfordville	Thursday, June 26

NEW DATA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

On March 3 and March 4, the EMSTARS Project Team hosted a Boot Camp for new data committee members that will be joining the EMS Advisory Council Data Committee. The Boot Camp was designed to orient the new members on the lifecycle of the EMSTARS program, the origins of the Florida EMS Data Set, the auxiliary projects dependent on EMSTARS data (such as the state's new Highway Safety Information System), and historical decisions that have been made by the committee relating to event guidelines for EMS reporting.

Levi Owens, Steve McCoy, Chief Mac Kemp, Chief Charles Moreland, and Capt. Ken Devin did a great job in covering topics such as a Chronicle of the Committee (from original committee developed by EMSAC in 2003 to the current committee), Data Committee Purpose & Expectations, Project Structure, EMSTARS Evolution, Building the Data Set, Data Dictionary, Just the Facts: Intent, Authority, and Protection, and the EMRC.

The EMS Advisory Council Data Committee is now comprised of the following members:

Member	Affiliation
Moreland, Charles	Committee Chairman
Alexander, Tim	Dixie County EMS
Ball, Gary	Polk County EMS
Barnard, Jeff	Pinellas County Office of the Medical Director
Beasley, Brian	Gadsden County EMS
Benton, Tom	M.D., University of Florida - Shands
Bradley, LuWayne	Seminole County EMS
Burger, Tom	Putnam County EMS
Cartwright, Keith	Reedy Creek Emergency Services
Creswell, Lisa	American Heart & American Stroke Association
Delgado, Nancy	American Medical Response
Devin, Kenneth	Jacksonville Fire Rescue
Fernandez, Raul	City of Miami Fire Rescue
Garcia, Art	Lee County EMS
Hare, Craig	Pinellas County EMS and Fire Administration
Hitchcock, Duncan	Pasco County Fire Rescue
Holler, David	City of Pinellas Park Fire Department
Hunter, Karen	Kissimmee Fire Department
Kanzler, Joe	Manatee County EMS
Kemp, Mac	Leon County EMS
Koch, Kathy	Tampa General Aeromed
LaRue, Steve	Hialeah Fire Rescue
McCoy, Steve	Bureau of EMS Data Unit
Nater, Angel	Florida EMS Quality Managers Association
Nelson, Joe	D.O., Florida EMS Medical Director
Shatz, David	M.D., Univ. of Miami School of Medicine / Ryder Trauma Center
Sheridan, Thomas	Tamarac Fire Rescue
Taber, Paul	Broward General Medical Center
Uzenoff, Barbara	Hillsborough County Trauma Agency
Williams, Les	Collier County EMS

NATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE EMSTARS TEAM

The EMS Tracking and Reporting System (EMSTARS) Project Team has been recognized by the National EMS Information System Technical Assistance Center (NEMESIS TAC) as a model the rest of the country could emulate. During the January EMS Advisory Council, the Bureau of EMS was fortunate to have representatives from the National EMS Information System Technical Assistance Center present.

Dave Owens, Director of the NEMESIS Technical Assistance Center (TAC) program, and Wendy Weber, the program's Data Analyst, were extremely impressed with the progress that the EMSTARS Project Team and the EMS Advisory Council's Data Committee have made in moving forward with becoming a NEMESIS compliant state. The EMSTARS Project Team could not have done this without the support of the EMS Advisory Council's Data Committee and input from the EMS community. Your feedback is continually used to drive the project in a direction that will "promote, protect and improve the health of all people in Florida."



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N. Clay Mann, PhD, MS
Principle Investigator

David J. Owens
NEMSIS TAC Director

Jorge Rojas
IT Coordinator / Data Manager

Wendy Weber
Data Manager

Su Shaoyu
Software Developer

Paige Nielsen, BS
Information Coordinator

Stacy Lund
Office Assistant

Rene Enriquez, BS
IT Administration

Jacquie Zindel, BA
Administration



Greg Mears, MD
Co-Principle Investigator

Paul Cooper
Applications Project Manager

Nicole Engelby
Customer Support Specialist

2/08/2008

Jennifer Bencie-Fairburn, M.D., M.S.A.
Director, Division of Emergency Medical Operations
4025 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Ms. Bencie-Fairburn,

After visiting your state and meeting the team responsible for EMSTARS, I felt compelled to write you and express my appreciation and admiration for the people responsible for this program. Levi's team was extremely cordial and, more important, very competent. I have had the opportunity to see many programs across the country and witness the dedication of their respective personnel. The EMSTARS program is as good as any I have seen and the people are some of the most dedicated I have had the opportunity to be associated with. EMSTARS is a model the rest of the country could emulate.

