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1. Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations Bill Marked by Subcommittee

On June 7, 2007, the House Appropriations Committee Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education considered the chairman's mark of the Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations bill. The Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant received a \$10 million increase over last year's level. The House Subcommittee-passed bill contains \$109 million. This program was cut and/or level funded over the past three years. Sixteen states use this funding for EMS programs. The EMS for Children (EMSC) Program was level funded at \$19.8 million. The Trauma Planning Systems and Development Act received no funding. Rural Health Outreach Grants received a \$14 million increase over the FY 2007 level and is funded at \$52.96 million. Flex Grants were level funded at \$62.5 million. Rural and Community AEDs received a \$537,000 increase, with funding at \$2 million. HRSA's Traumatic Brain Injury program was restored to last year's level at \$8.9 million. Poison Control received a \$7.1 million increase to be funded at \$30.1 million. No funding was provided to re-establish the Trauma-EMS program. This was undoubtedly due, in part, to the fact that the bill reauthorizing the program was only signed into law a few weeks before the mark-up. A chart of the recommended appropriations is available for NASEMSO members. To obtain the chart, visit <http://www.nasemso.org> and log-in to the NASEMSO Members

Only area. Then visit

https://www.nasemso.org/Members/Download_Documents/DraftProjectReports/.

2. DHS Appropriations Bill Passed Out of Committee on June 5

On June 5, 2007, the House Appropriations Committee passed out the FY 2008 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations bill. Among the first responder and port security programs, funding is set at \$4.52 billion, \$1.97 billion above the President's request and \$863 million above 2007. These grants were funded at \$4.92 billion in 2004 and have been cut every year since. For more information, visit <http://apropriations.house.gov/pdf/HomelandFC.pdf>.

3. Importance of Trauma Systems Highlighted in Congressional Record

On May 25, 2007, Representative Gene Green made a statement in the *Congressional Record* about the importance of trauma systems and the recently enacted legislation reauthorizing Title XII of the U.S. Public Health Service Act. The statement includes a recent *NY Times* article describing how the Camden, N.J., trauma system and Cooper University Hospital responded to save Governor Jon Corzine's life and prevent serious disability. To see the statement, visit <http://thomas.loc.gov> and select *Congressional Record*. On the search page, query by date and representative.

4. CDC Issues Call for Model Communities

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), through its Terrorism Injuries: Information Dissemination and Exchange (TIIDE) Project, is examining the relationship between the emergency care community and public health in relation to preparedness for mass casualty incidents. The CDC TIIDE Project is seeking examples of "model communities" in which the relationship between the emergency care community and public health is well-established and operationally functional in terms of its capacity to respond to events that might produce large numbers of injuries. Selected communities will be invited to participate in a TIIDE Partners conference at which they can present their model systems. This conference will be held in Atlanta, Ga., on Aug. 13-14, 2007. The CDC will fund two representatives to attend the meeting. Responses are due by July 13. For more information, visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/masscasualties/callmodelcommunities.asp>.

5. AHRQ's Annual State Snapshots Highlight States' Strengths and Weaknesses in Health Care Quality

On June 11, 2007, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) released the new *State Snapshots*. The Web tool shows that states have made promising gains in health care quality while identifying needed improvements in areas ranging from cancer screening to treatments of heart attack patients. AHRQ's *State Snapshots* Web tool was launched in 2005. It is an application that helps state health leaders, researchers, consumers, and others understand the status of health care quality in individual states, including each state's strengths and weaknesses. The 51 *State Snapshots* are based on 129 quality measures, each of which evaluates a different segment of health care performance. The Web tool provides summaries that measure health care quality in three different contexts: by types of care; by settings of care; and by clinical area. For more information, visit <http://www.ahrq.gov/news/press/pr2007/snapshotspr.htm>. To access this year's *State Snapshots*, visit <http://statesnapshots.ahrq.gov>.

6. NASEMSO Provides Web Page With E-Mail Survey Results

The NASEMSO Web site at www.nasemso.org includes a special Web page in the News & Publications section featuring the results of member e-mail surveys. Recent surveys posted included topics ranging from how ambulance rates are determined to methods of online training to determining which states submit data to the National Practitioner Data Bank. To date, we have posted results of seven e-mail surveys in 2007, but there are additional surveys for which reports are pending. Please send your e-mail survey reports or results directly to NASEMSO Web Site Content Manager Karen Thompson at thompson@nasemso.org. See 2007 NASEMSO e-mail survey reports at <http://www.nasemso.org/NewsAndPublications/News/Surveys.asp>.

