

Ada County Community Paramedic Program

We hope you're ready for the impending warm weather after the long winter we've endured-- as spring officially began March 20th, 2014. We want to thank you all for supporting the Ada County Community Paramedic Program. We also want to provide an update on what the Community Paramedic Program has been doing during the past several months.

Ada County Community Paramedic Transitions Program - partnership and collaboration with St Luke's Hospital System

The Community Paramedics continue to partner with St Luke's Hospital System through a 30-day transitional care program for select patients. The goal of this program is to reduce readmissions to the hospital and empower patients to self-manage their chronic medical conditions. Ada County Community Paramedics work with patients discharged home from the hospital with a diagnosis of Congestive Heart Failure, COPD, and/or Myocardial Infarction (Heart Attack). Please feel free to contact us with any questions about our Transitions Program and our partnership with St Luke's. Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center - Ada County Community Paramedic Program Contract: Ada County Community Paramedics and Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center are in the final process of developing a patient-referral contract for a transitional care program for patients with Congestive Heart Failure. This contract outlines personnel responsibilities, liabilities, clinical expectations and referral guidelines. We expect to have the referral process, clinical expectations and signed contract completed in the next several months

Involuntary Mental Hold Emergency Department Diversion Pilot Program

We have completed our Involuntary Mental Hold Emergency Department Diversion pilot program. As a reminder, this pilot program tested the effectiveness of Community Paramedics performing in-field medical clearance exams, allowing for direct admission to a receiving mental health facility for patients who were placed on an "involuntary mental hold" by law enforcement. The pilot specifically tested the effectiveness of the screening exam and process. No patients were actually diverted from the Emergency Department for this pilot. The Community Paramedics performed medical screening exams on 50 patients. We are currently in the process of compiling and analyzing the resulting data. We will be sending out the results as soon as our analysis is complete. Our goal is to work with county/city officials and healthcare providers to develop a better process to manage individuals in the midst of mental health crisis and expedite appropriate patient care while decreasing overall healthcare costs.

Future Community Paramedics

The Community Paramedic Program is looking to expand. In December, three field paramedics were selected to participate in a nationally accredited community paramedic certification program, put on by Hennepin Technical College in Minnesota. These three individuals began the additional education in January. They are currently working on group projects including developing a general-community-needs assessment and a community-paramedic -implementation plan. They will begin clinical education hours soon. Please see the attachment to this email to learn more about/read bios on the future community paramedics.

Addition to the Ada County Community Paramedic Liaison and Advisory Council

In January, the Ada County Community Paramedic Liaison and Advisory Council voted unanimously to invite Mike Mikitish to join the council. Mike is the Director for the Institute of Emergency Management at Idaho State University, and possesses a great deal of experience and knowledge about formal paramedic education and emergency management. Please see the attachment to this email to learn more about Mike.

Ada County Community Paramedics and Southwest Idaho Advanced Care Hospital (SIACH) In-Home Medication Reconciliation Pilot Program

In February, we completed our In-Home Medication Reconciliation Pilot Program. This pilot program involved a partnership with Southwest Idaho Advanced Care Hospital. The Community Paramedics performed in-home medication reconciliations with 17 patients discharged from Southwest Idaho Advanced Care Hospital. The goal of the program was to identify barriers or misunderstandings patients may have when they begin managing medications in the home, and what can be done to improve the patient's ability to do so. We will be sending out the results soon.

Website - <https://adacounty.id.gov/paramedics/Services/Community-Paramedics>

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For more information about the Ada County Paramedics Community Paramedicine EMS Program contact Mark Babson mbabson@adaweb.net.