



Northwest Community EMS System

Date: July 7, 2008

System Memo: # 311

To: All System Members

PLEASE POST

From: Connie J. Mattera, M.S., R.N.
EMS Administrative Director

RE: **Welcome new NWC EMSS staff –
*Chris Dunn, Dorothy Russo, Susan Wood***

We are **so** excited to announce new members who are joining the NWC EMSS staff! We have been looking for just the right folks to join our team and we could not be happier to introduce you to them all.

Christopher Dunn, EMT-P – EMS Educator

After what amounted to a five-month interview, Chris Dunn was selected from four System medics who worked with Pete Dyer and Bob Kolder during the spring EMT-B class to succeed Bob as the EMT-B class Coordinator. Pete Dyer will be taking a one-year sabbatical, so Chris will assume the day-to-day responsibilities for class operation. For the first time in our history, the number of EMT-B applicants has filled two classes for this fall, so Chris will be ably assisted by two of the other mentees, **Kris Mullen** (LGFPD) and **Adam Rothenberg**, (PHTsFPD) as lead instructors for the respective programs.

Shortly after becoming a full time Fire Fighter for the Arlington Heights Fire Department over 20 years ago, it became apparent to Chris that EMS constituted the lion's share of calls. He functioned as an EMT-B and tailboard firefighter for five years before going to the EMT-P class at NCH in 1992. After gaining field expertise, he became a preceptor and continued to enhance his knowledge and education as he wanted to give back to the program and new paramedics. "I can think of no other job that brings such self-satisfaction as EMS. It's rare to find an occupation that gives you the ability to make a positive impact, despite trying circumstances."

Chris and his team are diligently working to hit the ground running with a Monday-Wednesday and Tuesday-Thursday class, starting August 4th. He can be reached at 847-618-4492; e-mail: cdunn@nch.org

Dorothy J. Russo – EMS Secretary

Dorothy has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication with a minor in marketing from Western Illinois University. She has excellent computer skills that will be a big plus as we move forward with the webpage. She has over four years of professional experience in an office setting and has most recently worked as a patient access specialist in the out-patient and emergency departments of Northwest Community Hospital. She is in the process of pursuing a nursing degree and loves the challenge of independent accountability in a multi-tasking environment. She is committed to excellence and has excellent customer service skills – just perfect for us!

She is assuming the duties that were formally assigned to Linda Woods, so please contact her to open a file or to schedule System entry exams or to sign up for labs for the EMT or paramedic classes.

Dorothy joins us on July 14th and after that date can be reached at 847-618-4482.
e-mail: drusso@nch.org

OVER

Susan M. Wood, BSN, EMT-P – EMS RN Educator

Susan is currently the EMS System Coordinator at Saint Francis Hospital in Evanston. As a portion of her duties in that position, she has been responsible for the initial and continuing education for 800 System members. Prior to that she served as the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Grant RN educator for the University of Chicago Hospitals, EMS Coordinator, University of Chicago Hospitals, EMS Clinical Instructor for Wilbur Wright College, EMS Coordinator/ED Educator for Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center and the EMS Continuing Education Coordinator for the Chicago Fire Department.

Susan has a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia and holds an Illinois paramedic license. In addition, she is an ACLS instructor, ECRN, and TNS. She serves on the IDPH State EMS Legislative and Planning Committee, IDPH EMS Education Committee, and is an IMERT team member.

Her passion for excellence, caring spirit, and servant's heart are evident to all who know her. During her tenure at St. Francis, she implemented an EMS Advisory Board and built on the solid traditions set in place by Mary Ann Miller. Thus, we are truly delighted that she has elected to make this professional transition to our System. In the beginning, Susan will primarily be working with Diana Neubecker to ensure the continued high quality of the In-station CE program, but her emergency preparedness credentials will also be a huge help to Mary Casey-Lockyer. She looks forward to getting to know everyone at System meetings and during in-station classes.

Susan joins us on August 1st and after that date can be reached at 847-618-4486. We will send her e-mail address as soon as it is confirmed.

In the near future, we will be hiring one additional EMS Educator whose primary responsibilities will be in the paramedic class. When that person is on board, we will be fully staffed for the first time in over two years. You would be smiling if you could see Diana, Carla, Jennifer, and me do our happy dance! Thanks to all our System educators who have helped us through illnesses, leaves, and personnel transitions. We could not have done it without you. Thanks also to our System members for your patience and support while we were building the best possible team to serve you. Truly, we are now poised to accomplish best practice models in concert with you all!