

# *State Flex Program EMS Activities*

TASC 90 November 13, 2013 Call

John Gale, Research Associate  
Maine Rural Health Research Center  
U. of Southern Maine  
207-228-8246  
jgale@usm.maine.edu



A Performance Monitoring Resource for  
Critical Access Hospitals, States, and Communities

**Flex**  
**Monitoring**  
**Team** | University of Minnesota  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of Southern Maine



A Performance Monitoring Resource for  
Critical Access Hospitals, States, and Communities

**Flex  
Monitoring  
Team**

University of Minnesota  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of Southern Maine

## *Overview*

---

- Overview of Flex EMS requirements
- Categories of EMS activities
- Review of EMS logic models
- Summary of EMS activities
- Observations regarding Flex EMS initiatives

## *Categories of EMS Activities*

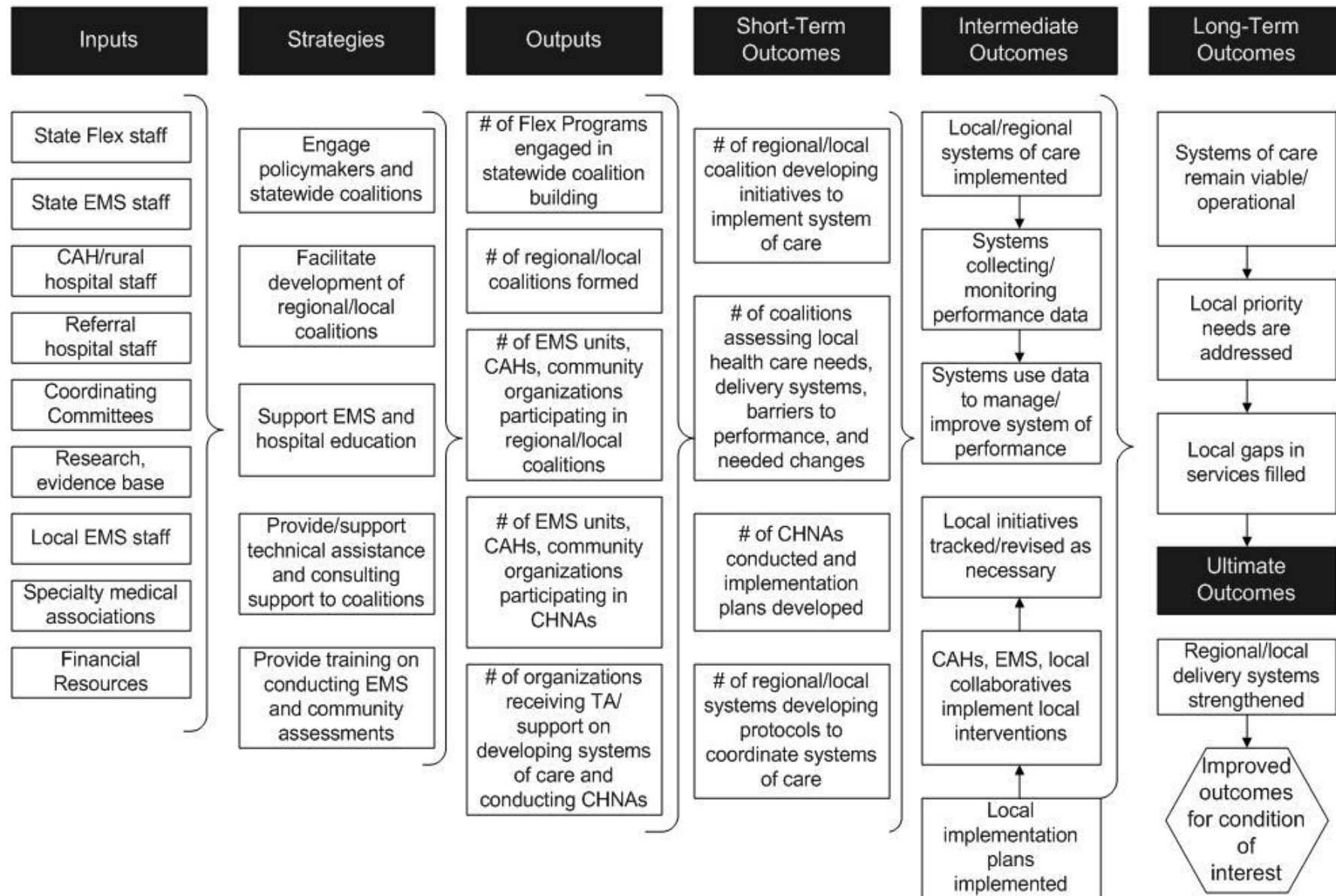
---

- Integrated EMS in local/regional systems of care
  - A range of activities from EMS involvement at the local community level to regional and statewide systems of care
- EMS training and education
  - Two broad themes: 1) EMS leadership and management and 2) training targeting emergency department staff (e.g., CALS and RTTD)
- EMS performance improvement and sustainability initiatives
  - Least developed area with some limited work on activities to support EMS operations

## *EMS Systems of Care Integration*

- EMS participation in community health needs assessments
- EMS involvement in STEMI, stroke, and trauma systems of care
- CAH trauma designation
- Community paramedicine programs
- EMS involvement in other statewide/local systems of care
  - Development of EMS networks
  - Represent rural interest on EMS committees
  - Examine new community care approaches
  - Organize statewide/regional EMS stakeholder meetings

Figure 1: Health System Development and Assessment Logic Model  
State Flex EMS Activities: Developing Regional/Local Systems of Care

