



State of Wisconsin  
**Department of Health Services**

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Tony Evers, Governor  
Kirsten L. Johnson, Secretary

January 10, 2024

Mr. Richard Champagne  
Acting Senate Chief Clerk  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53702

Mr. Edward Blazel  
Assembly Chief Clerk  
17 W Main St., Room 401  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mr. Champagne and Mr. Blazel:

I am pleased to submit to the Legislature the 2023-24 Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Plan as required by Wis. Stat. § 256.08. The plan was prepared by the Division of Public Health, Emergency Medical Services Section.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirsten L. Johnson".

Kirsten L. Johnson  
Secretary - designee



2023–2024

# Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Plan



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
*of* HEALTH SERVICES

Office of Preparedness and Emergency Health Care  
EMS Section  
P-00576 (01/2024)

VERSION 1.01  
January 2024

Produced by:

Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Office of  
Preparedness and Emergency Health Care,  
EMS Section and  
The Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Board

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## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Wisconsin’s Investment in EMS .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
OPEHC EMS Section Overview .....	2
2022–2023 Accomplishments.....	6
2023–2024 Objectives of the OPEHC EMS Section.....	9
2023–2024 Objectives of the EMS Advisory Board and EMS Subcommittees .....	10
Closing .....	15

## **Introduction**

In 2022, the Wisconsin (EMS) system had approximately 17,000 licensed EMS Emergency Medical Services practitioners, approximately 3,000 certified emergency medical responders, and approximately 800 active services providing prehospital emergency care and transportation to the sick and critically injured 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Wisconsin's EMS system also provides care and transportation to patients experiencing non-life-threatening emergency situations, and at times is often the "safety net" for many under resourced and under insured Wisconsin residents who may not have access to other health care services.

The EMS Section is an integral component of the Office of Preparedness and Emergency Health Care (OPEHC) within the Division of Public Health (DPH), of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). This report identifies many of the significant and specific responsibilities and accomplishments of the section, as well as planned initiatives. Strategic planning is performed in collaboration with the EMS Advisory Board, and incorporates feedback from the partners, providers, and trained EMS professionals in our state.

The EMS Section oversees the state's EMS system as directed by [Wis. Stat. ch. 256](#) and [Wis. Admin. Code ch. DHS 110](#). With input from various stakeholder groups and the governor-appointed EMS Advisory Board, the section carries out its statutory and regulatory obligations, disburses the funding assistance program (FAP), and provides technical assistance activities.

The governor-appointed EMS Advisory Board acts in an advisory capacity to the EMS Section by making recommendations directly to the EMS Section. Recommendations and initiatives include prehospital emergency medical practice, data collection integration and continuous quality improvement, EMS system development and management, pediatric prehospital care, EMS education and training, and cultural competency for our Wisconsin EMS system.

## **OPEHC EMS section overview**

The following is an overview of the EMS Section activities:

### **Licensure**

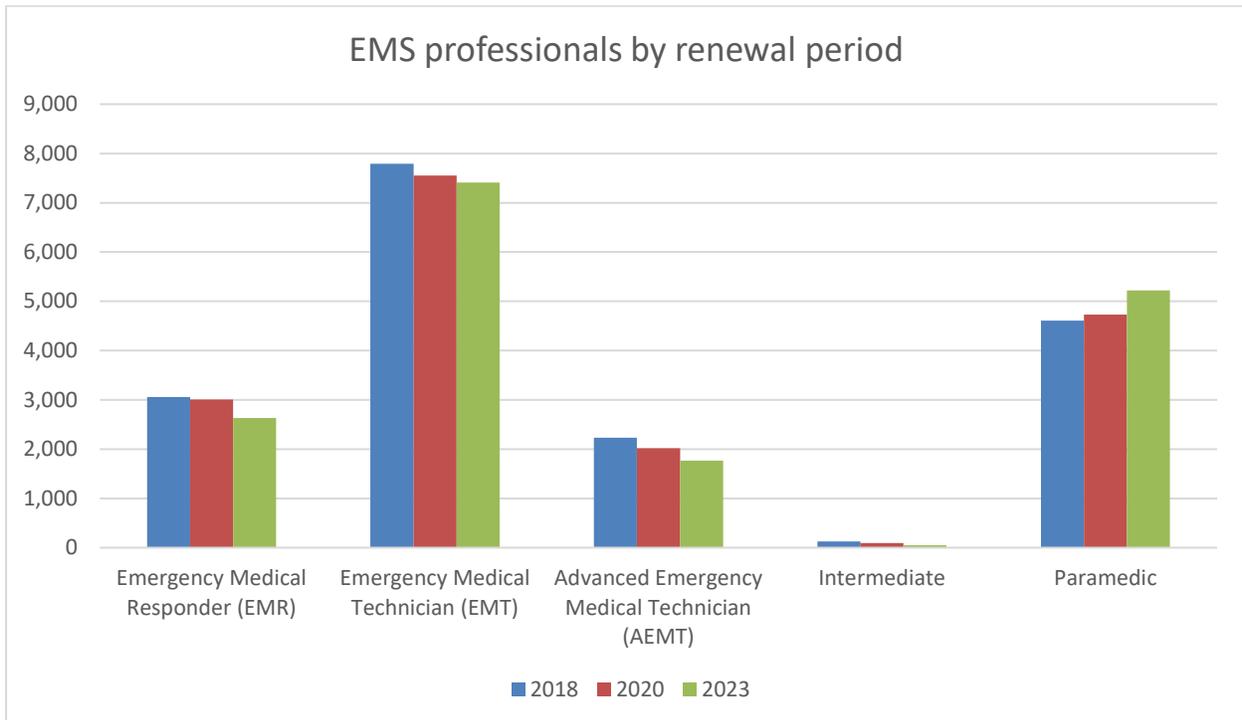
The EMS Section licenses emergency medical system programs, emergency medical services practitioners, and certifies emergency medical responders. As of July 1, 2023, the Wisconsin has approximately 17,072 licensed emergency medical responders and EMS practitioners. Additionally, the EMS Section licenses approximately 800 service providers. In addition to primary licensures and certifications, the EMS Section processes endorsement applications which include community paramedic, community emergency services practitioner, tactical EMS, and critical care.

Historically the EMS certification and licensure renewal cycle occurred over a biennium. June 30, 2023, represented the end of the 2020–2023 renewal period. This was the first triennium since the revision of Administrative Rule and Statute that changed the license period from a two-year cycle to a three-year cycle. The intent of this change was to lessen the burden on local services.

For comparison purposes below outline the past three renewal periods.

<b>EMS professionals</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2023</b>
Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)	3,058	3,005	2,633
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	7,794	7,555	7,407
Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)	2,230	2,018	1,764
Intermediate	128	94	47
Paramedic	4,611	4,729	5,221
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,821</b>	<b>17,401</b>	<b>17,072</b>

The numbers above are current as of July 2023. The Wisconsin EMS license system has the ability to pull information from the system on current licensees; however, it does not retain historic information. Due to this, readers may note a variation of the above numbers to other DHS provided data sets.



## Education

As outlined in [Wis. Stat. §§ 256.08\(4\)\(e\)](#) and [256.08\(4\)\(j\)](#), the departmental duties include:

- Setting standards for all organizations that offer training to emergency medical responders and emergency medical services practitioners on what topics should be included in initial training and continuing training.
- Consulting, at least annually, with the technical college system board and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation on issues that affect ambulance service providers, emergency medical responders, and emergency medical services practitioners.

The EMS Section maintains a close partnership with the Wisconsin Technical College System to assess the educational needs and to administer high quality initial and continuing education statewide. Additionally, both entities collaborate on initiatives related to EMS instructors, training center training permits, and National Registry (NREMT) testing requirements. The EMS Section is responsible for receiving, processing, and managing training center training permits (TCTP) which allow students to participate in the clinical portion of their education. The EMS Section processes approximately 2,500 training center training permits per year.

