

Fall 2024 Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Date: October 15, 2024

Meeting Time: 12:30pm

Location: Northwestern Medical Offices, Sycamore, IL

External Participants:

Anthony Woodson– Program Director, NM

Dr. Greg Conrad – Medical Director, NM

Jake Moser – EMS Educator, NM

David Delille – EMS Lieutenant Dekalb Fire Department

Ryan Lange – EMS Educator, NM

Shaun Penn – Sycamore Fire Department/Adjunct Instructor

Roger Scott – Director of Education, A-TEC Ambulance

Crystal Lindgren – Genoa-Kingston Fire Department

Internal participants:

Dr. Jessica Berek – Dean of Instruction

Cindy Karasewski – Administrative Specialist I

- I. College Updates
 - A. Overall Enrollment
 - i. Fall 2024 enrollment is up 7.7% college-wide
 1. Health Sciences Division enrollment is up 16%, due to both Esthetics and Medical Assistant programs running.
 2. 28.6% student population is Hispanic/Latino - HSI designation
 - B. FY25 College Goals
 - i. Creation of LPN Program with plans to offer in Summer 2025; group discussion regarding the possibility of offering a Paramedic to RN program in the future. Participants felt that there would be strong demand for this option in the community.
 - ii. Other college goals discussed related to physical and digital infrastructure
 1. Physical: addressing deferred maintenance priorities and re-opening the conference center
 2. Digital: moving major student information systems to the cloud and investing in new student retention software
 - C. Discussion
 - i. Review of apprenticeship models at other community colleges
 1. Robust discussion - consensus was that with grant support, could be viable

2. A-TEC Ambulance, Inc. has partnered with SkillsUSA to provide many apprenticeships registered with the Department of Labor.
 3. One department has partnered with Elgin CC for something similar due to employees needing fire science training in addition to EMS.
- ii. Spanish for Medical Professionals
 1. College previously offered this course – low enrollment. Is there a need for employees with basic Spanish skills? Or is fluency important?
 2. Likely not needed for this group – many legal implications involved with this
 - a. A certified interpreter is required in many hospitals.
 - b. There are too many other languages in the community – example shared of recent incident regarding Swahili-speaking family.
- II. Program Update
- A. Program enrollment and success rates
 - i. Nine paramedic students graduated in 2024 with 100% pass rate: seven passed first attempt, one passed second attempt, one passed third attempt.
 - ii. Eleven students are currently in program, and all are doing well academically
 1. Students are placed as follows for clinical modules: Genoa Kingston has two students, Sandwich has two students, Sycamore has one student and Dekalb FD has six students.
 2. Investigating having this cohort of students complete at least one shift on a private ambulance.
 - B. EMT-B Program – IDPH communication and plan
 - i. IDPH communicated with most programs across the state, including NM, to encourage increasing pass rates on the EMT-B national exam.
 - ii. Currently reviewing the EMT-B program and exploring how other programs are structured – both at the curriculum and staffing level
 1. Many programs have a full time EMT-B instructor; Kish/NM program is staffed only with part time faculty.
 - a. Discussion that the paramedic model/partnership with Kish/NM works well.
 - b. Investigate if it could be replicated. This would likely mean additional staff.

2. Variety of curriculum models in place elsewhere. Many programs are longer than the IDPH minimum hours/current EMT-B class at Kish.
3. Discussion of students supports needed – how to identify at risk students sooner, ensure they have the right supports. Consider whether adding pre-requisites or intake counseling would be useful. Goal is to help students and know as much as possible about what each student needs.
 - a. Part-time faculty are trying to fill this role and are making improvements to class. Additional help may be needed to make bigger changes.

III. Employer Feedback and Discussion

- A. Many jobs and opportunities are available in the community and throughout the region. Excellent time for students to join the field.