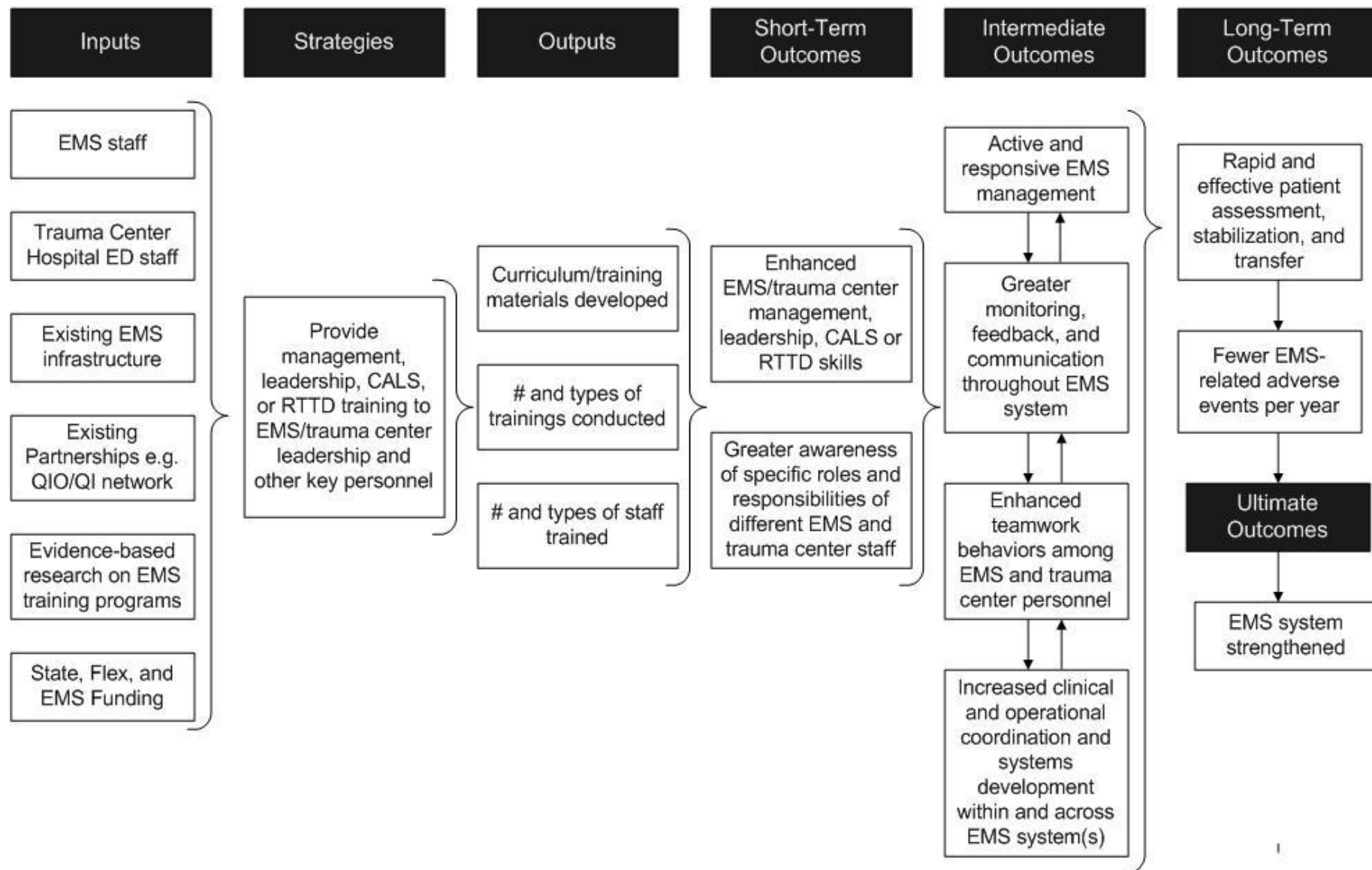


## *Training and Education*

---

- Comprehensive Advanced Life Support (CALS) trainings
- Rural Trauma Team Development (RTTD) courses
- Medical Director, management, and leadership training for EMS personnel
- Other EMS training activities
  - Sponsor/facilitate EMS educational conferences, webinars, and on-site training
  - Travel funding
  - Purchase and disseminate training resources
  - Support development of online training tools

Figure 2: EMS Training and Education Logic Model  
 State Flex EMS Activities: Conducting EMS Medical Director, Management, Leadership, CALS or RTTD Training





