



# OnTRAC

Winter Edition 2018

## Local Project Grant 2018

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Local Project Grant (LPG) is a program that awards funds that serve to support and improve the development of the Texas Emergency Health Care System and increase the availability and quality of emergency pre-hospital health care. The North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council (NCTTRAC) has been allocated \$48,587 from the Permanent Fund for Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Care Account to provide support and enhancement of pre-hospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and trauma care systems in Texas.

Once NCTTRAC was awarded this grant, the EMS committee voted to have NCTTRAC continue their efforts in support of a regional Stop the Bleed project to purchase wound packing trainers for EMS agencies. NCTTRAC ordered 237 wound packing trainers which came out to a total of over \$48,000. Each agency is eligible to receive two (2) wound packing trainers to help facilitate Stop the Bleed training programs or support existing programs for their community. NCTTRAC is in progress of distributing to the EMS agencies in Trauma Service Area- E.

## Falls Prevention Awareness Day



One day every year, across the country, thousands of educators, caregivers, health and aging professionals, and older adults focus their efforts on one goal: preventing falls. That's why North Central Texas Trauma Regional Advisory Council (NCTTRAC) is partnered with the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and the Falls Free® Coalition to celebrate Falls Prevention Awareness Day. NCTTRAC's day of celebration was Tuesday, September 18th from 9am-12pm in Arlington, Texas.

Falls are a leading cause of injury for people aged 65 and older, but they are not an inevitable part of aging and there are proven ways to prevent them. NCTTRAC's fun community event was designed to empower older adults to stay active, independent, and safe in their homes and communities and also demonstrate the successes of its EMS and hospital members in providing for these needs. Activities included assessments of balance and strength, medication reviews by pharmacists, vision screenings, home safety assessments, and information on what people can do to make themselves safer in their homes.

"If falls prevention isn't something that you're thinking about now, I promise there is someone in your life who's worried about it," said Courtney Edwards, chair of NCTTRAC's Fall Prevention Coalition. "This kind of education can change a community, and that's why we're proud to support efforts in reducing injuries sustained from older adult falls through education, partnerships, and policy."



Submitted by Courtney Edwards DNP, MPH, RN, CCRN, CEN, TCRN, Trauma Outreach Education, Injury Prevention, and Research Manager, Parkland Health & Hospital System

## New Vision EMS

### Dallas Medical Center Joins the Fight Against the Opioid Epidemic

All across the country, there are countless news stories about how chemical dependency, most notably opioid addiction, is tearing families apart and ruining lives. Earlier this year, Dallas County joined a number of counties and states who have filed suit against opioid manufacturers. And while those cases find their way through the courts, the people affected need help now.

Due to the rising number of opioid-dependent members in the community, Dallas Medical Center partnered with New Vision to open a new inpatient medical stabilization service. The process begins with a medically-supervised hospital stay, which typically lasts three days. The patient undergoes a physical exam, completes a medical history interview, and has a complete lab workup; a licensed physician determines if inpatient care is needed. After being admitted, the patient is medically treated as they go through withdrawal to manage their symptoms safely, while being monitored by doctors and nurses.

After the patient is medically stable, New Vision staff work with them to create a discharge plan to place the patient into an appropriate treatment program in the community. "This is a great way for us to help those who are looking to break the cycle of addiction, but need medical support," said JT Barnhart, CEO of Dallas Medical Center. "There are a number of long-term rehab centers in the area, but not many facilities can handle patients who are medically unstable. Our new

service will bridge that gap and let us stabilize patients before placing them where they can get the long-term support they need,” he continued.

With lots of work and dedication by the patients and staff, we hope this new service line will help our friends and neighbors return to a normal life. For more information, visit [www.DallasMedCenter.com](http://www.DallasMedCenter.com).

The criteria for admission is as follows:

Must be in acute withdrawal from alcohol, opiates, or benzodiazepines.

Must be over the age of 18 and entering the service voluntarily.

Must have insurance accepted by the hospital.

Must be psychologically stable.

### **Medical stabilization vs detoxification:**

This new service line will provide medical stabilization, which is managing the physical symptoms of withdrawal. Detoxification is a much longer process than the average three-day medical stabilization stay, and encompasses all of the physiological and psychological aspects of addiction. We are able to medically stabilize a patient by alleviating the most intense symptoms of withdrawal that often present as an obstacle to treatment once a person has made the decision to seek help.

Submitted by Kaysha Apodaca RN, EMT-P, EMS Liaison Dallas Medical Center