On behalf of the National EMS Information System Technical Assistance Center (NEMSIS TAC), I would like to express my sincere appreciation for expertise and dedication of the EMSTARS team, and thank you personally for your support of their program.

Sincerely,

David J. Owens
Program Director

COMPLIANCE SECTION

The team inspected 60 EMS Provider agencies the first quarter of 2008. Of those 60 inspected, 25 were unannounced and 35 announced.

The Training & Education Team also completed four new school inspections for the first quarter of 2008.

Among the entire staff of four, they have driven 12,578 miles year to date. Keep up the good work!

STATEWIDE PLANNING SECTION

INVESTIGATIONS

The Investigations Section at the Bureau of EMS continues to operate in conjunction with Medical Quality Assurance's investigations section in regards to investigation of cases of EMT's and paramedics. The cases are currently being prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

All complaints against individual EMTs and/or paramedics should be filed with MQA through their website. The complaint form may be accessed at: http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/enforcement/enforce_howto.htm.

All complaints against ambulance services and training centers should be filed with the Bureau of EMS through our website. The complaint form can accessed at: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/demo/ems/Investigations/Investigations.html>

REMINDER

The Attorney General's Office prosecutes the cases for the Bureau of EMS. Reginald Dixon is no longer with the Attorney General's Office, LeeAnn Gustafson is the replacement and can be reached at (850) 414-3300. Ms. Gustafson has worked with the Attorney General's Office for over 20 years and has a vast amount of knowledge and is a wonderful asset to the bureau.

Please visit the following website www.flhealthsource.com to determine if an EMT, paramedic or EMS provider has a clear/active license.

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Probable Cause Panel held on:

February 18, 2008, in which 16 cases were presented to the panel.

March 25, 2008, in which 13 cases were presented to the panel.

Next Probable Cause Panel will be held on April 21, 2008, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30p.m., at the Bureau of EMS.

Informal Hearing held on:

February 25, 2008, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

March 10, 2008, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Next Informal Hearing is scheduled for April 25, 2008, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Bureau of EMS.

GRANTS

Grant Training. The Bureau provides training specific to its EMS grant programs under Part II of Chapter 401, Florida Statutes. We now schedule a grant training session at the October and January Advisory Council meetings. In addition to training sessions at these Advisory Council meetings, we expect to schedule several later this calendar year in various regions of the state.

Grant Process Status. The deadline for submitting matching grants for the current cycle was February 15, 2008. The bureau received 106 applications totaling \$7.5 million for general matching grants. Approximately \$4 million is available for awards.

We also received 28 applications totaling \$1.7 million for rural grants. Approximately \$400,000 may be available for award.

We will review all 134 applications and make final decisions by late May, or early June 2008. All funds will be distributed by June 30, 2008.

New Grant Application Time Frames. The Bureau is not accepting applications for any grants at this time. However, for planning purposes and information, although the following timelines are subject to changes, the next window for submitting grant applications should begin by October or November, 2008. We anticipate the deadline for submission of applications will be approximately three months after the opening date. Under the grant program for county governments, payments are not competitive, so we will process payments as the applications are received.

Notification. All information on grant events as they are scheduled, regarding training sessions, awards, and new grant cycles will be posted on the Bureau's web page and placed in its EMS electronic newsletter Flemscomm. You may subscribe at no cost to Flemscomm at the Bureau's website.

EMS FOR CHILDREN

- On February 25, the bureau was awarded a non-competing, continuation EMSC federal partnership grant in the amount of \$115,000. The grant began on March 1, 2008, and ends on February 28, 2009. The primary goals of the grant are to improve the capacity of Florida to deliver effective pediatric emergency care by integrating pediatric issues into the EMS system and to develop Florida's capacity to obtain EMS and pediatric specific data (EMSTARS) to document the status and progress of emergency care in Florida.
- The EMSC Program conducted two surveys this quarter. EMS provider agencies and hospital emergency department medical directors were surveyed regarding:
 - Pediatric Medical Direction Protocols
 - Interfacility Transfer Guidelines & Agreements for Pediatric PatientsThese surveys will provide baseline data required for performance indicators that document activities and achievements of the EMSC program in improving the delivery of emergency services to children.

