



Emergency Medical Services Funding Committee

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Presentation Overview

- State of EMS
- Why EMS Matters
- Reimagining EMS
- EMS Challenges
- Strategic Priorities
- Regional Services Designation
- Rural Healthcare Transformation
- Determining Success



The State of EMS in South Dakota

Many EMS agencies have successfully served their communities through local leadership and volunteerism. However, the challenges facing EMS today require broader system planning, greater financial accountability, and stronger regional coordination to ensure sustainable service delivery for the future.

EMS agencies face challenges beyond emergency response:

- Financial management
- Human resources
- Compliance
- Billing oversight
- Strategic planning
- Grant administration
- Data reporting



Why EMS Matters and Why is it Essential

- EMS is often the front door to healthcare in rural South Dakota.
- EMS provides emergency response, interfacility transport, disaster response, and community support.
- In many communities, EMS is the only healthcare resource available 24/7.
- A strong healthcare system depends on a strong EMS system.
- EMS readiness exists 24 hours a day, 365 days a year—even when no calls are occurring.



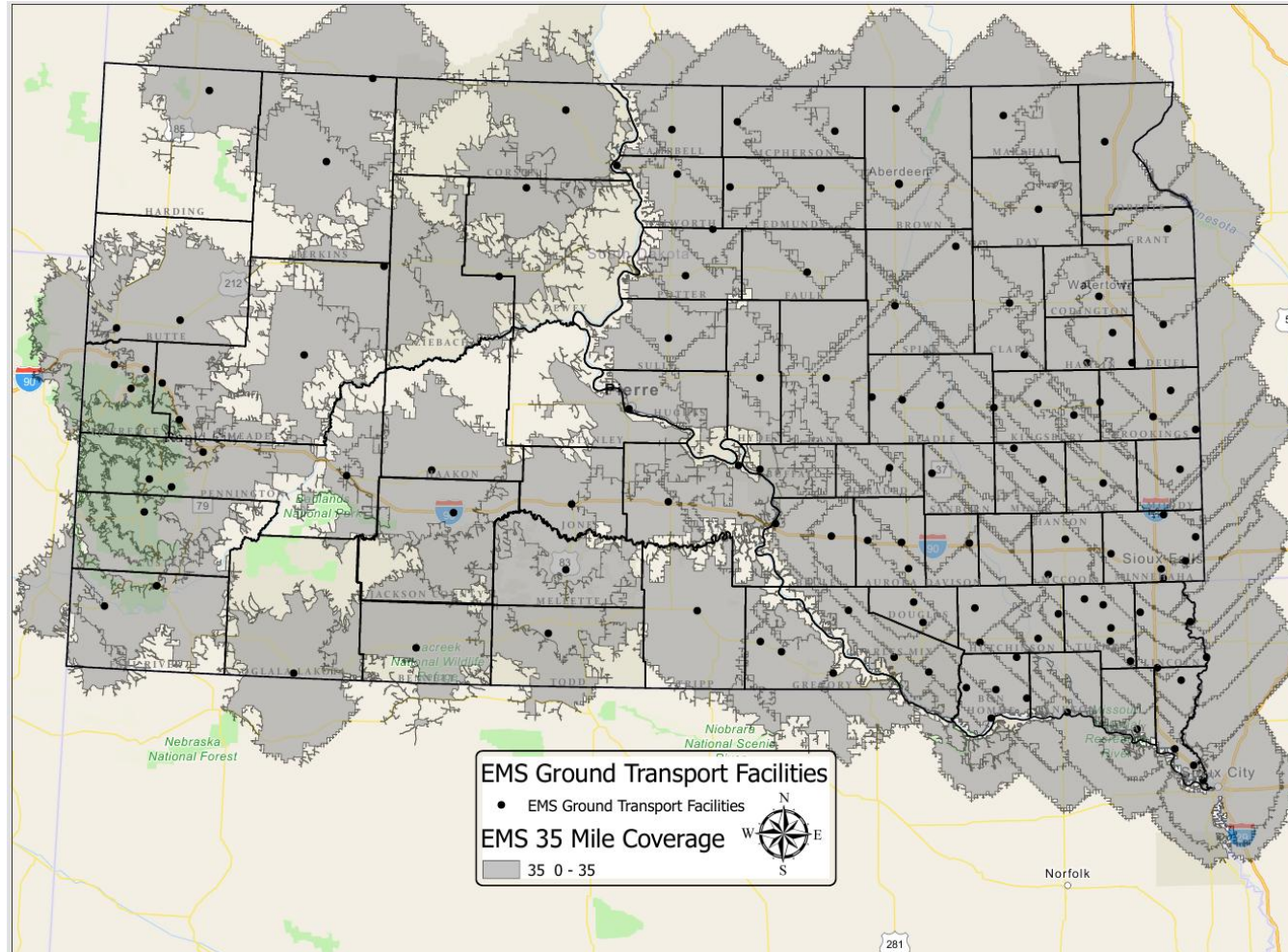
Reimagining EMS for South Dakota's Future

