

Update on EMS/Trauma Registry Project (as of January 31, 2010)

The Texas EMS/Trauma Registry (herein referred to as the "Registry") is a legislatively mandated program within the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Prevention and Preparedness Division, Environmental Epidemiology and Disease Registries Section, that is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating information on EMS incidents, trauma and the occurrence of reportable injuries in Texas. (Chapters 92 and 773.113 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, require healthcare facilities and EMS providers to submit data to DSHS). These data are also to be used in allocating funds to trauma care systems and as a tool for system and trauma care improvement in Texas.

The existing Registry is outdated, does not comply with either the NEMESIS or NTDB standards and inadequately serves stakeholder needs. As such, DSHS, funding partners (TXDOT), and other external stakeholders/users have concluded that the current Registry needs to be replaced.

The Trauma Registry Improvement System Assessment (TRISA) Project was the first step towards replacing the current Registry. An outside vendor was hired to conduct a system assessment which included an assessment of stakeholder needs, best practices in other states, and what alternatives are available. The TRISA Final Report includes system requirements for the future registry application based on business and data requirements, stakeholders' needs and expectations, funding partner requirements. The report also includes an evaluation of alternatives and estimated associated costs to DSHS for consideration. The final report, which has been posted on the DSHS website since early October, concluded that the best solution would either be a commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) product offered as one product that integrates EMS and trauma data collection, or a "best of breed" solution that combines the best EMS product and the best trauma product.

The TRISA Report will be the basis for the next stage of the process, the Trauma Registry Improvement System Project (TRISP). DSHS will evaluate the TRISA report, and with stakeholder involvement, determine the best option from the recommended alternatives. A Request for Offer will be posted and a vendor or vendors will be selected. The project will include the final implementation of the solution, as well as data migration from the existing applications.

To obtain stakeholder input and guidance on the acquisition, implementation, and maintenance of a new system DSHS formed the EMS/Trauma Registry Solutions Work Group (RSWG). In October, stakeholders were invited to apply to be part of the RSWG and 14 stakeholder's applications were received; all 14 were appointed to the group. The RSWG met in November to review the workgroups charge and the project timeline; they also began reviewing the business and functional requirements that will be included in the Request for Offer (RFO) for the new system. The RSWG has had two conference calls in January and is continuing the process of reviewing the requirements for the new system. It is the consensus of the RSWG, DSHS program and IT staff, and

executive leadership at DSHS that the preferred solution would be a COTS product that integrated both EMS and trauma data collection in one system. The RSWG also will provide guidance in establishing criteria for the selection of a vendor (e.g., years of operation, experience in large states, etc.).

A draft RFO is being prepared to be submitted to the DSHS legal division for approval. Once approved, the *draft* RFO will be published on the DSHS website (for one week) for public comment. Comments will be addressed and the RFO will be finalized and posted on the *Texas Daily Register* for 30 days. It is anticipated that that the RFO will be completed and posted by the end of March. Applications/bids will be received and evaluated and a vendor will be selected in April or May. A contract should be negotiated in early summer (June or July) after which the actual implementation of the new registry will begin. The implementation schedule will not be known until a vendor is selected, a contract is in place, and a vendor work plan is provided

Currently, the project manager is working to obtain all the state procedural approvals needed to procure the new system. It is currently the intent of DSHS to migrate the existing data into the new system.

The total estimated cost to replace the EMS/Trauma Registry is \$3,280,046. DSHS has a three year grant from TXDOT (\$1,736,046) and is committed to contributing \$1,544,000 of DSHS funds over the next three years.