



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Health**

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
Rural and Community Health Systems

3601 C Street Suite 424  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

April, 13 2024

Gustavus, AK 99826

P.O. Box 1

Dear Leah Okin,

We are pleased to extend an invitation to participate in our upcoming learning collaborative focused on supporting sustainable, viable, and reliable rural EMS agencies. As a valued EMS agency in our community, we believe your participation will greatly contribute to the success of this collaborative effort. The learning collaborative will provide a platform for EMS agencies to share best practices, collaborate on quality improvement initiatives, and learn from the experiences of others in your region. By participating in this collaborative, your agency will have the opportunity to:

- Engage with peers and experts in the field to learn about ways to improve your agency's operations, billing and collections, and community partnerships.
- Learn about evidence-based strategies and innovative approaches to improve recruitment and retention and support mental health and resiliency.
- Build the foundation for ensuring a successful and sustainable agency now and into the future.
- Network with other EMS agencies to foster collaboration and partnership.
- Participate in continued technical assistance opportunities to troubleshoot challenges as they arise.

We anticipate that the learning collaborative will span from September 2024 through August 2029 and will include one in-person session as well as bimonthly webinars followed by a year of bimonthly technical assistance opportunities. To confirm your agency's participation in the learning collaborative, please review and sign the attached agreement outlining the terms and conditions of participation. If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact Todd McDowell at [todd.mcdowell@alaska.gov](mailto:todd.mcdowell@alaska.gov) or 907-465-8634.

We look forward to your agency's valuable contribution to this collaborative effort and to working together to advance EMS practice and improve patient care in rural Alaska.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd McDowell".

Todd McDowell

Alaska State Office of EMS Director

Attachment: Learning Collaborative Participation Agreement



## EMS Learning Collaborative Participation Agreement

### Background

The Alaska Office of EMS is convening a learning collaborative aimed at supporting sustainable, viable, and reliable rural EMS agencies and improving patient care outcomes through shared learning, collaboration, and facilitated improvement activities.

**Participation Requirements:** EMS Agency agrees to participate actively in all scheduled sessions, meetings, workshops, and webinars included in the learning collaborative. EMS Agency acknowledges that attendance and participation are essential for the success of the collaborative effort. If a designated representative from the EMS Agency is unable to attend a learning session, the representative commits to viewing the recorded session.

**Data Sharing:** EMS Agency agrees to share relevant data, information, and best practices as requested by the Organizer for collaborative learning and improvement initiatives. At a minimum, this will include an annual assessment, the number of volunteer and paid staff and their current certification levels, the annual number of runs/transportations billed, and the collection rate of billings.

**Confidentiality:** EMS Agency agrees to maintain the confidentiality of all sensitive information shared during the learning collaborative, including but not limited to patient data, organizational strategies, and proprietary information. EMS Agency acknowledges that unauthorized disclosure of confidential information may result in termination of participation in the collaborative.

**Collaborative Projects:** EMS Agency agrees to actively contribute to improvement efforts identified during the learning collaborative. EMS Agency acknowledges that collaborative projects may require additional time, resources, and commitment beyond scheduled sessions.

### Term and Termination:

This Agreement shall commence on September 1, 2024 and shall continue until the completion of the learning collaborative, currently anticipated to be on August 31, 2029. Either party may terminate this Agreement with written notice to the other party.

This Agreement is entered into by and between:

The Alaska Office of EMS and Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department

Alaska Office of EMS

Signature: T. McDowell

Name: Todd McDowell Title: Office of EMS Director

Date: 04/11/2024

Gustavus Volunteer Fire Department

Signature: Leah Okin

Name: Leah Okin Title: EMS Coordinator

Date: April 13, 2024