Upon completion and receipt of the surveys, Florida EMSC assured eligibility to participants to receive scholarships to attend the Second Annual Prehospital Pediatric Education Symposium. Attendance at the symposium will provide health professionals with continuing education units.

- This year Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week will be celebrated throughout the nation May 18-24, 2008, with special emphasis given to May 21, Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Day. The EMSC Program in collaboration with the Public Information Education Relations (PIER) Committee will provide a PIER CD that highlights examples and materials to start or to add to existing injury prevention programs. The PIER CD will be disseminated to the following organizations/agencies on May 15th: EMS provider agencies; hospitals with emergency departments; county health departments; EMS initial training centers; Children's Medical Services clinics; county school superintendents; EMS Advisory Council members; EMSC Advisory Committee members and

constituency group presidents. For further information, please contact either Patricia Kenyon at (850) 245-4440, extension 2686 or Frieda Travis at (850) 245-4144, extension 2736.

Addendum

Office of Injury Prevention

Contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan, Manager, Office of Injury Prevention; Division of Health Access and Tobacco at (850) 245-4440, extension 2776 for further information.

APRIL IS SWIMMING POOL SAFETY MONTH!

- It is anticipated that Governor Charlie Crist will proclaim April 2008 as Swimming Pool Safety Month as he did in 2007. The Florida Swimming Pool Association (FSPA) has again requested the proclamation from the Governor's Office.
- Resolutions by Senator Rhonda Storms (Senate Resolution #2004) and Representative Ron Reagan (forthcoming) recognizing April as "Swimming Pool Safety Month" are also anticipated. FSPA hopes to have the resolutions read on the House and Senate floor during this Legislative session.
- Florida continues to lead the nation in drowning deaths for the 1-4 year olds. Residential swimming pools are the location of more than 75% of the drowning deaths in Florida for the 1-4 age group.
- There will be community water safety and drowning prevention activities statewide by members of the FSPA and drowning prevention advocates during April.
- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2466 or [Leilani Gruener@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Leilani_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us)

2008 SWIMMING POOL AND WATER SAFETY CONFERENCE-APRIL 10-11, 2008

- The Office of Injury Prevention and the Florida Swimming Pool Association are co-sponsoring the 2008 Swimming Pool and Water Safety Conference.
- The conference will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando. Hotel reservations can be made by calling (800) 204-7234. The group room rate is \$120 per night.
- This conference will provide an opportunity for drowning prevention advocates and members of the swimming pool industry (contractors, pool supply, and cleaning services) to build consensus on water safety and prevention issues.

- For conference registration or more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2466 or Leilani_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us

**2008 DROWNING PREVENTION AWARENESS CAMPAIGN-
“KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE KIDS” APRIL-JUNE, 2008**

- Plans are being made for the spring 2008 Drowning Prevention Awareness Campaign-“Keep Your Eyes on the Kids” in the top counties for swimming pool deaths of the 0-4 year olds.
- This year, the 14 counties for the campaign are Brevard, Broward, Hillsborough, Lee, Marion, Miami-Dade, Orange, Osceola, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Seminole, and Sumter.
- The Campaign’s target population is the under five-year-old age group while the focus is on adults maintaining constant eye contact with children when they are in or around water.
- The County Health Department will facilitate community activities April-June with the Safe Kids chapters and coalitions, DOH-Children Medical Services Offices and other community partners in their county.
- Residential swimming pools are the location of more than 75% of the drowning deaths in Florida for the 0-4 age group. Florida leads the nation in the 1-4 year old drownings and is third in the nation in overall drownings.
- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2466 or Leilani_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us

SAFE KIDS WEEK APRIL 26-MAY 4, 2008 “GEAR UP FOR SAFETY!”

