

Maryland EMS News

For All Emergency Medical Care Providers

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MIEMSS Presents Annual EMS Awards

MIEMSS held its annual awards ceremony on Wednesday, May 18, to recognize groups and individuals who made extraordinary accomplishments in the service of prehospital care in 2015. The awards ceremony was held during EMS Week (May 15 – 21), the theme of which this year was “EMS Strong: Called to Care.” Forty awards for the Maryland Star of Life program were presented, as were five Right Care When It Counts awards for children. The Right Care When It Counts awards seek to honor children and youth in Maryland who have demonstrated the *Steps to Take in an Emergency* or *Ways to be Better Prepared for an Emergency*. MIEMSS has conducted this award program for 13 years.

At the ceremony in Annapolis, Roy McGrath, Deputy Chief of Staff for Maryland’s Governor Larry Hogan, presented two Proclamations on behalf of the Governor. One proclamation recognized EMS Week and a second named May 18 as EMS for Children Day.

The Right Care When It Counts awards were presented during the first part of the two-part ceremony, which took place at the Miller Senate Office Building.

Mason Farr, 7 years old, from Worcester County, was enjoying a day at a water park with his family on May 25, 2015, when his aunt came down a water slide, struck her head multiple times, and landed in the pool face down. She suffered a spinal cord injury and wasn’t able to move. Mason immediately took action, jumping into the pool and lifting her head above water, saving her from drowning.

On September 5, 2015, **Brandon Owen’s** father, who had recently had heart surgery, fell and went into respiratory distress. Brandon immediately dialed 9-1-1, demonstrated exceptional calm and cooperation with the dispatchers and first responders on the scene, getting the help his father needed during this stressful event. Brandon, who is 11 years old, is from Dorchester County.

Daleon O’Garro, 7 years old, was home with his mother and two younger children when his mother suffered a seizure while holding an infant, falling out of her bed and becoming disoriented. This brave youngster called 9-1-1 to get help for his mother. Daleon and his siblings were not injured, and were able to stay with a neighbor until his father arrived home. Daleon is from Wicomico County.

Just two days before this frightening event, **Keymar Green** had taken a CPR class— not knowing he would put his skills into action so soon. Keymar’s 5-year-old brother suddenly had difficulty breathing on the evening on September 28, 2015, and stopped breathing entirely while his mother was on the phone with 9-1-1. Keymar jumped into action to initiate CPR, keeping his brother’s heart beating until first responders arrived, and saving his life. Keymar is 15 years old and is from Charles County.

During a visit with some family friends, 11-year-old **Dalton Newsome** from Calvert

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For the Stars of Life 2016 awards ceremony, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan provided two proclamations, one each in recognition of EMS Week and EMS for Children Day. They were presented by Roy McGrath, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Governor’s Office (left), and received by MIEMSS EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband (center) and MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman (right).

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County witnessed a young infant begin to choke on a piece of apple. The infant's mother was unable to remove the food, so Dalton quickly took the child and began to administer choking first aid, having received his CPR and First Aid certification only recently. The infant coughed up the obstruction and began crying and breathing. Dalton's quick response and skillfulness certainly saved the infant's life.

For the second part of the program, MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman presented the Maryland Star of Life awards. First, the **Maryland Star of Life Award**, given to an individual or team for an outstanding rescue, was presented to 18

providers from Prince George's County who responded to a devastating car crash. The following individuals each received a Maryland Star of Life Award: **Incident Commander William "Bill" Corrigan, Firefighter Ryan Crowell, Firefighter/Paramedic Joseph Geger, Firefighter/Paramedic James Harris, Lt. Michael Hayter, Sgt. Tim Keiling, Firefighter/PM Hayward Kelly, EMS Sgt. Ian Kolmaister, Captain Jeff Kraus, Firefighter Matthew Lockwood, EMT Ini Oyeleke, Lt. Ryan Pidgeon, Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Rush, Firefighter Christine Szarko, Firefighter George Thomas, Firefighter John Tull, Firefighter Patrick Williams, and Firefighter Nathan Zeck.**

On November 8, 2015, a devastating car crash in Hyattsville injured 11 and claimed 5 lives. At about 5:00 pm, 9-1-1 dispatchers received a call for a vehicle engulfed in flames with its occupants trapped. Upon arrival, responders encountered a two-vehicle crash between a truck and a passenger van with multiple occupants—many of who were still trapped in the burning vehicle. Responders risked their own lives and safety to quickly extinguish the flames emanating from the crash and to treat and comfort the victims. The number of victims injured and extent of their injuries was staggering, and would heavily tax the first responders from the Prince George's County

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Right Care When It Counts awardee Brandon Owens is pictured third from left. Joining Brandon from left to right are MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, MIEMSS EMS for Children Director Cynthia Wright Johnson, MIEMSS EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath, and Emergency Communications Specialist Justin Koshar.



