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Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Air Medical Journal

journal homepage: <http://www.airmedicaljournal.com/>

Forum



NEMSPA

Think, Record, Refine, Share

I assume that all air medical provider organizations share a concern about the safety and quality of their operations. Many providers may feel that they have established an optimum system that meets the primary concerns of the 3 interlocking domains of the air medical community: aviation, patient care, and business.

Of course, we should never get so comfortable with our status quo that we overlook any opportunity to improve any aspect of our operations. Changes of structure and technology within an organization or within the broad national system in which we all operate can render a current practice less than optimum, or even obsolete.

This is why all players in an organization should be alert to occasions when things don't work out as well as they could or should, and then:

- THINK about how current processes could be changed and improved to provide a more effective and successful outcome.
- Then RECORD some written notes on the details of the problem, to include the causes and some possible remedies.
- Then you could REFINE your notes by inviting appropriate people in the functional domains associated with the concern to review your observations and suggestions so that they can add their own perspectives. This often results in a more comprehensive view of the problem and a more effective recommendation for a remedy.
- Finally, you will want to SHARE your observations and recommendations with the people in your organization that control the means to implement the improvements that you are recommending.

What?! You say your organization lacks the channels of communication that are

needed for this process to move from beginning to end? Then *think* about that lack and *record* your thoughts on how to establish better channels for communication. Then invite others to *refine* your perceptions and suggestions. Then you should *share* your recommendations with your management group for implementation of an established and documented process for all future improvements in your operations.

Bill Winn, General Manager

AAMS

Spring is Just Around the Corner

It's hard to believe we're already into the second quarter of the year. Spring is just around the corner here in the Northern Hemisphere, while it's edging toward fall for our members in the Southern Hemisphere. While trauma and severe illnesses know no particular season, as the weather warms, it seems that outdoor activities spur an increase in accidents and injuries, which increases the demand for the lifesaving services you all provide. Please be safe, stay vigilant, and get ready for the challenges you'll face as the weather changes.

AAMS' Medical Transport Leadership Institute (MTLI) is also just around the corner. MTLI is a great opportunity for personal and professional growth, professional certification (Certified Medical Transport Executive), and a chance to build your professional network and contacts that help us all as we tackle our daily challenges. We have had 3 years of recordbreaking classes and have had a big jump in early registrations for this year's class in both the first-year and second-year curriculum.

The MTLI Regents have also developed an opportunity for graduates of MTLI that have had their certification lapse to renew their CMTE certification at this year's MTLI Graduate School! If you're not current but attend 2019's MTLI Graduate School, complete a 100-question test, and participate in the grad school's version of the second-year

project, you'll be allowed to renew your CMTE status all in just a few months' time. If you or a colleague need to renew your CMTE, this is a golden opportunity to do so, and I urge you not to miss this chance. So, if you, someone you know, or someone you work with wants or needs to attend MTLI's first-year, second-year, or graduate school this year, contact Natasha Ross at AAMS or Oglebay and secure your spot quickly because we expect another year of waiting lists.

AAMS' Safety Management Training Academy (SMTA) has been moved to August this year. Based on feedback from our students and instructors, that move will give you more flexibility to come and also gives us more flexibility on getting quality locations at lower costs. We continue to work with the International Board of Specialty Certifications to offer our graduates who qualify the Medical Transportation Safety Professional (MTSP-C) exam and certification. That is a great way for everyone (newcomers to the industry, clinicians, maintainers, communicators, supervisors, seasoned safety professionals, et al) in the industry to help us all keep our focus on the safety of our patients and the professionals that work in our industry. SMTA's classes are also in demand, so please contact AAMS for more information and to secure your spot in this year's classes.

The Air Medical Transport Conference (AMTC) will be here before you know it. It's scheduled for November 4-6 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. The AAMS and MedEvac Foundation boards have just met at those facilities, and I can say that this year's conference will be in world-class locations. Please make your plans and mark your calendars so you don't miss this year's premiere event. Don't forget to submit your scientific assembly topics for this year's conference as well.

If you'd like to become more involved with AAMS' committees, special interest

groups, and sections, please check out the website under the “About US” tab or contact our offices for more information. We have committees, SIGs, and sections for clinicians, maintainers, operators, educators, safety professionals, government relations, communicators, and many others, depending on your professional or personal interests. Your participation in them will make us all better.

Stay safe and focused on your patients, your peers, and your friends and families, and I look forward to seeing you all throughout the rest of the year.

Doug Garretson, Board Chair

AMPA

EMS & Paramedicine

Since the publication of *Accidental Death and Disability: The Neglected Disease of Modern Society* in 1966, the previously spotty, inconsistent, and uncoordinated ambulance service in the United States has developed into a complex patchwork of regulated EMS systems that, while not centrally organized, represents an extraordinary improvement in prehospital care. The early 1970s saw the development of formal curricula first for the EMT-Ambulance and then the EMT-Paramedic as prehospital providers. Other countries similarly embraced the technological advances that helped to promote and develop prehospital medical practice, some employing EMTs and paramedics and others employing physicians in the field. After complaints by the American Red Cross in 1973 that the orange cross used on many American ambulances too closely resembled their iconic red cross, NHTSA developed the star of life now used by prehospital personnel not only in the United States but also to a limited extent internationally.