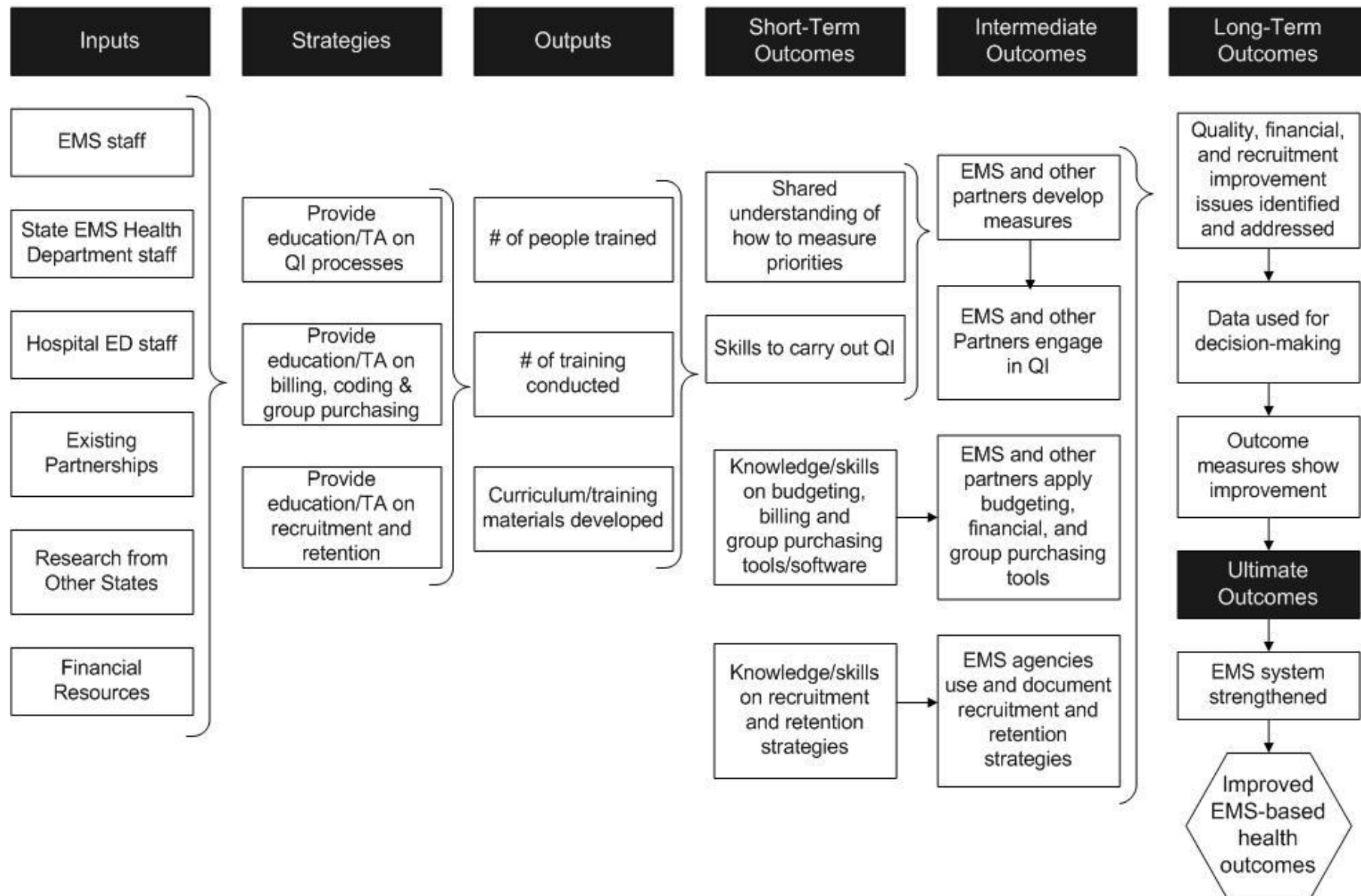
## *EMS Performance Improvement and Sustainability*

---

- Billing and coding
- Group purchasing programs
- Quality and performance improvement
- Recruitment and retention
- Other activities
  - Develop/implement data tracking systems
  - Technical assistance and ongoing support to EMS providers
  - Support participation and information sharing for quality improvement networks/meetings



Figure 3: Performance Improvement and Sustainability Logic Model  
 State Flex EMS Activities: Performance Improvement and Sustainability



## *Most Common EMS Activities*

- Training: CALS/RTTD, medical director, management, and leadership training, and other EMS professional training
- Quality improvement
- Trauma: trauma systems of care, CAH trauma designation, and trauma system assessment/BIS
- Other PI/sustainability: meetings/summits, travel, information dissemination activities
- Other statewide/local EMS systems of care: seminars and workshops and efforts to fund/support collaborative initiatives between specific CAHs and EMS services

## *Least Common EMS Activities*

- Billing and coding initiatives
- EMS involvement in community assessments
- STEMI initiatives
- Community paramedicine
- Recruitment and retention

## *Observations*

---

- Role and involvement in activities is not always explicit
- High reliance on process measures that are not always clearly linked to desired outcomes
- Many activities are hospital rather than EMS focused
- Actives continue to emphasize process and support related activities involving meetings and information dissemination
- Project descriptions often lack specificity
- Best use of EMS evidence-based initiatives involve systems of care for time sensitive conditions and trauma team training