Right Care When It Counts awardee Dalton Newson is pictured third from left. Joining Dalton from left to right are MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, MIEMSS EMS for Children Director Cynthia Wright Johnson, MIEMSS EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath.



Right Care When It Counts awardee Keymar Green is pictured third from left. Joining Keymar from left to right are MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, MIEMSS EMS for Children Director Cynthia Wright Johnson, MIEMSS EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath.



Right Care When It Counts awardee Mason Farr was unable to attend the award ceremony, but Ryan L. Whittington, pictured third from left, accepted the award on his behalf. Also pictured, from left to right are MIEMSS EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath, and MIEMSS EMS for Children Director Cynthia Wright Johnson.

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Fire Department. However, the bravery and selflessness demonstrated by the responders on-scene undoubtedly saved many lives, including several children, that day.

Maryland EMS Citizen Awards were presented to **Tony Drury, Denny Embly, Rich Higgins, Cathy Mills, John Netz, Scott Snow, and Cindi Wachter**, as well as **Williamsport Volunteer Fire - Emergency Medical Services, Inc.** On August 10, 2015, at the Forty West Landfill in Hagerstown, Equipment Operator John Netz spotted a customer who appeared to be having a seizure. He radioed for assistance and rushed to the customer's aid, who had become unconscious and had stopped breathing. Mr. Netz initiated CPR as Operations Supervisor Tony Drury arrived to assist. Equipment

Operator Denny Embly placed a call to 9-1-1 as the crew continued CPR. Equipment Operators Rich Higgins and Scott Snow handled traffic at the landfill so that emergency responders would be able to access the patient quickly and without interference. Assistant Director Cathy Mills and Weigh Clerk Cindi Wachter soon arrived with an AED and applied it to the customer while Mr. Netz and Mr. Drury continued CPR. After one shock was administered, the customer's pulse returned and became stronger. Williamsport Volunteer Fire - Emergency Medical Services, Inc. soon arrived, providing life-saving medical care, and transported the patient. All employees of the landfill had been trained in CPR, first aid, and the use of an AED as part of the county's training program. This incredible team knew what to do, how to do

it, and did not hesitate to pull together to save this individual's life.

Christine Herriotts was also the recipient of a **Maryland EMS Citizen Award**. On September 22, 2015, a 7-year-old suffered what appeared to be a seizure while at soccer practice in Olney. Christine Herriotts was at the field and rushed to assist. Finding that the young child appeared to be in cardiac arrest, she initiated CPR and instructed bystanders to call 9-1-1 and retrieve an AED, located nearby. He was resuscitated at the scene and later underwent extensive evaluation based in part on Ms. Herriotts' counseling to his parents and pediatrician. She suspected that he was suffering from more than a seizure disorder, based on what she witnessed during his rescue. He was eventually diagnosed as having exercise-induced polymorphic ventricular tachycardia—a cause of sudden death in young athletes. Ms. Herriotts' quick thinking, bold action, and trust in her own abilities saved this patient's life, and quality of life. She prompted a chain of events that gave his family the proper diagnosis, education, and treatment to prevent another life-threatening event.

The **MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS** was presented to **Dr. Roy Myers**, the Chief Fire Surgeon for the Anne Arundel County Fire Department (AAFD), for his vocal advocacy on behalf of EMS providers and the citizens of Anne Arundel County. He helped develop the paramedic program at Anne Arundel Community College in 1981, and has been the Medical Director there ever since. He has actively taken part in the initial education, mentorship, and continuing education of AAFD personnel who want to become paramedics, and has supported all providers by attending all ALS and BLS recertification classes for the AAFD. Dr. Myers was also instrumental in the implementation of a wellness/fitness program for all career and volunteer members of the fire department. For the citizens of Anne Arundel County, Dr. Myers has taught free citizen CPR classes through the AAFD. Dr. Myers has demonstrated passion and dedication for EMS in Anne Arundel County and Maryland for nearly 40 years, and countless providers and citizens have benefited from his leadership and generosity.

