November 11th, 2018

Sir,

Colerain Township Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (Colerain Fire and EMS) has continued to expand the scope of success of its Community Paramedic Programs. To date, the department operates a community paramedicine-based model to combat the opiate epidemic as well as older adult falls epidemic.

The department’s community paramedics are engaged in the operations of the nation’s first Quick Response Team (QRT) as a means to curb the epidemic in Colerain Township. The program continues to serve as the model team by being partly responsible for reducing the township’s opiate-related overdose responses by 62% so far this year.

Within the QRT, a community paramedic is teamed up with a law enforcement officer and an addiction services counselor to engage with and connect those suffering from substance use disorder to treatment. This model, which began in 2015, has now spread across the country to several states. Funding opportunities at the state and federal levels have been created as a result of this innovative approach to addiction.

Furthermore, Colerain Fire and EMS has implemented a Safe Station Program (SSP) that allows those suffering from substance use disorder to seek treatment options twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The SSP, which first originated in Manchester, New Hampshire debuted in Colerain on November 1st, 2018. Since then, a number of individuals have sought recovery resources at one of the department’s five stations. This program brings individuals to the door steps of community paramedicine.

In addition to addiction services, Colerain Fire and EMS implemented a robust fall prevention program that provides fall prevention education classes, future fall risk assessments, home modification resources, and home safety inspections. The department’s community paramedics continue to conduct home visits screening for fall risks. Those with greater risks are afforded a greater tier of follow up and resource allocation. The department responds to approximately 1000 falls per year. Combining the number of falls with decreased access to primary care results in a significant fall problem within the township. The department is confident that its fall prevention program can have a significant impact on the quality of life of its older adult population.
Colerain Fire and EMS continues to promote its community paramedicine programs through the department’s Community Risk Reduction Division. As 2019 approaches, the department will be striving to find ways to enhance its programs while expanding the scope of its services. The department will also continue to discover ways in which to redefine success in order to provide the highest level of care and customer service available.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding the department’s community paramedicine programs.

Sincerely,

Will Mueller, BS, OFE
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