Our work is focused on reimagining an EMS system that is:

- Accountable to patients, communities, and funding partners.
- Patient-centered, ensuring timely access to high-quality emergency care and inter-facility care regardless of geography.
- Sustainable, supported by sound business practices and strategic investment.
- Collaborative, leveraging regional partnerships to strengthen local services and improve system performance.



35-Mile Saturation Model



EMS Facts

Personnel

- 3,439 licensed EMS providers
- 1,958 affiliated with a service

EMS Responses

- 122,296 calls for services
- 335 average calls per day



Strategic Priorities

The Department of Health is focused on system-related issues.

Examples include:

- GIS mapping incorporating census data
- Creation of an internal and external data dashboard
- Integration of EMS run reports with the state's Health Information Exchange
- Assessment of billing practices and reimbursement projections



Regional Service Designation

RSD | \$7.5 million

Grant opportunities for ambulance services, hospitals, and organizations with a vested interest in EMS.

Funding Resulted in Key Statewide Initiatives:

SDAHO - received funding to support an inter-facility model allowing hospitals and EMS agencies to see, in near real time, requests for interfacility transports. This has been and continues to be a systemic issue across SD ensuring timely transfer of non-emergent patients.

Sage Consulting—worked with ambulance service directors, city and county officials, and key stakeholders within communities to better understand their financial status and project expenses/revenues for 2, 3, 5 years out.

SDFMC—focused on bringing key stakeholders together within communities, story telling, awareness.

- Spink County Ambulance Service – Wildcat Rescue



Rural Healthcare Transformation Program

Enhancing Sustainable Emergency Medical Services | \$64 million over 5 years

\$8 million is available in year one to be distributed over three RFPs

- Regional Hub Development and Oversight Consultant – Closed June 1st
- EMS Workforce, Infrastructure, and System Modernization Initiative – Posted June 1st
- Third EMS RFP—planned for summer of 2026



Why Regionalization?

Regionalization is:

- Coordinated planning
- Shared resources
- Shared training
- Shared workforce strategies
- Shared data
- Coordinated response systems



What can Regional EMS Systems Accomplish

Workforce

- Shared recruitment
- Shared training
- Shared staffing models

Operations

- Coverage coordination
- Resource deployment
- Specialty teams

Finance

- Economies of scale
- Joint purchasing
- Shared administrative support

Healthcare Integration

- Stronger hospital partnerships
- Better patient routing
- Better system planning

Governance

- Shared planning
- Regional leadership
- Strategic decision-making
- Performance measurement



What does success look like?

By 2030:

- Stronger workforce
- Better access to care
- Improved regional coordination
- Data-driven decision making
- Financially sustainable EMS Systems
- Improved patient outcomes
- Responsible stewardship of public funds
- Sustainable local EMS services



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