This year, a **MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS for Children** was also presented to two providers from Baltimore City. On March 12, 2015, a known asthmatic was found unresponsive and in respiratory arrest in her home. Responding EMS providers **CRT Billie Davidson** and **EMT Kyle Bowers**

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Maryland EMS Citizen Awards were presented to seven employees of the Forty West Landfill in Hagerstown and to Williamsport Volunteer Fire - Emergency Medical Services, Inc. (WVFEMS). Pictured are (upper row): MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, Tony Drury, Cathy Mills, Denny Embly, Cindy Wachter, John Netz, EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath, Administrator Gary Hoffman (from WVFEMS), Washington County Commissioner Jeff Kline, and (kneeling): Scott Snow and Mark Kopp A/C (from WVFEMS). Award winner Rich Higgins is not pictured.



Also receiving a Maryland EMS Citizen Award was Christine Herriotts, pictured second from left. She is joined by, from left to right, MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath.

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quickly applied a bag-valve-mask to the patient and regained respiratory effort. They followed this by obtaining venous access, gave the patient an epinephrine injection, placed her on continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) with albuterol/atrovent nebulizers, and administered dexamethasone. CRT Davidson and EMT Bowers arrived, treated, and transported the patient to Johns Hopkins Pediatric Emergency Department in approximately 15 minutes, where she was aggressively treated in the emergency department and ultimately admitted to the ICU. CRT Davidson's and EMT Bowers' actions, along with the rapid and appropriate

decision to use CPAP instead of intubation in this case, contributed to saving her life.

A remarkable effort was coordinated by the Queen Anne's Department of Emergency Services (DES) to ensure continuous EMS presence to the annual Across the Bay 10K, which brought over 21,000 participants to travel on foot across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. The following organizations and individuals each received an award for **Outstanding EMS Program Award: Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services, EMT/PS-DII Justin Parsons (Queen Anne's County), EMT Charles Layfield (Dorchester County), Paramedic Edward Dean (Dorches-**

ter County), Paramedic Don Giampetroni (Charles County), EMT Emma North (Preston Volunteer Fire Department), and EMT/Firefighter Harvard Hohensee (Anne Arundel County Fire Department).

The November 10 event was staffed by Queen Anne's DES and neighboring EMS agencies from eight counties, totaling over 65 personnel present. This coordinated plan was put into action when an event participant appeared to suffer an illness or injury, collapsing on the bridge. Off-duty EMT/FF Harvard Hohensee was nearby and rolled the man onto his back, discovering he was not breathing and had no pulse, and initiated CPR. Paramedic

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EMT Kyle Bowers and CRT Billie Davidson, second and third from left respectively, received the MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS for Children. They are joined by, from left to right, MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath.



MIEMSS' EMS Provider of the Year is Division Chief Michael F.X. O'Connell, from Anne Arundel County Fire Department, second from the left. He is joined by, from left to right, MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath.



Laurel Anne Moody, RN, third from left, received MIEMSS' EMS for Children Award. She is joined by, from left to right, MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, Dr. Cheryl DePinto from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, MIEMSS EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath, and MIEMSS EMS for Children Director Cynthia Wright Johnson.



Dr. Roy Myers, Chief Fire Surgeon for the Anne Arundel County Fire Department, received the MIEMSS Director's Award for Excellence in EMS. Dr. Myers was unable to attend the ceremony, but his award was accepted by Deputy Chief Timothy Mikules (second from left). Chief Mikules was joined by, from left to right, MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath.

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Edward Dean and EMT Charles Layfield, also nearby, responded with an AED, defibrillated the individual and loaded him into their unit. Dispatcher Justin Parsons coordinated additional assistance from Paramedic Don Glampetroni, who provided patient care, and EMT Emma North, who volunteered to drive the unit. The patient was treated and discharged from Anne Arundel Medical Center. This effort was a truly exemplary model of outstanding coordinated prehospital care under exceptionally challenging circumstances.

MIEMSS' **Emergency Medical Services Provider of the Year** was **Division Chief Michael F.X. O'Connell**, who was instrumental in the birth and growth of a formal and modern EMS system in Maryland. Chief O'Connell saw Anne Arundel County Fire Department (AAFD) through its expansion from just 5 units in 1976 to 46 ALS and BLS units today. After becoming an EMT-A in 1972, and then one of the first cardiac rescue technicians in 1974, he shortly thereafter achieved the level of instructor—and still teaches BLS and ALS programs at Anne Arundel Community College. Chief O'Connell has been a member of the Region III Emergency Medical Advisory Council since 1978, serving as the chairperson since 1999, and has served on the State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council subcommittee for Regional Affairs since 1993. He was part of the development team for the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute's EMS Officer I training program in 1996. And in 2006, Chief O'Connell led the AAFD contingent for the Maryland Medical Task Force to Jefferson Parrish, Louisiana, an area that had been devastated by Hurricane Katrina. He has unselfishly dedicated his life to EMS, the Army National Guard, and to the citizens of Maryland.

