

# Iowa EMS System Standards

Orientation for  
Stakeholder Group



# Purpose of Orientation

- Overview of designing Iowa EMS System Standards
- History of Iowa EMS System Standards
- Steps for designing Iowa EMS System Standards
- Stakeholder meetings
- Stakeholder's responsibilities
- Facilitator's role
- Resources
- Questions

# What is Designing Iowa EMS System Standards?

- Change initiative which focuses on system building
- Goal—To design and implement an integrated sustainable Iowa EMS System that ensures a basic standard of care delivery to all Iowans.

# Essential Question

- “What should every Iowan reasonably expect from Emergency Medical Services in Iowa?”

# Challenges Facing EMS In Iowa

- EMS system is fragmented and lacking formal integration in some areas of the state
- Inconsistent funding streams; no standardized funding
- Workforce fatigue/aging/retention & recruitment
- Scope of Practice issues
- Duplication of services
- Adequate training for EMS workforce

# Assumptions

- Need for standards that define EMS and bring consistency to EMS practice
- Must be a collaborative effort by local, county, regional and state EMS
- Timing appears to be right for change to occur

# Why are Standards Important to Iowa EMS?

- Inclusive system— “Standards are statements that define the performance expectations that must be in place for EMS to assure high-quality patient care services.”
- Accountability
- Consistent basic (minimal) EMS infrastructure across the state
- Expected range of performance and what is needed to support that performance (capacity)

# Why are Standards Important to Iowa EMS?

- Professionalization of EMS
- Increases the visibility and understanding of the EMS system by the general public
- Supports ongoing evaluation and improvement of the EMS system
- Integration of EMS into the public health system
- Strengthen existing local, county, regional EMS organizations

# Why are Standards Important to Iowa EMS?

- Enable proactive initiatives for required law/rule additions or changes
- Enable proactive initiatives for standardized funding mechanisms
- Attains the main goal of identifiable, measurable minimum EMS system standards across the state

# History of Iowa EMS System Standards

- Beginning of system concept—1995 Basic Care Legislation
- National “EMS Agenda for the Future”—1996; “Iowa’s EMS Agenda for the Future”—2002/2005
- System Development Grants—Part A/Part B
- Current standards for “sub-systems”—built for the Individual Provider, Services, Education, Trauma System, EMSC, Injury Prevention, Data Collection

# History of Iowa EMS System Standards

- Institute of Medicine's report
- Minimum EMS System Standards are the next step in the evolution of EMS in Iowa
- October 18, 2006—EMSAC—motion made and carried that “the Bureau should continue to develop draft standards and appoint partners to assist.”

# Steps for Designing Iowa EMS System Standards

- Establish EMS Stakeholder Group
- Draft version 1 of minimum Iowa EMS System Standards by July 2007
- Progress reports given in January and April 2007
- Stakeholder Group to review eight areas
  - System Administration
  - Staffing/Training

# Steps for Designing Iowa EMS System Standards

- Communications
- Response/Transportation
- Facilities/ Critical Care
- Data collection/System Evaluation
- Public Information/Education
- Disaster Medical Response/Planning

# Steps for Designing Iowa EMS System Standards

- Seek further input from EMS stakeholders during scheduled presentations—July—September 2007
- Final draft version of minimum standards approved—October 2007
- Pilot evaluations—October 2007 through October 2008
- Use data from evaluations as a “Roadmap” to address issues of funding and law/rule additions/changes

# Stakeholder Meetings

- Meet monthly until standards completed
- Agenda set by facilitators with input from stakeholders
- Informal approach (i.e., no bylaws)
- Respectful, open discussion
- Consensus decision-making
- Food is good!!

# Stakeholder's Responsibilities

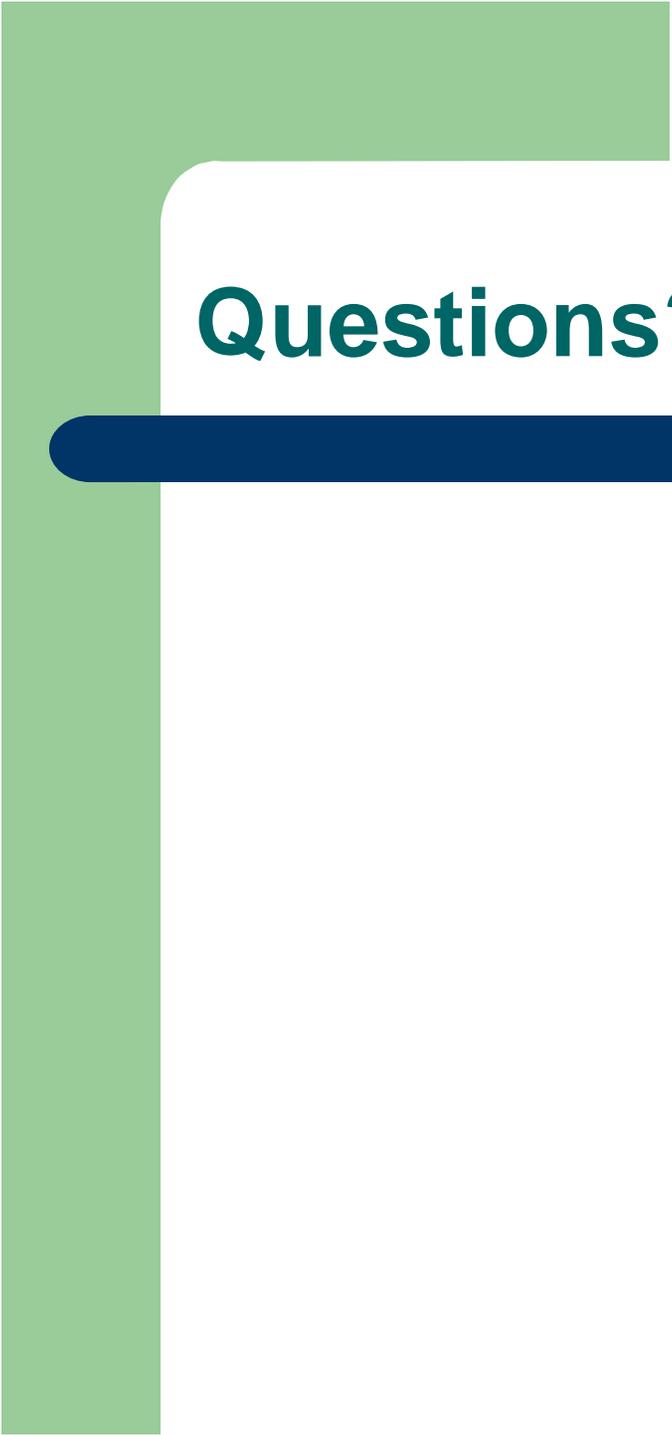
- Participate
- Attend meetings
- If absent, stay in touch through minutes
- Read e-mails
- Provide feedback
- Talk to colleagues

# Facilitator's Role

- Facilitate meetings
- Listen
- Coordinate activities
- Communications
- Provide consistency/direction
- Researcher
- National contact
- Liaison with IDPH leadership

# Resources

- [www.idph.state.ia.us/ems](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ems)
- <http://www.legis.state.ia.us/asp/Committees/Committee.aspx?id=152>
- [www.nasemse.org](http://www.nasemse.org)
- [www.iom.edu](http://www.iom.edu)
- [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov)
- [www.iemsa.net](http://www.iemsa.net)



**Questions???**

