

Driven to a Higher Standard



CAAS News - *Fall Edition*

PRO EMS
PROFESSIONAL AMBULANCE

CAAS Accredits Its First Agency in Massachusetts

At their September 25th, 2006, meeting, the CAAS Panel of Commissioners granted full three-year accreditation to Professional Ambulance of Cambridge, Massachusetts, bringing the number of CAAS-accredited agencies to 103 across North America. According to Bill Mergendahl, Professional's President and CEO, "CAAS is a vital element of the structure and focus used to continuously improve all aspects of our operation. The CAAS process itself has driven us to excel. All services can benefit from working to reach this 'gold standard.'"

Seven Agencies Earn Reaccreditations in September

The Panel of Commissioners also granted reaccreditation to seven agencies at their September meeting, including Acadian Ambulance Service, Lafayette, Louisiana; American Medical Response, Colorado Front Range, Denver, Colorado; Alliance Mobile Health, Rochester Hills, Michigan; Sunstar Emergency Medical Services, Pinellas County, Florida; Medic 1 Ambulance, Benton Harbor, Michigan; Vital Link, Inc., Batesville, Arkansas; and MedicWest of North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Accreditation activity is brisk in-house, with 22 applications in progress and more due before the end of 2006. There are about 200 applicants working on their CAAS accreditations and almost daily inquiries and requests for standards and applications.

2005 Annual Report Is in the Mail

Watch your mailboxes for the newly printed 2005 CAAS Annual Report. The cover sports our new CAAS marketing logo statement, "Driven to a Higher Standard." You will also see that logo statement in upcoming ads in *JEMS* and *EMS Magazine* and in our newly designed and printed three-fold informational brochure. A supply of brochures and annual reports are available if any of you need a few extra copies. Just let us know.



October 3rd CAAS Seminar A Success in Orlando

Twenty attendees registered for the CAAS Accreditation Seminar at the Caribe Royale Resort in Orlando, Florida on October 3rd. The seminar was held in conjunction with the annual conference of the American Ambulance Association. Sarah McEntee and Brett Wangman presented on behalf of CAAS.

CAAS Exhibited at NASEMSO and AAA in October

The annual meeting of the National Association of State EMS Officials was held October 3 and 4 in Charleston, West Virginia. George Johnson, CAAS site reviewer, manned the exhibit table on behalf of CAAS. In his summary report, George commented, "I spoke with many state directors and all were aware and supportive of CAAS and the accreditation process. Several of the directors were positive about accepting CAAS in lieu of state standards." Sadly, Mark King, State EMS Director for the hosting state of West Virginia, passed away on October 4th during the meeting. Condolences were sent to the family.

The new CAAS exhibit display was inaugurated at the annual conference of the American Ambulance Association in Orlando. Sarah McEntee and Brett Wangman represented CAAS at the booth. Commenting on the conference, Brett said, "It was a great opportunity to talk with a lot of CAAS supporters. We had many applicants and accredited agencies stop by to learn more about the process, to ask specific questions, or to just see our new booth."

Do You Want to Be in the CAAS Spotlight?

The new CAAS website features a new program called Agency Spotlight. The Spotlight is designed to give CAAS-accredited agencies the opportunity to talk about their CAAS accreditation and to update all of us on what's new at their agency. The Spotlight is featured on the home page and links to a more in-depth agency profile. It is a great way to get added exposure for your CAAS achievement. Please contact Brett at brettw@tcag.com if you are interested in having your organization featured.

CAAS Administrator Wins NAEMT Annual Award

The National Association of EMT's (NAEMT) presented its annual awards at a dinner in Las Vegas on September 29th. Each year, NAEMT recognizes excellence in various areas of prehospital medical care with the presentation of individual and organizational achievement awards. These awards honor America's EMS providers and organizations that demonstrate exceptional leadership within the profession and outstanding commitment to prehospital medical care. CAAS congratulates Jeffrey D. Dumermuth, CEO of City of West Des Moines Emergency Medical Services, West Des Moines, Iowa, who was named the William Klingensmith EMS Administrator of the Year.

CAAS Meeting Schedules

- The next CAAS Board teleconference is scheduled for October 18th, 2006.
- The Panel of Commissioners will meet by teleconference on December 18, 2006.

Can You Help?

CAAS is in serious need of more **physician reviewers**. If you know of an active EMS physician who has a minimum of five years experience and at least two years base station experience or service as on on-line or off-line medical director for an EMS system, let us know. They can contact Meredith Hellestrae at headquarters or she'll be happy to give them a call.

About CAAS:

The Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS) was established to encourage and promote quality patient care in America's medical transportation system. Based initially on the efforts of the American Ambulance Association, the independent Commission established a comprehensive series of standards for the ambulance service industry. Accreditation signifies that your service has met the "gold standard" determined by the ambulance industry to be

essential in a modern emergency medical services provider. These standards often exceed those established by state or local regulation. Today, more than 100 agencies across North America are CAAS accredited.

Questions

Would you like your CAAS accredited agency to be featured in our new CAAS Spotlight?

Is your Agency planning to seek CAAS Accreditation or Re-Accreditation in the future?

Do you have any questions about the CAAS Accreditation process or specific standards that you would like to discuss?

We would like to know if there are questions we can help answer.

Would you like our CAAS support staff to set up a time to discuss your Accreditation questions?

Feedback

If you have any comments, please input them in the area adjacent and click 'submit'.

When you have completed the above form, click 'Submit'.

Submit 

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