Laurel Anne Moody, RN was this year's winner of the **EMS for Children Award** for the work and expertise she has shared with the Maryland EMS and EMSC programs for the past decade. She is recognized especially for leadership she provided in 2014 and 2015 revising the extensive *Guidelines for Emergency Care in Maryland Schools*, which provides information on first aid and emergency care to students in Maryland schools when the school nurse is not available. Ms. Moody championed the revision of the 2005 document after new guidelines were released by the American Heart Association, and dedicated months of tireless work to ensuring it was accurate, up-to-date, and reflected best practices. Ms. Moody also serves on the State Child Fatality Review



The Maryland Star of Life Award winners this year are providers from Prince George's County. Pictured are (upper row, left to right): MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, Firefighter/Paramedic Hayward Kelly, Lieutenant Josh Reedy, EMT Ini Oyeleke, Firefighter/Paramedic Joe Geger, MIEMSS EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath, Lt. Ryan Pidgeon, Sgt. Tim Keiling, Firefighter Patrick Williams and (bottom row, left to right): Firefighter Matthew Lockwood, Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Rush, Firefighter Nathan Zeck, Firefighter Christine Szarko, and EMS Sgt. Ian Kolmaister. Some award winners were unable to attend and are not pictured here.



Queen Anne's County Department of Emergency Services and six individual providers from neighboring EMS agencies received MIEMSS' award for Outstanding EMS Program. Pictured from left to right are MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, Firefighter/Paramedic David Rivett (Queen Anne's County DES), Lieutenant Kevin Brenner (Queen Anne's County DES), Paramedic Don Glampetroni (Charles County DES), EMT Robert Layfield (Dorchester County EMS), Paramedic Eddie Dean (Dorchester County EMS), EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, Assistant Chief Scott Wheatley (Queen Anne's County DES), Firefighter/Paramedic Harvard Hohensee (Anne Arundel County Fire Department), Mark Anderson (President, Queen Anne's County Commissioners), and Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath. Not pictured is EMT Emma North from Preston Volunteer Fire Department.

team and is the lead editor for their quarterly newsletter, reaching all 25 local CFR team members, and has served as a Pediatric Emergency Medical Advisory Committee member for over 10 years. A former EMT and trauma nurse, Ms. Moody provides the links and the translations of how the best practices in EMS and emergency departments merge with best practices in school health.

The **Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS**, given for lifetime achievement in EMS, was posthumously awarded to **Steven E. White** for his devotion to public service and EMS since 1977. Chief White had volunteered with the Parsonsburg Volunteer Fire Company for 20 years, serving in various roles including Fire Chief, and then enrolled as a career paramedic/firefighter for 13 more years. Parsons-

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burg Volunteer Fire Company's new state-of-the-art facility, dedicated in November 2010, is the direct result of Chief White's commitment and passion; it was through his extensive fundraising efforts and lobbying that the community's need became a reality. More recently, Chief White served on the Volunteer Company Assistance Fund Committee for the Maryland State Firemen's Association and dedicated many hours working with other volunteer fire companies to acquire grant funding and low-interest loans for much needed equipment. He passed away from cancer in November 2015, but left an inspiring legacy. Chief White led by example, instilling integrity, work ethic, the love of helping others, the value of living a simple life, and life-saving skills into his fellow fire service providers and supporting and encouraging EMS students.

The Star of Life awardees represent the very best in EMS. We deeply appreciate the commitment and service of each of these winners. MIEMSS would also like to acknowledge and thank all Maryland EMS providers, who, we believe, exemplify "EMS Strong."



Chief Steven E. White was this year's recipient of the Leon W. Hayes Award for Excellence in EMS. Chief White was honored posthumously, and his wife, Debbie, pictured fourth from left, accepted the award on his behalf. Also pictured, left to right, are MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman, Ryan L. Whittington, Chief White's brother Billy White, EMS Board Member Dr. Dany Westerband, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Office of the Governor Roy McGrath.

