Community/Public Service Worksheet

Service Category: Health and Wellness Programs

Title: Alabama Region 4 EMS Administration & Technical Assistance

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Program Description: Area IV Regional EMS Administration and Technical Assistance created an Emergency Medical Services Program within the College of community Health Sciences by combining the forces of the College’s Institute for Rural Health Research with West Alabama EMS/EMPACT West Alabama. The program provides continuing education and updated technology to emergency medical services workers and volunteers in the West Alabama counties of Bibb, Choctaw, Dallas, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Marengo, Marion, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, Tuscaloosa, and Wilcox.

Objectives/Outcomes: The College’s EMS program will ensure that licensed emergency medical technicians working or volunteering in West Alabama are in compliance with the Alabama Department of Public Health Office of EMS and Trauma requirements. The program also serves as an advocate for the Alabama Department of Public Health, helping to meet the agency’s goals and objectives regarding EMS data collection.

Assessment Measures: The program is assessed by the number of emergency medical technicians (EMT) working or volunteering in West Alabama that participated in continuing education courses and by the total hours of training provided to West Alabama EMTs.

Results: Last year, 637 EMTs in West Alabama completed 11,115 hours of continuing education. Training module topics included: Airway management, patient assessment, circulation, trauma, medical emergencies, obstetrics, pediatrics, and CPR. Seventy-eight percent of West Alabama EMTs completed continuing education training in 2013.

Conclusions: EMTs in Alabama are required to complete 72 hours of continuing education credits every two years. Though the impact of the EMS continuing education program is evident, additional training opportunities may be necessary to provide EMTs ample opportunity to compete the 72-hour requirement.

Improvement Actions: An additional learning management system will be implemented to provide additional training opportunities for EMTs. In addition, an improved EMS electronic health record system will be implemented to increase EMS personnel productivity and improve continuity of care.