

Community Paramedic



There exist limitless opportunities in every industry.
Where there is an open mind, there will always be a frontier.

Charles F. Kettering

The Rural and Remote Dilemma

- $\frac{1}{4}$ of Americans live in rural and remote areas
- Only 10% of America's doctors practice there
- 4 times as many rural and remote residents traveled >30 miles for health care, compared to urban residents

The Rural and Remote Dilemma



POPULATION OF
RURAL AMERICANS 25%



PRACTICING DOCTORS 10%

Rural and Remote Demographics

- More elderly
- More immigrants
- More poverty
- Poorer health



HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010

HEALTHY PEOPLE 2010

Goals:

- Have a source of ongoing care
- Have a usual primary care provider (PCP)
- Increase the number of under-represented ethnic and racial groups with degrees in health professions
- Reduce avoidable hospitalizations

www.healthypeople.gov









Filling an Unmet Need with Untapped Resources



Filling an Unmet Need with Untapped Resources



Volunteer and Paid Paramedics

- EMTs/Paramedics already know how to deliver care locally
- Know how to assess resources and make decisions
- They could fill gaps in care with enhanced skills through targeted training



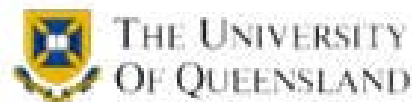
Seizing the Opportunity

- Built on the Rural and Frontier EMS Agenda of the Future
- Community Healthcare and Emergency Cooperative (CHEC) developed the curriculum
- The curriculum supports the work of the International Roundtable on Community Paramedicine supports (IRCP)
- Spearheading a movement

The Community Healthcare and Emergency Collaborative



Australian Centre for Prehospital Research



The Community Paramedic Program

- Expand role, *not* scope
- Assess and identify gaps between community needs and services
- Improve quality of life/health



The Community Paramedic Program

- Level 1 – Non-paramedic filling some roles of the Community Paramedic
- **Level 2 -- Certificate or Associate degree**
- Level 3 – Bachelor's degree
- Level 4 – Master's degree



Expanded Services

- Primary care
- Emergency care
- Public health
- Disease management
- Prevention
- Wellness
- Mental health
- Dental care



Building on Experience



- Not entirely new
- Similar successes around the world

Building on Experience

A world map with a blue background and orange landmasses. Three regions are highlighted in a bright yellow color: Alaska in the northwest, Nova Scotia in the northeast, and Queensland in the northeast of Australia. The text labels for these regions are placed near their respective highlighted areas.

ALASKA

NOVA SCOTIA

QUEENSLAND,
AUSTRALIA

Nova Scotia Community Paramedic Model

Serves Long and Brier Island

- Population: 1,240
- >50% age 65+
- 2 hours + to nearest hospital
- No local health care provider



Nova Scotia Community Paramedic Model

Program Development

1. Hired project manager
2. Assigned medical oversight physician
3. Expanded paramedics' skill set
4. Explained program to community



Nova Scotia Community Paramedic Model

Reaching the Community

- Health clinics
- Home health assessments
- Adopt-a-patient



Nova Scotia Community Paramedic Model

Impressive Results

40%

**REDUCTION IN
EMERGENCY ROOM
VISITS**

28%

**REDUCTION IN
CLINIC VISITS**

OVER 5 YEARS



Queensland, Australia

Rural and Remote Paramedic Program

- Australia's second largest state
- Rapidly increasing/aging population
- Needed sustainable health care model



Queensland, Australia

Rural and Remote Paramedic Program

- Expanded duties
- Wound dressing with local anesthetics
- Suturing/minor surgical procedures
- Chronic pain management
- X-rays
- Mental health assessment/treatment



Queensland, Australia

Rural and Remote Paramedic Program

- Expanded activities
- CPR/indigenous first aid
- Road accident prevention
- Community presentations



Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner (CHA/P)

- > 550 CHA/Ps
- 180 villages
- > 300,000 patient encounters



Alaska Community Health Aide/Practitioner (CHA/P)

- 24-hour emergency care
- Acute, non-emergent and urgent care
- Prenatal, emergency childbirth and newborn care
- Preventive care
- Chronic care



The List Goes On

- Red River Project, New Mexico
- Independent Practice Medic, military
- Guanajuato, Mexico



Community Paramedic Training Program

- Where is the pilot based?
- Which communities will be served?
- Who is involved? Colleges? County?
Town? Hospitals?
- When will it start?



Community Paramedic Program



BRINGING THE BEST TOGETHER

Keys to Community Paramedic Program

Flexible

Resourceful



Gap-filling

Rural and
Remote Centric

Flexible

- Identify specific needs in community health care
- Standardized curriculum, modified for communities

Rural & Remote Centric

(but not exclusive)

- Target sparsely populated areas
- Address special population issues
 - Rising immigrant demographic
 - Aging in place
 - Decreasing availability of medical professionals

Resourceful

- Identifies what is available
- And what is missing

Gap-filling

- Creates “health home” for citizens
- Eyes, ears, and voice of community

Community Paramedic Guidelines

- Essential oversight by community care providers
- Practice where designated underserved
- Approved and welcomed
- Funding specific to each locale



Major Benefits of Community Paramedic Program

- Keeps rural and remote health issues on the radar of policymakers and community leaders
- Measures and addresses health issues specific to rural and remote populations

Making the Program a Reality

- Community/citizen support
- Driven by local needs and resources
- Current EMS/paramedics



Making the Program a Reality

- University/community college participation
- Establish international registry of student graduates



Curriculum Ready to Go

- Standardized multi-module delivery model
- Applicable across America and internationally
- Certificate, associate, bachelor's, master's programs



COMMUNITY
PARAMEDIC

Curriculum—Phase I

Foundational Skills @100 hours

- Role, advocacy, outreach and public health
- Community assessments
- Developing community strategies for care and prevention

Curriculum—Phase II

Clinical Skills @15-146 hours



Filling the Gaps Together



Filling the Gaps Together



COMMUNITY
PARAMEDIC

Community Paramedic Program

*Not many sounds in life, and I include all
urban and rural sounds, exceed in
interest a knock at the door.*

Charles Lamb



COMMUNITY
PARAMEDIC