



# Town Hall Meeting Conference Call

January 6, 2009 from 2-3:30 p.m. EST

**Led by:**

EMSC National Resource Center  
8737 Colesville Road, Suite 400  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
202-476-4927  
[www.childrensnational.org/emsc](http://www.childrensnational.org/emsc)

**Participating Grantees:**

Alabama, Ann Klasner	Nebraska, Debbie Kuhn
Arkansas, Addie Grigsby-Roshell	New Hampshire, Janet Houston
Connecticut, Wendy Wheeler	New Jersey, Eric Hicken
Delaware, Marie Renzi	New York, Martha Gohlke
District of Columbia, Cynthiana Lightfoot	Ohio, Joe Stack
Idaho, Rachael Alter	Oklahoma, Stacy Morton
Illinois, Evelyn Lyons	Pennsylvania, Beth McAteer
Kansas, Sarah House	Pennsylvania, Steve Mrozowski
Kentucky, Tom Taylor	South Carolina, Carol Wyatt Yarborough
Louisiana, Debbie Huffman	South Dakota, Dave Boer
Maine, Jan Brinkman	South Dakota, Amy Marsh
Maryland, Cyndy Wright-Johnson	Tennessee, Rhonda Phillippi
Massachusetts, Deborah Clapp	Vermont, Peter Otten
Minnesota, Kristi Berg	Virginia, David Edwards
Montana, Joseph Hansen	Wisconsin, Joyce Andersen

**NEDARC Attendees:**

Colleen Cummins, Mike Ely, Andrea Genovesi, Craig Hemingway, and Kent Pagel

**NRC Attendees:**

Karen Belli, Diana Fendya, Gayathri Jayawardena, Theresa Morrison-Quinata and Tasmeen Singh Weik

**Federal Project Officers:** Dan Kavanaugh and Tina Turgel



## Updates and Announcements

### **POLICY UPDATE**

This week marks the beginning of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress; a new Congress is elected every two years. With a new Congress, all non-appropriations bills that were not signed into law in the previous Congress must be reintroduced in both the House and the Senate. Therefore, the Wakefield Act, which would reauthorize the EMSC Program, must be reintroduced in both chambers, since it was not signed into law last year (the bill was only passed by the House).

As previously mentioned, Congress has yet to complete the majority of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 appropriations. Therefore, since October 1, 2008, the beginning of FY 2009, most Federal programs have been receiving stopgap funding. In particular, the EMSC Program is receiving funding at the FY 2008 rate of \$19.454 million. This stopgap funding will end March 1, 2009; therefore, Congress will have to finalize the FY 2009 appropriations bills before then.

There will be a new administration sworn into office in the next two weeks and with this comes much transition. First, Tom Dasche has been nominated as the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and his confirmation meeting will begin on Thursday. In addition, Mr. Dasche will head the new White House Office of Health Reform. Jeanne Lambrew has been nominated as the Deputy Director of the White House Office of Health Reform. Nominations for other agencies such as the FDA, CDC and NIH have yet to be named. President-Elect Barack Obama has also initiated “transition teams;” these teams have been selected by the Obama administration to work with federal agencies to acquire more information about existing federal programs.

Senator Robert C. Byrd (D-WV) announced that he will step down as chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee in the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. He has served as committee chairman for the past 10 years. Senator Daniel K. Inouye (D-HI) is expected to become the new committee chairman. Recall that Senator Inouye spearheaded the efforts to establish the EMSC Program in 1984 and is the sponsor of S 60, which will reauthorize the EMSC Program. Congressman Waxman (D-CA) will replace Congressman Dingell (D-MI) as the House Energy and Commerce Committee Chair, which has jurisdiction over EMSC reauthorization.

Finally, the President’s FY 2010 budget request is expected to be released around the first Monday in February.

## **2009 GRANT AWARDS**

The Program received 47 new/competing continuation State Partnership (SP) applications. The applications are being reviewed by an Independent Review Committee and final scores, recommendations and conditions are expected by Friday, January 23, 2009. The Program aims to begin releasing the Notice of Grant Awards (NGAs) to successful applicants by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

There are also 9 non-competing continuation state partnership applications under review and if successful HRSA aims to release the NGAs for these SP applicants by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **EMSC PROGRAM MEETING**

This year the EMSC Program will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The planning committee met in Annapolis, Maryland from November 6-7, 2008, to discuss several new ideas for the upcoming Program meeting that will be held on June 9-12, 2009, at the Hilton in Alexandria, Virginia. There will be a free shuttle from the hotel to Reagan National Airport, the Metro and local shopping centers.

Members of the 2009 planning committee include:

**Grantees:** Bob Heath, Halim Hennes, Sarah House, Janet Houston, Marie Renzi, and Sally Jo Zuspan

**NEDARC:** J. Michael Dean, Michael Ely, and Lenora M. Olson

**HRSA:** Dan Kavanaugh, and Tina Turgel

**NRC:** Jaclynn Haymon, Rinal Patel, Theresa Morrison-Quinata, Tracie Barnes and Tasmeen Singh Weik

A draft agenda has been developed. At this time we have a New Program Manager orientation scheduled on June 9<sup>th</sup>, which is open to all program managers. The first full-day of the meeting begins on June 10<sup>th</sup> with an opening plenary of federal program speakers and hopefully a representative from Capitol Hill. The meeting concludes on June 12<sup>th</sup> at noon.