## Technical assistance

As outlined in [Wis. Stat. § 256.08\(4\)\(d\)](#), the EMS Section provides a wide range of technical assistance including:

- Facilitating partnerships with key stakeholders including hospital systems within communities.
- Facilitating the integration of ambulance service providers and hospitals in the same geographic area [Wis. Stat. § 256.08\(4\)\(f\)](#).
- Providing high quality, customer service to over 20,000 EMS individual professionals, 800 services, and other internal and external stakeholders and partners.
- Coordinating with local state Hospital Emergency Readiness Coalitions (HERCs), Regional Trauma Advisory Councils (RTACs), Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM), and other sub-committees including Wisconsin Interoperable System for Communications (WISCOM), and county wide EMS committees.
- Coordinating and facilitating communication across multidisciplinary local and national professional associations including the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMO), National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA), American Heart Association (AHA), American Red Cross (ARC), the National Association of EMTs (NAEMT), the National Association of EMS Educators (NAEMSE), and the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP).

## Data

As outlined in [Wis. Stat. § 256.08\(4\)\(c\)](#), the EMS Section and OPEHC's Data and Systems section provide quality assurance in the emergency medical services system, including collecting and analyzing data relating to local and regional emergency medical services systems, ambulance service providers, emergency medical responders, and emergency medical services practitioners. OPEHC relies heavily on Biospatial, a data visualization platform, to assist in many of these initiatives. Service directors and medical directors are granted access to this platform and are able to build custom dashboards based on their community needs. Data is sent to Biospatial via the Wisconsin Ambulance Run Data System (WARDS).

WARDS is the state repository for ambulance run data. The State of Wisconsin collects approximately 1 million run reports annually. A patient care report captures information from the moment an ambulance or first responder group is dispatched, to the time of patient care transfer. Patient care reports include information such as primary impressions, medications and procedures administered, and patient history among a wealth of other data elements related to prehospital care. EMS response data shows services with as few as 22 annual calls up to a high of 150,119 annual calls.

EMS services have the option of reporting through WARDS directly or utilizing a National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS) compliant software ([Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 110.34\(9\)](#)). All reports are required to be sent to the state within seven days ([Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 110.34\(8\)](#)). Wisconsin, along with other states, collects and submits NEMSIS complaint data. NEMSIS is a collaborative system that collects data about patient care and prehospital EMS activation. This system is used to improve patient care through its standardization, aggregation, and utilization of point of care EMS data at a local, state, and national level. In Wisconsin, we use NEMSIS data to analyze statistical information on a variety of topics including patient disposition, elapsed times and delays, medical or trauma transports, medical diagnosis, and cardiac arrest.

## Complaints and investigations

As outlined in [Wis. Stat. § 256.08\(4\)\(h\)](#), the EMS Section investigates complaints regarding ambulance service providers, emergency medical responders, emergency medical services practitioners, EMS medical directors, and Wisconsin EMS training centers and take appropriate actions after first consulting with the board and the state medical director for emergency medical services.

Outlined in [Wis. Admin. Code §§ DHS 110.53-54](#) is the EMS Section's authority to investigate and reasons to take enforcement actions. Complaints often involve complex advanced investigative work and can span across multiple divisions.

Each EMS complaint investigation may include complainant and witness interviews, documentation, multiple records requests and review, site visits, vehicle and equipment inspection, referral to other agencies, and/or enforcement actions.

### **Funding Assistance Program (FAP)**

Outlined in [Wis. Stat. § 256.12\(4\)](#) and [\(5\)](#), the EMS Section is charged with coordinating the annual distribution of funds for ambulance services. The use of these annual funds includes vehicles or vehicle equipment, emergency medical services supplies or equipment, or emergency medical training for personnel. Eligible FAP applicants are ambulance service providers that are a public agency, a volunteer, or a nonprofit corporation. Allocations are made utilizing a FAP funding formula consisting of an identical base amount for each ambulance service provider plus a supplemental amount based on the population of the ambulance service provider's primary service or contract area, as established under [Wis. Stat. § 256.15\(5\)](#). Ambulance service provider may also receive an allocation for EMS practitioner and emergency medical responder training and examination aid under [Wis. Stat. § 256.12\(5\)](#).

