Chairperson
Brenden Hayden

Vice Chairperson
Thomas Arkins

August 19, 2024

Richard Patrick
FICEMS Chairperson
c/o Office of Emergency Medical Services
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, Southeast
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Patrick,

On behalf of the National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (NEMSAC), we are writing to encourage FICEMS to mobilize all relevant resources and begin working on a mitigation strategy to address the growing number of reports of violence against Emergency Medical Services (EMS) clinicians. This increase, as reported in the medical literature and the lay press, demonstrates a non-sustainable trend that, unless mitigated, has the potential to significantly and negatively impact this nation's EMS workforce.

Current data suggests that workplace violence against EMS clinicians is a growing and complex problem. Maguire, et al report an increase in violence-related injury rate from 5.2 in 2007 to 37.8 in 2020[1]. Moreover, the literature clearly defines this as an under-reported phenomenon. As such, it is a worse problem than we currently recognize.

NEMSAC has begun the process of drafting a specific advisory with recommendations that will allow for fuller understanding of the level of workplace violence against EMS clinicians and that, if implemented, will contribute to the improvement of this concerning issue. Given the inherently protracted time to develop a formal advisory and in an effort to not delay the mobilization of federal resources that could begin work towards addressing this growing problem, we bring to you our concerns regarding this matter.

NEMSAC specifically requests that FICEMS considers the following initial measures:

[1] https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10548021/pdf/S1049023X23006118a.pdf

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- Commission a task force composed of industry stakeholders and subject matter experts to develop strategic and operational plans to address the issue of workplace violence against EMS clinicians.
- Fund and develop a data warehouse to consolidate current reporting and drive future data needs.
- Work with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to encourage the development, refinement, and enforcement of laws addressing workplace violence against EMS clinicians.
- Elucidate causal factors leading to the under-reporting of workplace violence and induce a cultural shift in favor of reporting.
- Fund research that is geared towards further understanding workplace violence and that leads to predictive models for risk mitigation.
- Revise and/or develop training modules and tools to identify, prevent, respond to, and defend against workplace violence.

NEMSAC appreciates your consideration of these recommendations.

Respectfully,



Brenden Hayden,
Chair, National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council