The 6 points of the star of life represent the elements of prehospital care, starting with detecting the incident and culminating in transfer to definitive care at the hospital. While air and critical care transport medicine practitioners may interpret “transfer to definitive care” more broadly, interfacility transport to a higher level of care was not part of the original vision of EMS. And while one might argue that a well-designed system should be able to circumvent such transfers, that may not always be practical nor be in the best interest of the patient. From that standpoint, interfacility transport to a higher level of care could be considered the missing seventh point in the star of life.

Air and critical care transport medicine has developed both alongside and together with EMS since the 1970s, and many providers who start their careers as prehospital providers with EMS credentials later advance

their practice beyond the traditional scope of EMS, as flight, critical care, tactical, and community paramedics. Recent initiatives are moving to expand the definition and practice of paramedicine to encompass these and other roles, including those of the flight and critical care transport nurse, and presumably those of the flight physician, retrievalist, and medical director. Air and critical care transport providers, even those working exclusively in a prehospital capacity, function with an advanced and expanded scope of practice compared to local EMS system providers or offer resources not available within local EMS systems. As such, we occupy a unique niche within the practice of paramedicine that requires its own particular expertise. And sharing that expertise with each other is part of what makes AMPA and its sister organizations strong.

Brendan Berry, President

ASTNA

Compassion

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which has the potential to turn a life around.” - Leo Buscaglia

I was exposed to a fair amount of tragedy and suffering at a very young age. Our family was shattered after the loss of my brothers 18 months apart from 2 motor vehicle crashes. My mother was a very resilient woman, especially in the abundance of grief and pain she was faced with. She found being kind, compassionate, and caring as her strength to reclaim her broken family and life. The practice of loving and kindness toward others can have a powerful impact on self-worth and decrease feelings of depression.

Compassion and selfishness are hard-wired into our brains. The limbic system is the part of the brain that involves our behavioral and emotional response. We can exercise our limbic system with mindfulness and self-compassion, a process of self-kindness and accepting suffering as a quality of being human. It has a positive effect on overall wellbeing and happiness.

Practicing a self-compassion regimen should include regular exercise, restful sleep, having fun, creativity, and a healthy balance of work and play.

The mental and physical benefits of practicing a compassionate attitude are well documented in several studies of neuroplasticity. I find it interesting that my mother knew how to neuro-hack her brain way long before the research on compassion. And remember—to provide excellent care to our patients, we must practice self-compassion.

This year, help ASTNA honor our fallen colleagues and support their loved ones and

sign up for the ASTNA Running with an Angel, a 5k Run/Walk to honor our fallen colleagues. Join us on April 15 at 9 am at the Critical Care Transport Medicine Conference at the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town. Whether you are an avid runner, beginner, or first timer, our race is perfect for everyone!!! ASTNA invites participants to run/walk so that we may honor our fallen colleagues. All funds received will be donated to ASTNA’s Memorial/Bereavement Fund. Register today at www.astna.org!

Also back this year—sleep in for the Cause! If you are not going to be in town, working, or prefer to snooze instead of lacing up your racing shoes on Race Day, this is the event for you! Just select this option under registration. Your attendance at the run is not necessary, but we will still send you a shirt and you are able to support this great event. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible!

Please be safe.

Sharon J. Purdom, President

IAFCCP

Are Politics Important to What We Do?

Living in a modern world, socially and digitally connected, I find it difficult to watch the news, peruse my phone, or read a paper, without being reminded of the conflict happening within our political system. Experiencing this, I have decided to take a deep breath and ask myself, “Does this really affect me?” The answer I seem to find unavoidable is that it does. So what power do I have to change it?

Well, I have the power to keep our patients and teams as a central theme in our focus, to aggressively commit to setting an example for excellence, to challenge myself to a selfless code of leading and serving at the same time. I suppose that understanding we have that power is a step in the right direction.

The International Association of Flight and Critical Care Paramedics is aggressively pursuing a path forward with the advancement of our members and industry as our central theme. In October 2018, we contributed to a position paper promoting degree requirements for future paramedics. This has sparked quite the debate. Understanding the multiple dynamics contributing to this debate, we remain steadfast with the promotion of education to enhance our scope, capabilities, and the patient-centered results that our communities deserve.

In addition to the position paper, we are growing and developing our delegate program. For the first time ever, with Cory Oaks serving as our delegate champion, we are up to 21 state delegates, all aligned and focused on connecting with crews who are serving

our communities. Furthermore, the IAFCPP has been invited as a stakeholder by the National Highway Traffic Safety Association to a national discussion of defining the role of paramedicine within EMS. In addition, the IAFCPP has formally endorsed the Utah

AAMS chapter in establishing a safety fly-in day this spring.

Politics is part of an industry adapting to change and growing to meet the needs of our communities. I cannot control the tension that is witnessed through our media

channels, but I can control my contributions to a niche industry that I love. I choose to remain steadfast to our patients and providers, and I always encourage a healthy and meaningful discussion.

Ryan Walter, President