### **Recent FAP overview:**

- SFY2020 approximately 285 services completed the FAP process
- SFY2021 approximately 327 services completed the FAP process
- SFY2022 approximately 310 Services completed the FAP process
- SFY2023 approximately 328 Services completed the FAP process

## **2022–2023 accomplishments**

### **COVID-19 health disparities grant**

The EMS Section and OPEHC applied for and were awarded grant funding through the CDC COVID-19 Health Disparities grant. This grant opportunity allowed the EMS Section to hire staff whose focus is on deep rooted health disparities that were highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant positions include a rural EMS coordinator, a community EMS (CEMS) coordinator, an EMS data coordinator, a compliance coordinator, and a project assistant. The support provided by the additional staff greatly increased our section capacity and has allowed our office to prioritize health equity in our work.

The two-year grant funding allows the section to provide targeted assistance and support to EMS services and EMS practitioners, including:

- **Rural EMS:** This includes facilitating collaboration with stakeholders and partners within rural communities. Topics include, but are not limited to, coverage agreements, protocol revision support, consolidation and districting informational support, recruitment and retention resources, and EMS service director trainings.

- **Community EMS and community paramedicine:** Hired a project position dedicated to expanding the number of community EMS programs in the state. Position is focused on supporting EMS Services seeking state operating approval, state CEMS education revision and approval, or understating of how CEMS can benefit not only the community but their EMS service as well.
- **EMS data:** Increasing data analysis capacity to focus on disparities within EMS. Topics include but are not limited to workforce recruitment and retention issues, licensure trends, and rural EMS trends. Analysis will include final reports via data visualization software to clearly communicate the status and current needs of EMS in the state, both to internal and external stakeholders.
- **EMS complaints and investigations:** Hired a project position dedicated to investigating EMS complaints. This position is updating the method for which people can submit complaints to the office as well as dedicating fulltime capacity to current investigations. Previously the responsibility was shared cross multiple staff.

### **Community EMS and community paramedicine**

Community Emergency Medical Services (CEMS) is a different approach to the traditional 911 EMS concept. It is a rapidly expanding model that helps to address gaps within the health care system. CEMS is also a versatile and mobile community centric health care resource approach that plays an integral role to regional systems of care that prevent and treat acute illness and injury, as well as chronic ailments.

A CEMS service becomes a resource that expands upon the intersection of primary care and public health services.

Nationally, EMS is a rapidly evolving system with new opportunities being realized on a regular basis. As time goes on, medical practices change and so do the health care needs of communities. CEMS was developed to target these changes by identifying underlying causes and preventing negative outcomes.

Wisconsin aims to align with the vision of the [National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Office of EMS, EMS Agenda 2050](#) which details a people-centered EMS system and lays out the plan for the next several decades. This plan includes processes, protocols, technology, policies, and practices designed to provide the best possible outcome for individuals and communities — every day and during major disasters. According to the EMS Agenda 2050, “The people-centered EMS system serves as the front line of a region’s healthcare system and plays a core role in supporting the well-being of community residents and visitors through data-driven, evidence-based, and safe approaches to prevention, response, and clinical care. EMS organizations

collaborate with their community partners and have access to the resources they need, including up-to-date technology and a highly trained, healthy workforce.”<sup>1</sup>

The EMS Section created the internal structure and process to certify EMS Services to provide Community EMS services within their communities and has actualized the process for EMS practitioners to seek and obtain a CEMS endorsement on their practicing license.

At the time of this report there are officially eight licensed Wisconsin EMS Services providing CEMS services and 83 certified CEMS practitioners.

### **E-licensing software upgrades**

The EMS Section has identified key areas of improvement within its licensing management system, E-licensing, such as modernizing and streamlining several of our internal processes to align with the other states and to operate efficiently. These critical updates will improve workflows and eliminate redundancies leading to better customer service.

The EMS Section launched several of the developed upgrades ahead of the opening of Wisconsin’s triennium licensing renewal cycle.

Updates within the E-licensing system include:

- Electronic Service Operational Plans, including specific Community EMS and Tactical EMS Operational Plans.
- Electronic training center operational plan.
- New individual renewal applications for all certification and license levels for the 2023–2026 renewal cycle.
- New service renewal applications for the 2023–2026 renewal cycle.
- Community EMS Practitioner and Community Paramedic individual applications.