- Safe Kids Week 2008 is special as Safe Kids is celebrating its 20th anniversary of working to reduce unintentional injuries and deaths for children 14 years old and under.
- Florida’s Safe Kids coalitions and chapters will be hosting community events during Safe Kids Week highlighting the theme, “Gear up for Safety.” The campaign will encourage children and parents to gear up for activities (for example, helmets for biking, rollerblading, skate boarding and scooters; seat belts and car seats while riding in a vehicle; life vest while boating, etc.).
- Currently, there are ten local coalitions covering Alachua, Bradford, Broward, Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy, Suwannee, Union, Flagler, Volusia, Seminole, Orange, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Polk, Pasco, Manatee, Sarasota, Lee, Palm Beach, and Dade counties, and five state chapters in Duval/St. Johns, Osceola, Brevard, Leon, and Marion counties.

- For more information, contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us

INJURY PREVENTION 101 COURSE -MAY 20, 2008

- The Office of Injury Prevention is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Injury Prevention 101 Course on May 20, 2008 at the Quorum Hotel located at 700 N. Westshore Blvd. Tampa, FL 33609.
- This one-day course is intended to provide injury prevention awareness and knowledge, strengthen local partnerships, and bring together the various organizational entities needed to create successful injury prevention programs.
- We anticipate that the course will again be approved for continuing education for EMS personnel and nurses.
- There is no registration fee since the course is sponsored through an injury prevention grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- However, **you must register for the course to ensure that enough materials and handouts are available. Register now at:**
<http://survey.doh.state.fl.us/survey/entry.jsp?id=1170679024558>.
- Hotel reservations can be made by calling the Quorum Hotel at 1-813-289-8200. **To obtain the \$109.00 room rate, please be sure to use the name DOH-Injury Prevention and make your hotel reservations no later than April 18, 2008.**
- For more information, please contact Freida Travis at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2736 or freida_travis@doh.state.fl.us.

SENIOR FALLS PREVENTION SEMINAR SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 24, 2008

- Falls is the leading cause of injury-related deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency room visits for Florida's senior population.
- The Office of Injury Prevention and the Department of Elder Affairs are co-hosting a one-day seminar on Preventing Falls in Florida's Senior Population.
- The seminar will be held at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa on June 24, 2008, the day prior to the Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC) meetings. Hotel reservations can be made by calling the hotel at (813) 289-8200.
- There is no registration fee since the course is sponsored through an injury prevention grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- For seminar registration or more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2466 or Leilani_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us

FLORIDA INJURY PREVENTION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 25-26, 2008

- The next Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC) Meeting will be held June 25-26, 2008. The meeting will be held at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa. The meeting is tentatively scheduled to begin at 8:00 a.m. on the 25th and end at noon on the 26th. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel at (813) 289-8200.
- The FIPAC began the strategic planning process for the successor plan, the 2009-2013 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan at the October 2007 meeting. The group reached consensus on the mission, vision, and four plan goals. The objectives for the grant goals will be the topic of the next planning session during this FIPAC meeting.
- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2466 or Leilani_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us.

INJURY PREVENTION AWARD DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

- The Office of Injury Prevention (OIP), in conjunction with the Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC), annually recognizes an influential individual who has demonstrated commitment to injury prevention. The 2008 Injury Prevention Award Nomination Application is available at the OIP website and the deadline for nominations is September 1, 2008.
- To nominate someone for the award or to learn about past recipients click on: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/injury/#Award>.

For more information, please contact Freida Travis at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2736 or freida_travis@doh.state.fl.us.

CDC GRANT - PUBLIC HEALTH INJURY SURVEILLANCE AND PREVENTION-2005-2010

- Year three of this five-year grant began August 1, 2007. The major goal of this grant is to implement the 2004-2008 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan. OIP and FIPAC continue to work on meeting the grant goals and objectives for the 2007-2008 grant year.
- The Office of Injury Prevention and the Florida Swimming Pool Association are co-sponsoring the 2008 Swimming Pool and Water Safety Conference. See conference information earlier in this section. This conference will be considered our Drowning Prevention Marketing Symposium as the symposium is a requirement of the grant.

- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2466 or Leilani_Gruener@doh.state.fl.us

2004-2008 FLORIDA INJURY PREVENTION STRATEGIC PLAN

- Florida is the only state that is implementing an existing injury prevention strategic plan and drafting a successor plan.
- Work continues on 2004-2008 strategic plan implementation. Staff updated the plan implementation status document and it can be found on our website at: www.doh.state.fl.us/workforce/InjuryPrevention/
- Work began on the 2009-2013 Florida Injury Prevention Strategic Plan (Successor Plan). The Florida Injury Prevention Advisory Council (FIPAC) and the Goal Teams reached consensus on the Vision and Mission Statements, the four prioritized goals and injury mechanisms (falls, motor vehicle crashes, drowning [child maltreatment,] and poisonings) for the Successor Plan.
- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or Lani Gruener at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2466.