7. NASEMSO Endorses AHA Conference Proceedings

In late March 2006, the American Heart Association (AHA) convened a three-day conference “Development of Systems of Care for ST-segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) Patients” with multidisciplinary groups of physicians, nurses, EMS personnel, community and tertiary hospital administrators, payers, government officials, and quality, outcomes research and policy experts involved in the care of patients with STEMI. The conference attendees were charged with reviewing the current state or system of care, developing the ideal implementation system, addressing the gaps and barriers between the current and ideal system, and formulating recommendations for research, programs, and policy from the perspective of the constituency they were to represent. Members of more than 20 organizations representing key constituents were in attendance. NASEMSO participated in the conference. The full proceedings have been published in the May 29 issue of *Circulation*. NASEMSO endorsed the proceedings. For more information, visit <http://circ.ahajournals.org/>.

8. OSHA Issues Pandemic Influenza Guidance

On May 21, 2007, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released a health and safety guidance intended to help health care employers and workers prepare for a possible influenza pandemic and protect workers who would be on the “frontline” caring for ill patients. *Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Guide for Healthcare Workers and Healthcare Employers* provides resources and tools to aid in workplace planning efforts, information about risk communication, technical information about industrial hygiene and infection control techniques in healthcare settings, and advice on diagnosis and treatment of staff. For a copy of this health and safety guidance, visit http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA_pandemic_health.pdf.

9. FDA Finalizes Guidance Documents for Pandemic and Seasonal Influenza Vaccines

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on May 31 issued final recommendations to increase the supply of safe and effective influenza vaccines for both seasonal and pandemic use. In March 2006, FDA issued two draft guidance documents for public comment – one for seasonal influenza vaccines and another for pandemic influenza vaccines. The draft documents outline specific approaches for manufacturers to develop new vaccines that are safe, pure and potent. The final guidance documents reflect public input, including vaccine companies and public health officials. Both guidance documents recommend using recent technologies such as cell culture and recombinant manufacturing to enhance the development and evaluation of vaccines. They also recommend adding substances that improve the immune response from the vaccine (novel adjuvants). The guidance documents describe conventional and accelerated

approval pathways to vaccine licensure. For more information, visit <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01645.html>.

10. Idaho Seeks Manager of EMS Systems Development

Idaho seeks a manager of EMS systems development to provide leadership for a major section of the Emergency Medical Service Bureau, composed of statewide EMS programs administered through three regional offices in support of the department's mission to promote and protect the health and safety of all state residents. The job announcement closes June 22, 2007. More information is available at <http://dhr.idaho.gov/stateJobs/default.aspx>.

11. NENA Expresses Concern over Consequences of ITC Decision

The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) is concerned with the ruling by the International Trade Commission (ITC) in early June concerning a patent dispute between Broadcom and Qualcomm. While NENA has no interest and expressed no opinion in the patent infringement claim, NENA is concerned about consequences of the "downstream" remedy announced by the ITC, which will have a negative impact on the delivery of 9-1-1 service for American consumers and first responder communications. The ITC's decision bans the importation of a wide range of cellular handsets used by major carriers within the United States, which will directly impact the delivery of E9-1-1 services to millions of individuals in the United States. According to NENA, "a major obstacle has been created that will prevent consumers from upgrading their wireless handsets to newer models that will allow for more accurate, GPS-based location capabilities. The ITC's ban on importation results in the public being denied new handsets that would improve the ability of 9-1-1 public safety answering points to locate with greater precision victims of crime, accidents, fires or other disasters. For more information, visit http://www.usitc.gov/ext_relations/news_release/2007/er0607ee1.htm and <http://www.nena.org>.

12. E-Newsletter Focuses on Pediatrics

Urgent Matters – an initiative by George Washington University's School of Public Health and Health Services to improve hospital patient flow and reduce emergency department crowding – released its latest *Patient Flow E-Newsletter* (Volume 4, Issue 2), which focuses on "Putting Kids First." The issue includes several articles by many well-known EMSC colleagues. Among others, articles appearing in the issue include: "Preparing the Emergency Department for Pediatric Patients;" "Child-Ready Emergency Departments: Creating Customized Pediatric Facilities, Equipment and Care;" "Educational Toolkit for Pediatric Emergency Preparedness;" "Leadership Needed: Hospitals Must Work Together to Improve Pediatric Emergency Care;" and "ACEP Reports on the Growing Interest in Pediatric Emergency Medicine." Visit <http://www.urgentmatters.org/newsletter/volume4/issue2/enews.asp> to access the newsletter.

13. FEMA's Incident Management Systems Division Releases Updated Public Works Credentialing Job Titles

As part of U.S. efforts to strengthen catastrophic response capabilities in line with the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Incident Management Systems Division on June 1 released updated Public Works Job Titles. These job titles are now part of the National Emergency Responder Credentialing System, which documents minimum professional qualifications,

certifications, training and education requirements that define the standards required for specific emergency response functional positions. The national credentialing process is voluntary (i.e. reflecting only the volunteer participation of a/first responder(s) willing to be deployed under interstate mutual aid agreements or compacts). States must establish a program administered by the state director (or other official designated by the governor) to grant authority to agencies, organizations or other entities to issue qualification cards for persons to be deployed for interstate mutual aid. For additional information, see NIMS Guide 0002, March 27, 2007, *National Credentialing Definition and Criteria*, at http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/rm/guide_rm.shtm and the June 1 *NIMS Alert* at http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nims/pwcredentialing_18-07.pdf.