Planned updates within the E-licensing system include:

- Improved local credential agreement applications.
- Electronic Special Events Plan submissions, with an auto generated card to the Service File.
- Electronic Endorsement applications.
- Electronic RN, DO, MD Equivalency form.
- Electronic Change of Medical Director form.
- External and Internal Verification of Licensure (VOL) with a payment gateway.
- Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Certification with an auto generated card.
- Billing representative application.

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<sup>1</sup> EMS Agenda 2050 Technical Expert Panel. (2019, January). EMS Agenda 2050: A People-Centered Vision for the Future of Emergency Medical Services (Report No. DOT HS 812 664). Washington, DC: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

## **Other EMS section achievements**

- Launched and enhanced service operational assistance.
- Implemented numbered memo series to support license renewal.

## **2023–2024 objectives of the OPEHC EMS section**

Consistent with Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules, guided by the EMS plan and in collaboration with the EMS Advisory Board, the goal of the EMS Section is to serve as the lead state agency providing resources, leadership, and oversight to serve our statewide emergency medical services system and communities.

Wisconsin has a proud history in the evolution of EMS. The future holds new challenges for prehospital emergency medical care, including sustainable funding, recruitment and retention, data integration, provider wellbeing, evolving scope of practice, and changes within education.

### **Funding Assistance Program (FAP)**

During the 2023–2025 budget process \$10 million dollars was added to the Funding Assistance Program and will include all transporting and non-transporting EMS providers. The EMS Section will need to create a designated staff member equal to one FTE, to oversee the internal FAP process, applicant data, applicant document collection, and oversee disbursement process with the DHS Bureau of Fiscal Services.

### **EMS data initiatives**

With approximately 1 million runs submitted to WARDS annually, the EMS database is robust with critical information regarding the state of our EMS system and more, generally our health care system. Data can be utilized for quality assurance, aiding in public health initiatives, identifying health equity issues, and time sensitive syndromic surveillance, among others

In addition to maintaining and performing system administrator duties, OPEHC is actively planning on expanding its capacity for data analysis and improving workflows. OPEHC's commitment to improving data utilization is demonstrated by the creation of a new data section during the recent reorganization. This consolidates data resources across OPEHC into a single section to increase data collaboration across the EMS, trauma, and preparedness programs. There are several initiatives affecting EMS that OPEHC will focus on, including:

- **Data collection:** To analyze and report on data that is collected, the EMS Section must ensure the quality of the data that is submitted. Based on feedback from local EMS Service and Medical Directors and reports from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National EMS Information System, data quality is identified as a priority for the year 2024. The EMS Section will be collaborating with ImageTrend to provide trainings and webinars as an additional resource on data reporting.

- **CQI:** [Wisconsin Admin. Code § DHS 110.47\(4\)](#) requires a service to designate a quality assurance designee who is responsible for managing patient-based quality improvement processes in collaboration with the service medical director. Based on service feedback, there is a lack of resources and capacity for CQI, particularly among rural agencies. The EMS Section will be publishing Tableau dashboards on the EMS website reporting on the National EMS Quality Alliance (NEMSQA) measures for services to compare their metrics against. CQI designees will be provided training and a toolkit on how to perform continuous quality assurance. BioSpatial training and access will also be provided.
- **Reporting:** With the addition of an EMS data coordinator through the COVID-19 health disparities grant, OPEHC will be building a robust data section on the EMS website. Reports will include active EMS licenses, annual initial licenses, yearly trends, workforce development reports, NEMSQA measures, CARES data, and overdose data, among other identified reports.
- **NEMSIS migration:** NEMSIS has announced the transition to version 3.5 data reporting and will cease collection of version 3.4 data on January 1, 2024. Work will include updating the data dictionary, updating validation rules, updating data management portal, developing trainings for EMS services, practitioners, and EMRs, scheduling services for transition, and providing assistance to services during the transition. The transition to v.3.5 began in the first quarter of 2023 and will continue through the end of the year.

## Licensing initiatives

The EMS Section renewed approximately 17,000 EMS professionals and 800 EMS services for the 2023–2026 licensing cycle. This is accomplished through ongoing improvements to the licensing system.

