



THE STEUBEN COUNTY EMS BULLETIN

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E-PCR Innovations at Avoca Ambulance

It's often said that technology should make life easier. Avoca Ambulance has used the E-PCR system to make life easier for its EMS providers. Avoca has accomplished this by installing an on-board computer system in their ambulance so the EMS provider can type the report and print it for the hospital, and transmit the "yellow copy" without leaving the ambulance.

Avoca Ambulance Captain Brian McBride stated the on-board system was assembled with parts purchased locally and cost about \$650. The Avoca E-PCR system consists of a mini laptop installed in the front wall cabinet, a flat screen TV mounted on the front bulkhead wall, a wireless keyboard

and mouse, and a printer mounted in another cabinet. The EMS provider just spins the seat around at the head of the cot and completes his patient care report.

The system also serves as a medical records department on the ambulance, according to McBride. If the EMS provider had transported the patient before they can access the record they wrote from the earlier call. In the case of an unresponsive patient this may allow access to information not available on the cur-

rent call.

According to McBride, Avoca has also developed software to track ambulance maintenance, mile-

this information will be useful in developing budgets and providing information to the village board.

Avoca's innovation was highlighted by reporter Mary Perham in an article that appeared in The Corning Leader on August 25th. Bob Rajskey, Chair of the STREMS Council, stated in the article that, "laptop technology of-



Captain Brian McBride demonstrates Avoca's new E-PCR system.

fers consistent and accurate documentation of each ambulance run, benefiting both the patient and the providers."

age, and other data important to managing the service. McBride stated



For more information visit: <http://www.nysarh.org/>.

The mission of NYSARH is to lead and to collaborate on issues that affect the health, welfare, and well being of rural New York residents; and to promote equitable access and availability of health services for rural New Yorkers by partnering with other organizations, associations, and individuals with similar interests in a collegial and collaborative manner. Currently, there is an active sub-committee devoted to EMS issues.

If you are interested in learning more about other rural EMS Volunteer Corps, contact Art Jones at cnirhcs@stny.rr.com or 607-794-0759

Rural Health Legislation Passes NYS Senate

Albany, N.Y. —The New York State Senate gave final legislative approval on September 11th to legislation, supported by state Senator George Winner (R-C-I, Elmira), to cre-

other causes.

The new fund, which was approved by the Assembly earlier this year, would provide grants to volunteer emergency services organizations to support their recruitment and retention initiatives. It must be approved by Governor David Paterson before becoming law.



NY State Senator George Winner

ate a “Volunteer Emergency Services Recruitment and Retention Fund” by allowing taxpayers to voluntarily contribute to the fund’s establishment through a state income tax check-off.

Supporters of the measure said that programs like this one to allow taxpayers to voluntarily “check off” a contribution to state programs on a state personal income tax form have grown in popularity across the nation over the last decade. New York currently has a check-off program to support wildlife conservation, child abuse prevention, and breast cancer research and treatment, along with

localities fend off potentially enormous future local property tax increases by offering incentives to recruit and retain volunteer firefighters and other emergency services personnel, said that the new fund could prove to be a worthwhile addition to the overall effort to bolster the ranks of emergency services volunteers statewide.

“We need to consider any and every possible way to address this challenge,” said Winner. “The issue of volunteer recruitment and retention warns of the next explosive property tax crisis facing localities across New York. We need to keep sounding

the alarm, and we need to keep looking for answers. It would cost billions of dollars for local property taxpayers to pay for the critical services currently provided by volunteer firefighters and EMTs.”

The Firemen’s Association of the State of New York (FASNY) estimates that it would cost local taxpayers more than \$5 billion annually to replace volunteers with paid fire

and ambulance services. According to FASNY, the number of volunteer firefighters statewide has declined from 140,000 in the early 1990s to fewer than 90,000 today. Volunteer EMTs experienced a decline from more than 50,000 to 35,000 during the same period, with some rural counties experiencing as much as a 50-percent depletion of their EMT ranks.

