

**Up-Date on the new Federal Reimbursement Allocation (FRA) program
for ground ambulance services in Missouri.**

The EMS Agent Corp (the oversight group for the FRA) wanted to provide an up-date on what has been going on with implementing the new Missouri FRA law.

1. SB 370 was signed by Governor Nixon in June making the new law effective August 28th but it can not go into complete operation until state regulations are implemented as well.
2. Numerous conversations and meetings with the Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) have occurred since June (the folks who handle the Missouri Medicaid program now known as Missouri Health Net). The estimates are that \$14 to \$15 million in additional federal money will come from the federal government through the state Medicaid program to support ground ambulance services in Missouri due to the FRA program. The FRA program is funded to support the Medicaid services provided. DSS will be responsible for several aspects of this project one of them being developing the regulations needed.
3. Ground ambulance services do not have any "Cost Reporting" like hospitals do so we have been working to develop a simple cost reporting method so that DSS can collect the data they need to present to the federal government and yet make sure we are all providing comparable data. We have been discussing 2 different options on how to structure the "cost report". Presently we are waiting for the federal government to give us some direction on what they would prefer.
4. Once the cost report is settled each ground ambulance service in the state will get the "cost report survey" from DSS. This survey must be completed and returned to DSS. We will need 100% return on the survey. This is critical data needed to present to the federal government to get the FRA going.
5. The EMS Agent Corp will be available to assist ambulance services with the cost report survey.
6. Once the data has been collected from the survey several items will happen.
7. The formula for distribution of the money will be established and the contracts will be sent out from the EMS Agent Corp to each ground ambulance service.
8. Services with questions about the contracts will need to contact the EMS Agent Corp but retuning the contract will allow the full implementation of the FRA and the benefit of supplementing the present Medicaid funding level for ground ambulance services.
9. As with all new projects (while 43 states have FRA program, most are with hospitals and we are the first state to set up one for ambulance services) there are always some surprises to work through, we have been wading through several surprises which have been consuming some time.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact one of the board members of the EMS Agent Corp.

Mark Alexander.....Cox Hospital
Bob Patterson.....St Johns Hospital
Art Maxwell.....NTA Ambulance District
Nathan Williams.....Retired Columbia FD
Jason White.....MAST
Rich Lehmann.....MAFC
Greg Brown.....Eureka FPD
Ken Koch.....St Charles County Amb Dist
Kevin Tweedy.....Taney County Amb Dist