- Release of the new electronic Service Operational Plan renewal application, along with the EMR and licensed practitioner renewal application in spring of 2023.
- Redesign of all renewal applications for individuals and services.
- Increase trackable communications to service providers, certified EMRs, instructors, and practitioners.
- Revise the EMR application to remove the National Registration for Emergency Medical Response (NREMT) registration and assessment exam requirement.
- Implement an application process that allows service directors to accept military service training for licensure.

## 2023–2024 objectives of the EMS advisory board and EMS subcommittees

### EMS advisory board

The 11-member governor-appointed EMS Advisory Board originated from legislative action during the 1993–1994 legislative session. These actions included the formation of

the EMS Advisory Board, the EMS Physician Advisory Committee, and the appointment of a state medical director as identified in [Wis. Stat. §§ 256.04\(1-11\)](#).

The objectives of the EMS Advisory Board align with the work of the EMS Section, as the board acts in an advisory capacity to the EMS Section. The EMS Advisory Board and the subcommittees also act as proponents on the behalf of all Wisconsin EMS practitioners, EMS medical directors, and EMS partners.

### **EMS advisory board mission statement**

The mission of the Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Board is to provide leadership and support to the Emergency Medical Services community and to ensure access to quality emergency medical care for the citizens and visitors of Wisconsin.

### **EMS subcommittees**

EMS Advisory Board subcommittees are formed to address specific issues and develop recommendations on EMS-related topics. Subcommittee members apply yearly and are voted into committee membership by the full EMS Advisory Board.

Objectives listed below are those of the subcommittees and are defined by their respective chairs.

Subcommittees of the EMS Advisory Board include:

- EMS Physician Advisory Committee
- EMS Systems Quality and Data
- EMS Education and Training
- EMS System Management and Development
- EMS Human Relations Committee
- EMS for Children Advisory Committee
- EMS Rural Committee

### **EMS physicians advisory committee mission and overview**

The Physician Advisory Committee's mission statement is to act as EMS physician experts, advising DHS and the EMS state medical director on scope, education, qualifications, and other EMS issues that impact citizens and providers in our state.

### **2023–2024 EMS physician advisory committee goals:**

- Assist with development of resources for medical directors at the local level
- Assist with development of medical items for Wisconsin Ambulance Record Data System (WARDS)
- Educate local EMS medical directors.
- Initiate a retrospective review of the effectiveness of the extensive expansion of the scope of practice.
- Recommend scope of practice expansion and/or contraction for each EMS level
- Informed duties as assigned by the board

## **EMS systems quality and data mission and overview**

- The mission of the EMS Systems Quality and Data Committee is to provide high quality emergency medical services data for supporting best practices in EMS including documentation, clinical practice, and quality improvement.
- Evaluate public information reporting
- Establish and analyze CQI as it relates to data
- Identify and establish criteria for reports that drive system quality initiatives
- Review and advise on the latest NEMSIS version implementation recommendations
- Monitor and audit WARDS and compliance with Wisconsin EMS strategic planning

## **2023–2024 EMS systems quality and data committee goals:**

- Enhance and expand work with state data manager and data team to utilize full functionality of WARDS
- Improve the use of EMS data to justify funding for state EMS initiatives, including funding state EMS Section
- Promote live dashboards for state EMS data that services can access, tailored to their data needs
- Integrate regional, state, and national data for comparison
- Acquire, review, and determine the effectiveness of the expansion of the Scope of Practice
- Determine the number of times advanced skills have been utilized in the past three years by services.
- Determine how many individual EMS practitioners utilized advanced skills in the past three years.

## **EMS education and training overview**

- Audit and review EMS curricula—all levels and as needed
- Consult and assist with educational components related to EMS section, EMS board, WTCS, and training center initiatives

## **2023–2024 EMS education and training committee goals:**

- Implement competency-based education
- Training preceptors in a standardized fashion
- Collaborate on implementation and standardized tracking of portfolio skills at all levels
- Determine the gap in education of each advanced skill from approval to actual training of individual EMS practitioners
- Determine the total number of hours of training that would be required for all advanced skills that have approved
- Determine the cost increases in course fees for training hours needed to validate EMS education proficiency due to the increase in the scope of practice

## **EMS system management and development mission and overview**

The mission of the EMS System Management and Development Committee is to provide high quality recommendations and best practices for supporting EMS services including operations, personnel management, and emergency preparedness; and support the development of new EMS initiatives.