Route for the Brave Charity Walkers Visit Baltimore County Fire Station

The Route for the Brave charity walkers, a team of volunteers walking over 3,000 miles, recently came through Maryland, stopping for a visit at Baltimore County's Station 16. The overall mission of the group, officially known as Helping Hands for Freedom, is to provide military children and families the emotional support and financial assistance needed when dealing with a family member lost, wounded, or serving multiple deployments in Iraq and/or Afghanistan. The group began their walk April 28, 2016, in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and will end it in San Francisco, California.

Families that are left behind are often forgotten. The commitment of wives, husbands, and children to our country show in the sacrifices they have to make while supporting their family member who serves. To learn more about this event, as well as how you can assist in their efforts to support our military in return for their service and sacrifice, visit www.routeforthebrave.org.



Route for the Brave volunteers, who are walking across the country to raise funds for veterans and their families, visited Station 16 in Baltimore County. Photo courtesy of Captain Mike Acosta, Baltimore County Fire Department.

National EMS Memorial Bike Ride Comes Through Maryland

On Friday, May 20, 2016, the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride (NEMSMBR), a group of EMS workers and support vehicles from around the country, held a ceremony at the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial in Annapolis to honor EMS providers killed in the line of duty. A Proclamation from Governor Larry Hogan declaring May 20 as NEMSMBR Day in Maryland was presented to the group by MIEMSS Executive Director Kevin G. Seaman, MD. EMS bike riders from around the country participated in a memorial service to honor fellow EMS providers who lost their lives in the past year. They then continued the ride on to Arlington, Virginia, the finishing destination. This was the seventh and final day of the ride that left Boston on May 14. Additional information on the bike ride can be found at www.muddyangels.com. The ride was held during National EMS Week, a celebration to honor EMS providers nationwide.

The National EMS Memorial Bike Ride honors EMS personnel by organizing and implementing long distance cycling events that memori-

alize and celebrate the lives of those who serve every day, those who have become sick or injured while performing their duties, and those who have died in the line of duty. The objectives of the bike ride are:

- Remember EMS workers who have died in the line of duty
- Raise public awareness about line of duty deaths and disabilities in the EMS profession
- Honor EMS workers who continue to work despite dangerous safety conditions
- Advocate for a national tracking of injuries, near misses, and line of duty deaths in EMS
- Provide a safe, friendly, and supportive environment for registered participants to bicycle
- Promote healthy lifestyles for EMS providers through physical activity and nutrition



Clockwise from left to right, MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman prepares to join the National EMS Memorial Bike Ride, Dr. Seaman addresses participants at the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial in Annapolis, and riders gather for a group shot at FedEx field in Landover before continuing on with their ride.

MIEMSS Provides Support for Annual Disaster Drill

On Sunday, May 22, 2016, MIEMSS provided support for the annual National Disaster Medical System exercise in patient reception, transporting, and tracking. The drill was held in the cargo area of the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI), beginning at 7:00 am.

The premise of the simulation was that a natural disaster in New York State prompted mass evacuation of patients for treatment in outlying states. The Delaware National Guard arrived in a C-130 plane to BWI where volunteer “patients” were loaded, off-loaded, and then transported by local EMS agencies to area hospitals.

The exercise was a cooperative effort among the US Departments of Health and Human Services, Defense, Homeland Security, and Veteran’s Affairs. MIEMSS was the primary contact for Maryland state agencies and provided logistical support.



Members of the Delaware National Guard assist providers in off-loading volunteer “patients” on litters from the C-130 cargo plane during the disaster training at BWI airport in May.



Volunteer “patients” are lined up on the tarmac waiting to be transferred to ambulances, such as the Howard County multi-casualty bus seen in the background, and then transported to area hospitals. Patients were tracked from the time they were off-loaded from the plane to arrival at the treatment hospitals.

Maryland EMS System Discusses Progress at Utstein II Implementation Meeting

Survival from sudden cardiac arrest is unacceptably low, averaging less than 10% in published reports. In June 2015, emergency medical services leaders, researchers, and experts met for the Utstein II meeting at the Utstein Abby in Norway to address how best to increase survival from cardiac arrest in communities. Their charge was to answer, “How can we best translate knowledge and science into clinical practice?” The short answer was to focus on implementation. The group called to establish a Global Resuscitation Alliance (GRA) to provide community tools and support for implementation of best practices.