## **PERFORMANCE MEASURES UPDATE**

We are working with HRSA to update the Electronic Handbook (EHB) for the next fiscal year. There may be additional performance measure updates: the updates will be based on how the data is reported and not content. A webcast will be held on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> from 2-3pm EST to explain the changes in detail. Please visit our website for more information: <http://www.childrensnational.org/EMSC/Events/EMSC-Calendar-at-a-Glance-March.aspx>



## **SHARE AND LEARN: BEST PRACTICES CONFERENCE CALL**

The EMSC National Resource Center will host the fourth Share and Learn Conference Call on State Performance Measure Best Practices on Monday, January 12. Invited Speakers include Dan Manz (Vermont), Eric Hicken (New Jersey) and Scott Hogan (Washington State). This conference call will be focused on interfacility transfer (performance measure 66d/e). Should you experience any difficulties, please contact Tanya Brown at 202-476-4927.

## **FAN WEBINAR**

The EMSC Family Representative Webinar, “Understanding EMS in your State/Territory/District and EMSC Performance Measures 66a & 66b,” will be held on January 8, 2009 at 3:00 PM EST. Please encourage your State family representatives to join this training webinar.

## **2009 OFFICE OF PERFORMANCE REVIEW (OPR) SITE VISITS**

There is only one State Partnership OPR visit scheduled for this year and that is for the State of Pennsylvania. The other 7 are scheduled for Targeted Issues grantees.

## **QUESTIONS**

**Q: If the State NGAs have conditions, how do grantees respond and what is the timeline?**

A: HRSA’s Division of Grants Management will direct each grantee individually.

**Q: How many awards will be granted?**

A: Funds have been budgeted to support 56 SP grants; however, the number of awards to be issued depends on the number of successful applications and scores as determined by the HRSA Division of Independent Review.

**Q: Is this the first time that the grant reviewers are not meeting face to face?**

A: A field review was also conducted about 2 years ago. The Independent Review Committee did not meet face to face; a large majority of HRSA programs are now using the field review process.

**Q: What is the evaluation process like?**

A: One grant application is sent to three different reviewers who score the application independently on a score card. The cards are then sent back to the Division of Independent Review (DIR) to combine and score. If there is a huge disparity between scores, then the reviewers will be brought together to discuss further.

**Q: Will there be regional meetings at the Annual Program Meeting?**

A: Yes. We received requests from grantees to have the regional meetings so that the States/Territories would be able to discuss similar topics. This year the discussions will be more open (less focused on performance measures) and will be held earlier on in the day. We are encouraging program managers, principal investigators, FAN representatives, PECARN and Targeted Issues grantees to attend. Similar to last year, each region will be asked to nominate a representative to report out on the regions discussions after the regional meetings; but this time the report will be during a plenary session for all attendees to hear.

**Q. What is the purpose of the regional meetings?**

A. Previously, the EMSC Program awarded supplemental funds to the EMSC regions to work on common issues in each of the 8 EMSC regions. Since funding discontinued several years ago, not all regions have continued to meet but others have remained active and have continued to seek one another's support. Last year the agenda for each of the regions was designed to gather feedback on the EMSC performance measures; however, this year the regions may develop their own agenda to discuss common issues, network and share information.

**Q. What if the regions have not been active and have no specific agenda to discuss?**

A. Please work with your region's NRC representative to develop an agenda to ensure productive discussions occur during the time allocated for regional meetings. Last years evaluations revealed that the meetings should not be held late in the evening. As a result, the time slated for the regional meetings has been scheduled during the main meeting so all can participate fully including FAN members and researchers.

**Q: When will we hear more information with regards to the HRSA letters sent in December about our EHB entries?**

A: By the end of January 2009 you should receive a response from HRSA.

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**Q: Will the March 9 webcast be archived and recorded?**

A: Yes, the webcast will be archived.

**Q. Will the FAN Webinar be archived and recorded as well?**

A. We do not have the option to record the FAN webinars at this time. However, the slide presentation and notes from the call will be uploaded on the EMSC website.

**Q. Is a draft of the equipment list available?**

A. A draft of the equipment list is available but not for public distribution. You may send an email directly to [tsingh@cnmc.org](mailto:tsingh@cnmc.org) to request a copy of the draft version. Currently, in order to meet the requirements of performance measure 66b, grantees must have all sizes listed in the equipment list. At the last review of the equipment list as long as an item is within the range of sizes, that would be sufficient and grantees would qualify as having the specific item listed. The revised list is organized by required and optional items. In addition, NEDARC shared with the group what items were most often missing based on the data collected by state EMSC grantees.

## **COMMENTS**

The EMSC Program Planning Committee is focusing this year's meeting on leadership and clinical topics. *Marie Renzi, Delaware*

We have professional speakers to present during the leadership and management session. *Tasmeen Singh-Weik*

The Office of Performance Review has selected one State Partnership grantee to be review; Pennsylvania. *Dan Kavanaugh*

To assure a successful Office of Performance Review site-visit, please adhere to the deadlines imposed. The deadlines are very important. *Tom Taylor, Kentucky*