### **2023–2024 EMS systems management and development committee goals:**

- Integrate and interface with DOT Trans 309 Committee
- Guide development of local EMS leadership
- Recommend legislative initiatives to sustain and advance the EMS system in the state
- Enhance EMS system recruitment and retention
- Integrate and facilitate a pathway for Community EMS and other public health integration into public safety
- Review, update and implement, the Wisconsin EMS State Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) plan to reflect current practices, including health care coalitions, pre-planning recommendations, mutual aid recommendations, and communication recommendations
- Development of required and recommended EMS medical equipment on ambulances for each scope level to support the sunset of Trans 309 Subchapter III and EMS office enforcement, in conjunction with Physician Advisory Committee
- Further development of statewide recommendations in regard to Hospital-EMS Diversions
- Determine the financial impact to EMS agencies due to the increase in the Scope of Practice over the past three years
- Determine the impact to EMS agencies to accomplish training needed due to the increase to the Scope of Practice
- Determine the impact on recruitment and retention due to the increase to the Scope of Practice.

## **EMS human relations committee mission and overview**

The mission of the Wisconsin EMS Board Human Relations Committee (HRC) is to provide information on how to create, adopt, educate, and implement cultural competency for EMS providers. The HRC will also address specific emergency medical considerations relative to the diverse population that resides in and visits Wisconsin, and within individual EMS agencies.

### **2023–2024 EMS human relations committee goals:**

- Understanding that all people should be treated equitably, and that all agencies should strive for an inclusive work environment that will foster this belief

- Kind, compassionate problem-solvers that will be able to address the changes that are facing our services
- Empathy to patients and to other service providers and members of the communities
- Inclusive environments of just culture that support constructive conflict resolution, problem solving, and continuous growth
- Commitment to professional growth, leadership, and development at all levels of the organization
- A commitment toward lifelong learning related to cultural competencies, evidence-based research, and analysis

### **Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) mission and overview**

The EMS for Children (EMSC) Advisory Committee is an independent subcommittee that liaisons with the Wisconsin EMS Board.

The EMSC Advisory Committee is responsible for guiding the statewide EMSC program. Membership includes pediatric and emergency trauma care specialists (for example, physicians and nurses), emergency response staff and family representatives. The EMSC program works to expand the capacity and improve the quality of pediatric emergency care across prehospital and hospital settings. This is accomplished through collaborative efforts, advocacy, consultation, and federal partnerships to facilitate successful achievement of EMSC national performance measures.

### **2023–2024 EMSC goals:**

- Providing the health care system with resources to manage and monitor pediatric medical services in a prehospital and hospital setting
- Providing technical expertise, current best practices, and cutting-edge information to pediatric medical providers and the EMS community
- Expanding the Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs) program; only 36.5% of Wisconsin EMS agencies have PECCs, despite best-practice recommendations that all EMS agencies have PECCs. Having PECCs in Wisconsin helps provide children with the best emergency care
- Increase opportunities for pediatric specific education and training
- Increase the number of EMS agencies and school districts that participate in the Children with Special Health Care Needs Preparedness for Emergencies (CAPE) Program
- Increase funding and grant opportunities for EMS agencies to purchase pediatric specific equipment
- Increase telehealth services for emergency providers caring for children in rural settings
- Ensure EMS providers have access to resources developed by WI EMSC including pediatric comfort kits, and emergency reference card

## **Closing**

As the EMS Section and OPEHC look to the future of EMS in our state, we will work toward creating a more inherently safe and effective, integrated and seamless, reliable and prepared, socially equitable, sustainable and efficient, and adaptable and innovative patient centric EMS system for our residents and visitors.

Questions or comments may be directed to the [EMS Section](#) via email at [DHSEMSSMAIL@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:DHSEMSSMAIL@dhs.wisconsin.gov).