



CONCEPT FOR CONSIDERATION

Board Meeting Date: June 10, 2015

Subject: Continuing Education Course Approval Process

CFC#: 0615-01

Committee/Task Force: EMS Education Task Force

Concept Statement

The Pennsylvania Department of Health should consider reengineering the continuing education course approval process to improve the efficiency and efficacy of the continuing education process.

Rationale:

The current continuing education process is a legacy system that is not able to fully meet the demands of today's EMS system. The EMS Education Task Forces feels that rather than try to adapt an old system to meet current needs, the Department of Health should strongly consider establishing a work group to design a new process that will meet the current needs of the EMS system and be adaptable to future changes.

The current system does not meet the goal of ensuring that quality continuing education programs are offered to providers. For example:

- Some courses available for use in the current system are more than 10 years old
- Expired courses are being used to register classes
- Hours of Con Ed in the system are not always representative of the current policy that gives the same number of hours to all providers
- Con Ed sponsors do not have ready access to course outlines and materials for "open" courses that are reused to register classes

Task Force Comments:

The task force feels a system could be created that would put more of the responsibility for content and quality on the Con Ed Sponsor and free up regional staff from processing paperwork to allow for auditing of classes for quality/content. Ohio has a system that could serve as a model for Pennsylvania. The Ohio system places the responsibility for course content approval on the Con Ed Sponsor and they are ultimately held responsible via auditing during recertification. Members of the task force have worked with the Ohio system and feel that it could work well in Pennsylvania and result in a more flexible and simpler process for Con Ed Sponsors and result in less busy work for regional staff.

Future Considerations:

Should this concept be accepted by the Department, the EMS Education Task Force offers its full support to lead the design and assist in the implementation of a new Continuing Education course approval process in the Commonwealth.

Specifically, the task force feels a new process should:

- Allow Con Ed Sponsors the authority to offer Con Ed that falls within the National Education Standard for EMS without requiring approval by the regional council
- Each class offered should have a unique course number; course numbers should no longer be "reused"

- The responsibility of maintaining course objectives for each class offered should be that of each individual con ed sponsor
- Course objectives/outlines should be based on actual content delivered
- More stringent evaluation/auditing of content delivered by Con Ed Sponsors

Board Meeting Comments/Concerns:

No board comments. CFC passed unanimously.

Signed: _____ Date _____
President

For PEHSC Use Only – PA Department of Health Response

Accept: _____ Table: _____ Modify: _____ Reject: _____

Comments:

Date of Department Response: _____