14. Upcoming Events (*denotes event is newly added)

EMSC Annual Grantee Meeting, June 19-21, 2007, Silver Spring, MD. Information is available at <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/emsc/>.

Hospital Incident Command System Workshop, June 5, 2007, Connecticut Hospital Association, Wallingford, CT. Information is available at <http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/HICSIVBrochure-Final.pdf>.

2007 National Conference on Community Preparedness, June 10-13, 2007, Alexandria, VA. Information is available at <http://www.iaem.com>.

Hospital Incident Command System Workshop, June 11, 2007, Connecticut Hospital Association, Wallingford, CT. Information is available at <http://www.yalenehavenhealth.org/emergency/HICSIVBrochure-Final.pdf>.

NASEMSO Mid Year Meeting, June 18-19, 2007, Holiday Inn Arlington, Arlington, VA. Information is available at <http://www.nasemso.org>.

EMSC Annual Grantee Meeting, June 19-21, 2007, Silver Spring, MD. Information is available at <http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/emsc/>.

AMA/CDC Second National Congress on Health System Readiness, July 18-20, 2007, Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington, D.C. Information is available at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/17239.html>.

IAFF 9th Biennial EMS Conference, June 24-27, 2007, Houston, TX. Information is available at <http://www.iaff.org/>.

17th World Conference on Disaster Management, "Emergency Management & Business Continuity Working Together," July 8-11, 2007, Toronto, Canada. Information is available at <http://www.wcdm.org>.

AMA-CDC Congress on Health System Readiness, July 18-20, 2007, Washington, DC. Information is available at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/17239.htm>.

****"Listen, Protect and Connect: Meeting the Needs of Children in All-Hazards Events,"** UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters Seminar, July 20, 2007, Inn by the Lake, Lake Tahoe, CA. Information is available at <http://www.cphd.ucla.edu>.

HHS Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures (PHEMC) Enterprise Stakeholders Workshop, July 31-August 2, 2007, Washington, DC. Information is available at <http://www.hhs.gov/aspr/ophemic/enterprise/bioshield/2007workshop.html>.

33rd International Forum on Traffic Records & Highway Safety Systems, July 22-26, 2007, Millennium Hotel, St. Louis, MO. Information is available at <http://www.atsip.org>.

HHS Public Health Emergency Medical Countermeasures Enterprise Stakeholders Workshop, July 31-August 2, 2007, Fairmont Washington, DC. Information is available at <http://www.hhs.gov/aspr/ophemic/index.html>.

2007 National Summit on Recruitment and Retention of Paramedics, August 9-10, 2007, Arlington, VA. Information is available at <http://www.PerformanceWeb.org>.

Dept. of Defense Fire & Emergency Services Training Conference, August 21-24, 2007, Atlanta, GA. Information is available at <http://www.iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=520>.

Second Annual FDA Regulatory & Compliance Symposium, August 22-24, 2007, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Information is available at <http://www.FDASymposium.com/>.

NEDARC Scientific Grant Writing Workshop," August 29-31, 2007, Chicago, IL. Information is available at <http://www.nedarc.org/nedarc/workshopsTutorials/upcomingWorkshops.jsp>.

National Association of EMS Educators 12th Annual Educational Symposium & Trade Show, September 11-16, 2007, Hollywood, CA. Information is available at <http://www.naemse.org/symposium>.

AAMS' Air Medical Transport Conference, September 17-19, 2007, Tampa, FL. Information is available at <http://www.aams.org/Content/NavigationMenu/EducationMeetings/AMTC2007/default.htm>.

3rd International Roundtable on Community Paramedicine and Rural Healthcare Delivery, September 19-21, 2007, Australia. Information is available at <http://ircp.ncemsi.org/>.

2007 Governors Highway Safety Association Annual Meeting, September 23-26, 2007, Portland Hilton Hotel, Portland, OR. Information is available at <http://www.ghsa.org>.

EMS/EMSC Data Analysis Workshop, September 26-28, 2007, New Orleans, LA. Information is available at <http://www.nedarc.org/nedarc/workshopsTutorials/upcomingWorkshops.jsp>.

Emergency Nurses Association 2007 Conference, September 26-29, 2007, Salt Lake City, UT. Information is available at <http://www.ena.org/conferences/default.asp>.

"Improving Health Care, Improving Lives" AHRQ 2007 Annual Conference, September 27-29, 2007, Bethesda, MD. Information will be available at <http://www.ahrq.gov>.

**NASEMSO Annual Meeting, October 28-November 2, 2007, Hyatt Regency
Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN. Information is available at
<http://www.nasemso.org/Meetings/Annual/>.**

**International Association of Emergency Managers 55th Annual Conference & EMEX
2007, September 17-19, 2007, The Silver Legacy, Reno, NV. Information is available at
<http://www.iaem.com>.**