

**In March of 2015, Macon County EMS began a Community Care Paramedic (CCP) Program. At that time, we were one of only four such programs across the state, and the only program west of McDowell County. The initial focus of the program was to reduce the number of hospital re-admissions.**

**Our Community Care Paramedics continually work with local and regional hospitals and Physicians to decrease readmissions for patients with diagnosis of CHF, COPD, Sepsis, Diabetes, MI, CVA and those with High Fall Risk. The community care paramedic will visit the patient within 48 hours of discharge to perform a wellness check. This program serves as a bridge from discharge until home health or other healthcare provider arrives. Often times many patients do not qualify for any services after being discharged. The CCP program fills that gap, and will continue with weekly visits to ensure that the patient is continuing to follow their care plan and assist the patient in their recovery from their illness or injury. The program's design is to follow up to help reduce if not prevent 30-day readmission rates.**

**Our next identified target group was high utilizers of 9-1-1. We receive input from our duty crews and from our 9-1-1 CAD system to identify patients who may benefit from the program. We address high utilizers of EMS Services by conducting scheduled visits with these patients to address any specific needs which resulted in the increased incidence of EMS calls for service.**

**The CCP has also proven a benefit by answering calls for public assists. This is done with the CCP responding to a specific call for a public assist (i.e. needing help into vehicle, out of floor etc.). This allows our primary 9-1-1 response EMS crews to remain available to answer other emergency calls for service.**

**Future plans for our program will be to add a component of addressing community wellness. The CCP will focus on performing Know Your Numbers Screenings in each community of Macon County to raise awareness of uncontrolled hypertension, diabetes, and other disease processes. At scheduled events, the CCP will have the ability to make referrals and assist in scheduling appointments for patients to see their primary care physician.**

**For appropriate patients, the CCP will determine the best alternative treatment location and arrange for the patient's transportation and admission. Ambulance transport to the emergency room is always an option if our patients request other medical evaluation or treatment.**

**The CCP is also an asset to ensure that an additional experienced paramedic is available on critical level calls by responding alongside paramedic ambulances.**

**Macon County EMS currently uses 6 specially trained Community Care Paramedics to operate. Any specific questions regarding Macon County EMS Community Care Paramedic program and be addressed to Darryl Jamison, CCP coordinator by calling 828-349-2548.**