FLORIDA SPECIAL NEEDS OCCUPANT SAFETY PROGRAM

- This program, funded by a grant from the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), provides evaluation of transportation options for children with special health care needs, loaner car seats/restraints for children with acute special health care needs. The 2007-2008 Grant Year began on February 14, 2008, when the DOT funded the program.
- Current operational sites are St. Joseph's Children's Hospital of Tampa, Miami Children's Hospital, Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and Women in Orlando, The Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida in Ft. Myers, All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Shands Children's Hospital, University of Florida in Gainesville, and Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood.
- Jane Parker, Grant Manager, was selected to speak on Florida's unique statewide approach to occupant protection program for children with special health care needs at Lifesavers, 2008, the National Highway Safety Traffic Administration's national conference.
- For more information, please contact Jane Parker at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2774 or Jane_Parker@doh.state.fl.us.

BICYCLE HELMET PROMOTION GRANT FUNDING INCREASED

- For the 2007-2008 grant cycle, the Florida Bicycle Helmet Promotion Program has expanded to 60 of the 67 counties with over 100 community partners.
- The 2007-2008 grant award of \$113,404 by the Florida DOT to OIP was funded in February.
- Bicycle safety training will also be expanded to school resource officers. These officers are in a position to educate students about the importance of wearing a helmet as well as enforcing helmet laws.
- This grant focuses on low income and underserved communities with the intent of increasing bicycle helmet use among the children.
- For more information, please contact Freida Travis at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2736 or freida_travis@doh.state.fl.us.

INJURY DATA REPORTS

- 2004 injury death and hospitalization data by Florida county of residence is available on the Office of Injury Prevention website at: <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Workforce/InjuryPrevention/InjuryData.html>.
- The Florida Injury Data Report: 2005 Surveillance Data is available to download on the Office of injury Prevention website at: [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Workforce/InjuryPrevention/PDF/Annual Data Report 2005.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Workforce/InjuryPrevention/PDF/Annual_Data_Report_2005.pdf). Printed hard copies of the report will be available in the late spring of 2008.
- 1970s-2006 injury death data is available on the Florida CHARTS website at <http://www.floridacharts.com/charts/Domain2.aspx?Domain='04'>. Customized data for specific projects are available upon request.
- 2000-2006 injury hospitalization data and 2005 emergency department data, customized for specific projects, are available upon request.
- For more information, please contact our Injury Epidemiologist, Kyla Shelton, at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2729, Kyla_Shelton@doh.state.fl.us

SUICIDE PREVENTION EFFORTS

- The Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council met January 29, 2008 in Tallahassee. Agenda items included:
 - 2008 proposed legislation regarding mental health and suicide prevention-related issues;
 - Updates of the Elder, Youth and Law Enforcement Campaign; and
 - Florida Suicide Prevention Strategy Implementation Project with the USF Florida Mental Health Institute.

- Proposed 2008 legislation include: SB 2564 and HB 1157-Suicide Prevention Education (teacher continuing education to include youth suicide, bullying prevention or mental health); SB 88 and HB 669 School Safety/Bullying and harassment; and SB 440 and HB 265 High School Graduation Requirements/Health Education (allows implementation of health-related programs such as Signs of Suicide, Teen Screen and substance abuse education).
- The 2008 Suicide Prevention Symposium is in the planning stages and will be held in conjunction with the Statewide Prevention Conference the week of September 29 in Orlando.
- Suicide Prevention Day activities are being planned for April 8, 2008 at the Capitol. A walk from the Old Capitol to the New Capitol will culminate with a Press Conference. Governor Charlie Crist has been invited to speak. In addition to several speakers from suicide prevention organizations speaking at the press conference, the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council will present former Council chair, Jim McDonough, with a recognition award.
- The next Florida Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council meeting is April 9, 2008 in Tallahassee.
- For more information contact Lisa VanderWerf-Hourigan at (850) 245-4144, ext. 2776 or Lisa_VanderWerf-Hourigan@doh.state.fl.us