Additional EMS Legislation in the Works

Senator George Winner and state Assemblyman Tom O’Mara (R-Horseheads) have said that they will introduce and sponsor the **“Emergency Services Volunteer Incentive Act.”**

This legislation would:

- A. Provide a \$400 state income tax credit for volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers who have been active for four or more consecutive years.
- B. Exempt motor vehicles owned and used in the performance of duty by an emergency services volunteer from motor vehicle registration fees and vehicle use taxes.
- C. Authorize local volunteer fire and ambulance companies to use state-administered funds to help offset the cost of health insurance for their members;
- D. Increase the number of qualified candidates, from one to three, that volunteer companies can submit for participation in New York’s “Volunteer Recruitment Service Scholarships” program, a college tuition assistance program for volunteers created by state lawmakers in 2002.
- E. Direct the state Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC) to create a volunteer recruitment service college loan forgiveness program.

HeartCode: CPR & ACLS Certification

We're Making it Easier for You!

Rural Health Community Systems, Inc. is making it easier for EMS providers to obtain CPR and ACLS certifications

the system was not widely used. Laerdal Medical recently contacted the network and provided 2 new manikins and updated

ends and can not attend a traditional class. The system can be set up at an ambulance station and the EMS providers come in

said Jones. "The classroom part of the program is self paced and very easy to learn. Scenarios are presented and you click on the appropriate action to take." Regarding the skills portion of the program, Jones said that, "the feedback is positive and allows you to fine tune your technique. In a few minutes you can pass the skills tests and become a lean mean CPR machine."

The HeartCode CPR & ACLS system is ready to go. RHCS is excited to have this technology readily available for the EMS providers of Steuben County.

Contact Art Jones at cnirhcs@stny.rr.com or 607-794-0759 for a demonstration of this cutting edge program and a practice schedule that will make it easier for EMS providers to meet training requirements.



The HeartCode System, developed by the American Heart Association and Laerdal Medical, uses computerized manikins to test CPR and ACLS skills.

and re-certifications. The new HeartCode system will allow you train at home, at anytime.

RHCS is offering skills teaching/updating on the HeartCode training system. It is now available for EMS providers in Steuben County at your headquarters. Several years ago RHCS and a collaboration of rural health networks purchased the HeartCode laptop-based learning system to make CPR/ACLS training more accessible to rural EMS providers and to provide opportunities to update existing skills. Due to flawed technology issues

software to allow the system to work as intended.

The skills portion of the test is completed on manikins plugged into the computer. The trainee performs the skill and sensors in the manikin record their performance. Immediate feedback is given to the trainee while performing the skill. The trainee then can make a decision to either have the skill performance count towards certification or they can go back and try it again.

The HeartCode system can be a real benefit to EMS providers who may work nights and week-

whenever it is convenient to complete the classroom and skills parts of the certification class.

RHCS Coordinator of Network Initiatives Art Jones has had an opportunity to "test run" the new and improved system. "It is not intimidating at all"

Join 300 other EMS providers and stay informed with what's happening in Steuben County EMS!
Send your email address to Art Jones at cnirhcs@stny.rr.com to receive email blasts on the latest EMS news in the county and the STREMS region.



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Hey EMS Providers!

Help Add 10,000 Links to the Chain of Survival

Starting January 1, 2010 Rural Health Community Systems, Inc and its sponsors will launch a new project called "10,000 Links in the Chain of Survival" The goal of this project is to train 10,000 Steuben County Residents how to perform CPR. That's 10% of the Steuben County population. With your help we can train 3300 people a year over the next three years. Rural Health Community Systems is partnering with the American Red Cross Greater Steuben Chapter for a certified course and American Heart Association to provide an abbreviated CPR training for families and friends.

Armed with CPR 'know-how', bystanders will be

able to initiate CPR and help you save lives. You know that many factors are beyond EMS providers' control, which might cause a time lapse from the time a call is received until you can get to a cardiac emergency. By supporting the community effort to train 10,000 people

to respond, this project will ultimately help until you arrive at the scene.

The people being trained are not meant to replace the high quality emergency services you are already providing in Steuben County but to assist until you, the EMS providers, arrive. Ru-

ral Health Community Systems, Inc. is hopeful that you will encourage your community to get involved. This may lead to more people investing time in volunteering for Emergency Medical Services and supporting your efforts in helping your community.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Your Emergency Medical Services Corps can help by:

- (1) Hosting a CPR training program in your community
- (2) Facilitating American Heart Association Friends and Family Training sessions
- (3) Solicit donations to help support this training

One-hundred percent of all donations go directly into the training effort.

For more information, contact Art Jones, Coordinator of Network Initiatives, at 607-776-794 or cnirhcs@stnyy.rr.com.