



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

NICK LYON
DIRECTOR

January 15, 2015

Dear EMS and Medical Control Authority Stakeholders,

By now, you have likely heard about efforts to “Regionalize” the responsibilities and operations of EMS Medical Control Authorities in Michigan.

This effort is part of a much larger initiative of our State government to seek efficiency and better service to our residents by regionalizing functions of all Departments of State government. Better communication and oversight from the State EMS office to a manageable number of MCA’s is a part of this initiative. At present, there are 62 MCA’s, with varying levels of activity, hospital involvement, staffing and oversight of EMS in their local area.

Funding for our EMS system, from federal and state grants to insurance reimbursements, is being driven more and more by solid data. Using a regional approach is one way to improve the flow of information and data. For the first time in Michigan, the Legislature has appropriated funds to support EMS Medical Control Authority activity. This funding, and possible future funding, will be tied directly to a showing of progress in regional cooperation.

This effort is in the very early stages. MDCH is actively working on this effort with a workgroup which includes representation from each stakeholder group. We want you to know that decisions have not been finalized on the ultimate organizational structures that will be created. Further, and very importantly, please know that our intent is that we not lose the local presence and work of the current MCA’s while still bringing local MCA’s together for tasks or functions that could benefit from cooperative, regional activity.

All participants in Michigan’s EMS system will be afforded many opportunities to comment and become involved in this effort. The role of MDCH will be one of organizing and helping to create the structure that will become these regional entities and defining their role and responsibility. From that point forward, each regional entity will largely define its own methods of internal cooperation. It is at that level that local MCA’s and Life Support Agencies can have tremendous impact, and input. When the time comes for the detailed building of your regional entity, all involved parties will be informed and invited to participate.

There is much that is good about our EMS system in Michigan, and MDCH is committed to retaining those good and effective pieces, while moving our State forward and better positioning us for the future. We welcome the constructive ideas and comments of all involved in this effort.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kurt E. Krause". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Kurt E. Krause

Director

Bureau of Legal Affairs

Michigan Department of Community Health

CC: Marvin Helmker, State EMS Manager
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