

Resolution 2007-03

The Role of Lead State EMS Agencies in Implementing the Recommendations of the Institute of Medicine Report on the Future of Emergency Care



Whereas, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) recently released report *The Future of Emergency Care in the United States Health System* recommends the establishment of coordinated, regionalized, and accountable systems of emergency and trauma care throughout the country;

Whereas, emergency and trauma care systems include stroke, cardiac, burn, pediatric, and other time-critical emergency conditions;

Whereas, the report further recommends that demonstration grants be targeted at states to establish such regional systems;

Whereas, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program at the former Department of Health, Education and Welfare (DHEW) funded the development of regional EMS systems from 1973 to 1981;

Whereas, many of these regional EMS systems failed and others are functioning today with varying roles, responsibilities, and degrees of effectiveness;

Whereas, a 1979 General Accounting Office (GAO) assessment of the DHEW EMS Program cited the need for regional EMS systems to plan for self sufficiency with support from state legislation;

Whereas, a 1980 assessment of the DHEW EMS Program done by System Sciences Incorporated included a number of recommendations including the need for greater state participation in the support, funding, coordination, delineation of jurisdictional boundaries, and empowerment of regional EMS systems;

Whereas, there is a need for contiguous statewide access to regionalized emergency care and consistent statewide standards;

Whereas, lead state EMS agencies were established in each state in the 1970s and currently all state and territories have a lead EMS agency;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO) supports the development of statewide regionalized, coordinated and accountable systems of emergency and trauma care;

Be it further resolved that lead state EMS agencies should have sufficient authority and oversight, staff, and funding for statewide implementation and coordination of regionalized

and accountable systems of emergency care as well as implementation of other recommendations of the IOM report directed to states and;

Be it further resolved that NASEMSO calls upon each lead state EMS agency to exercise the leadership role in developing and implementing these systems;

Be it further resolved that such state EMS leadership role be included in the *Model State Emergency Medical Services System: Model, Self Assessment Planning and Implementation* and in any future model EMS legislation;

Now, therefore be it resolved that NASEMSO strongly advocates that lead state EMS agencies receive federal funding directed to states and territories related to emergency and trauma care for the establishment or enhancement of regionalized systems of care.

Signed this 2nd day of November, 2007.



Fergus Laughridge
NASEMSO 2006-08 President



Shawn Rogers
NASEMSO 2007-08 Secretary

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