**DATE:** March 18, 2015

**TO:** Commission on EMS

**FROM:** Howard Backer, MD, MPH, FACEP

 Director

**PREPARED BY:** Lisa Witchey, Manager

 Personnel Standards Unit

**SUBJECT:** Community Paramedicine

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Receive information regarding Community Paramedicine Pilot

**DISCUSSION:**

On November 14, 2014 EMSA received approval from Robert David, Director of the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development regarding EMSA’s application to test Community Paramedicine (CP) through the Health Workforce Pilot Program. The pilot project is approved for one year, expiring on November 14, 2015 with the option to apply for an additional year if warranted.

Twelve pilot site projects from ten different local jurisdictions are now able to move forward. These projects are collaborations of local EMS agencies and EMS providers with other healthcare partners to improve health care outcomes and utilization for a variety of patients:

* Improved care for frequent EMS users
* Transportation to alternate care sites for patients with minor conditions
* Post-discharge follow-up of patients with specific chronic conditions
* Medical screening and transportation of certain behavioral problems directly to mental health facilities
* Better therapy compliance for tuberculosis patients
* Optimal management of hospice patients whose families call 911

CP pilot sites have identified 79 paramedics who began participating in core and local CP training beginning in mid-January 2015. Training will be provided over 8 weeks, and offered in seven locations throughout the state. An additional 200 paramedics will participate in training related to the alternate destination pilot concept.

Beginning in June 2015, the CP pilot sites will be activated and will provide CP services according to approved protocols. Local advisory committees will continue to meet and provide oversight, reviewing 100% of patient encounters to ensure patient safety during the pilot. The HWPP committee will also review aggregated patient encounter data as an additional patient safety measure.

The EMS Authority will continue to keep the Commission informed on the progress of the Community Paramedicine pilot program.