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**EMT Training, Recruitment & Retention Task Force Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, September 26, 2024, via WebEx**

**1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Call to Order- Bobby Van Bebber 1:02 p.m.**

**Tak Force Roll Call and approval of Minutes:**

**Members Present:**

Representative Bill Hauter, Laura Daley, Charles Kelley, Jean Davis, Tim Egan, Brian Holcomb, Kim Godden, Senator Kimberly Lightford/ Kim Tate, Michael Pieroni, KC Booth, Andrew Thornton

**IDPH representatives:**

Bobby Van Bebber, Leslee Stein-Spencer, Robin Watts, Greg Willis, Allison Nickrent

**Welcome:**

This is the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EMS Training, Recruitment and Retention Task Force

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Bobby had mentioned at the last meeting he would reach out to NCSL (National Conference of State Legislatures) with approval of the group and request that they come and discuss the policy landscape and what is going on around in the country related to recruitment and retention and training. Kelsey George is on the call today and has agreed to present.
- Kelsey George introduced herself, "I am the senior policy specialist with the National Conference of State Legislatures. I am also joined by my colleague Roseanne, and we are going to primarily focus on topics related to emergency medical services."
- Kelsey Presented a very informative and thorough presentation.

**Topics of presentation [attached]:**

- NCSL Members include 7386 state legislators and more than 33,000 legislative staff across 50 states, DC, and territories. They support legislators and staff in a variety of ways that are pictured on the slide shown, including legislative tracking. We maintain more than 50 legislative databases, including EMS.
- Review of trends and information on topics and provide presentations to legislators, work groups and task forces. We are an organization governed by an executive committee that's made-up of legislators and staff, and our leadership alternates each year between Republican and Democrat.
- Today, we have tracked more than 550 bills across 50 states. This year alone, NCSL has tracked approximately 180 active bills.

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- We cover rules and regulations, including laws, Emergency Medical Services for Children, NEMISIS, and data collection efforts in states, aeromedical service we also cover trauma, STEMI, cardiac, and stroke.
- The EMS workforce varies greatly from state to state in the types of employees and EMS clinicians that we are working to serve. Volunteers make up a significant portion of the EMS workforce. Nationally, it is around 13% of the workforce. Volunteers tend to be concentrated in rural communities, which is important to consider when you are looking at policy alternatives in your state to recruit and clinicians.
- Three challenges we are currently seeing would be turnover, benefits and pay.
- Items to investigate would include life insurance certification, recruitment and retention, sustainable funding.
- Lowering the age requirements and creating pipelines into the EMS workforce and licensure portability is another topic.
- Recruitment and retention options, education and training funds, financial incentives, creating certain benefits for EMS clinicians within state plans, and providing mental health support would be our next subject. Several states have established tuition reimbursement or scholarship programs to specially focused on EMS or First Responders, and EMS.
- Telehealth services may also be used by clinicians to connect patients to providers virtually without having to transport them to a particular location.

#### Old Business:

- At the last meeting, Representative Hauter had requested that Bobby assemble a list of recommendations and categories for review which was sent out prior to this meeting. Does anyone have any feedback or recommendations or thoughts regarding anything that was sent out?

#### Future Meetings

- Representative asked what was needed for the final report and discussed if we should hold future meetings. Senator Lightford believes we need to extend the deadline to December 31st or January after the General Assembly for reporting.
- Senator Lightford wants to lay out what would be an excellent model for Illinois in creating subcommittees within this subcommittee to look at areas of interest that we have discussed and the report to make specific to the points that we've addressed.
- Motion made by Senator Lightford for an extension extending the deadline until January 31st, 2025. Charles Kelley seconded the motion.
- A meeting in October would perhaps be warranted. Information will be sent out for future meetings.

No public comment

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS: 2024**

via WEBEX-  
TBD

Motion to adjourn -approved.

**Adjourned:**

Motion to adjourn made by Rep. Bill Hauter

Meeting adjourned at 1:52pm