# **NWC EMSS**

# In-Station Education Program DRAFT 2 SWOT Analysis 7/29/16

## **STRENGTHS**

- Collaborative value-based program that presents contemporary content that is evidence-based with an emphasis on quality, contained cost, and service excellence for all members
- Scheduling is somewhat flexible based on agency and educator requests
- Accessibility: Number of visits offered provide opportunity for most to attend classes
- Aligns with State and national laws and regulations and standards for CE content to meet relicensure/ recertification requirements for IDPH and NREMT
- Expertise of educators that prepare and conduct classes
- Innovative curricular design keys off of adult learning principles and uses student-centered interactive learning methods to encourage critical thinking as often as possible
- Very positive evaluations from learners
- Operates within the current budgetary plan

#### **WEAKNESS**

- Due to on-duty nature of most classes, learners may be out of class for significant periods of time on calls, thus missing the live presentation; creating knowledge gaps.
- Inconsistency in outcomes between intended teaching, actual teaching, intended learning and actual learning.
- Inconsistency in content delivery between educators
- Lack of evidence of enduring learning and effective application to practice across all practitioners
- Static scheduling of classes may not meet all learner needs for flexibility
- More content to be covered than hours allotted to the program
- Multiple competencies that should be measured are not included in the program due to time limitations
- Accountability for learning not fully transitioned to individual practitioners

# **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Design and sustain education and competency models that use program resources as efficiently as possible.
- A transformative education model is essential even if it conflicts with traditional processes that have been in place for decades.
- Ensure that all EMS professionals are working at the top of their license in all settings and eliminate nonvalue-added work.
- Put programs and strategies into place that help learners become more self-directed.
- Optimize use of technology: Blended learning design incorporating some of the cognitive content on-line; expand on effective use of web-based; tele or video-conferencing; webinars; collaborative document preparation;
- Create a clearing house of journal articles and textbook citations as a reference for evidence-based care and resources for agency educators
- Updated System-wide needs assessment with respect to member opinions, wishes, and expectations of our educational resources
- Redefine collaboration, delegation, and accountability measures between System educators and Agency Peer I-IV educators
- Rework budget so each line item is understandable and costs are shared proportionately and equitably

### **THREATS**

- Shrinking budgets and limited resources. Increased pressure to tightly manage total cost of education programs.
- Multiple education priorities that must be met by Providers on the Fire and EMS side
- Perception that we prioritize the program to paramedics; may need to provide additional support for EMTs.
- Our own unwillingness to change and innovate as we are locked in tradition and former ways of doing things.

We need to focus on quality, affordability, access, and accountability.