This year, Maryland’s state EMS system was invited to participate in the Utstein II conference, “A Call to Establish a Global Resuscitation Alliance.” MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman was asked to present and share Maryland’s progress on implementing cardiac arrest measurement and feedback through eMEDS® and the Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES). The presentation attracted much interest and drew praise for Maryland’s efforts to increase survival from cardiac arrest. The group was particularly interested in the systems approach to care and the benchmarking available to communities, including hospital outcome for patients. Proceedings from this meeting were also shared at the European EMS2016 Congress in Copenhagen, Denmark.



MIEMSS Executive Director Dr. Kevin Seaman was asked to present on Maryland’s EMS system at this year’s Utstein II conference in Denmark, where efforts to establish a Global Resuscitation Alliance took place. Photo courtesy of Dr. Kevin Seaman.

MSFA Holds Charity Walk for Cancer Support Network

On Sunday, May 22, 2016, the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA) and the Ladies of the Maryland State Firemen's Association (LAMSFA) held its first Annual Hope Awareness 5k Walk for the Cancer Support Network, raising over \$10,000.

The walk took place through historic downtown Annapolis, beginning and ending at the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial. Maryland Senate President Mike Miller came by to congratulate the walkers and Maryland Governor Larry Hogan sent a Governor's Citation commending the MSFA and LAMSFA on their efforts.

Funds raised will go toward supplying free "comfort bags" filled with items that are useful for cancer patients during treatment as well as for an aggressive educational campaign for firefighters and EMS providers on the detection and prevention of cancer and how caregivers can help their loved ones.

Plans are already underway for next year's charity walk.



LAMSFA President Darby Byrd, MSFA Fire Prevention Ambassador, Susan Hinton, member of the Harford County Honor Guard, Buddy Schweers, and MSFA President Johnie Roth participate in the Inaugural Cancer Walk in Annapolis. Photo courtesy of Dr. Kevin Seaman.

QAC Receives Grant for Health Outreach Program

Queen Anne's County (QAC) Mobile Integrated Community Health (MICH) Program, which offers free services to county residents, over the age of 18, who have called 9-1-1 five or more times within six months, has received a \$400,000 grant from health insurer CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield.

Patients who participate in the pilot program are offered a home visit by a nurse practitioner and a paramedic who assess the patient's needs. The visit may include a review of past medical history, a limited physical assessment, a medication review, a home safety check, and health education. The health care team may also recommend resources for accessing transportation, finding a primary care provider, obtaining health insurance, and getting in touch with other

community agencies that may be able to provide further assistance.

Dr. Joseph Ciotola, MIEMSS Jurisdictional Medical Director for Queen Anne's County as well as the county health officer, was a driving force when the program was first launched in 2014. "By meeting these patients in their homes and getting to know them and their medical needs, we hope to be able to avert unnecessary ambulance calls and admissions to emergency rooms when the call is not actually a medical emergency," Ciotola said.

Deputy Health Officer Jennie M. Burris said, "The MICH Program is demonstrating positive health outcomes in reducing emergency room utilization and reduction of 9-1-1 calls. One of the main goals of the program is to en-

able patients to have active role in their health and to connect with county resources."

The program is made available through the support of University of Maryland Shore Regional Health, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, QAC Commissioners, QAC Department of Emergency Services, and the QAC Department of Health. For more information about the MICH Program visit dhmh.maryland.gov/qahealth/Pages/mich.aspx.

Maryland To Work Toward New NCCP Process for NREMT Renewals

The National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) has recently introduced the National Continued Competency Program (NCCP) for the NREMT recertification process. The new NCCP model streamlines the NREMT recertification process into three categories of continuing education: National, Local, and Individual. Benefits of the new NCCP model are a reduction in the overall hours required for NREMT recertification at the Paramedic level and an increase in the amount of distributive education that can be applied towards your NREMT recertification. MIEMSS will work with the NREMT and EMS Education Programs to develop a process to transition to the NCCP NREMT recertification model. Specific information regarding the Maryland requirements will come at a later date. In the meantime, for more information about the NCCP requirements and distributive education allowance, please review the NCCP Recertification Resources available on the NREMT website at www.nremt.org/nremt/EMTServices/nccp_info.asp.

2016 EMS & Prevention Educational Conferences

**Peninsula Regional Medical Center
Annual Trauma Conference**

Topics in Trauma
September 23, 2016
Ocean City, Md.

Mid Atlantic Life Safety Conference
September 27, 2016
Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab
Laurel, Md.

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Governor Larry Hogan
Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford

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