

Calling for Rural Healthcare Colleagues to Prepare for and Support FirstNet Implementation in Tennessee

Whereas; the Rural Healthcare Association of Tennessee (RHAT) recognizes the importance of broadband communications as a foundation for the next generation of emergency medical services and fulfilling its roles in emergency response and in services to meet other needs in community, regional, and state health systems;

Whereas; RHAT supports the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) as the best method for bringing a reliable, secure, public safety grade, and responsive nationwide public safety broadband network to EMS;

Whereas; RHAT has actively monitored the planning, development, and promotion of a broadband network dedicated to public safety from the beginning of the concept, helping to lead the efforts of such initiatives as the Public Safety Spectrum Trust and the Public Safety Alliance to February 12, 2012, when FirstNet was signed into law;

Whereas; RHAT continues to help lead the FirstNet initiative through its staff and members, believing that the practice of EMS and its impact on patient care will be substantially improved and that the EMS professionals will become the most prevalent FirstNet users;

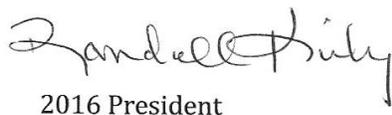
Whereas; EMS professionals throughout the state need to become aware of this opportunity, need to prepare to integrate it into their systems of care; and

Whereas; state officials will be asked to choose whether to allow FirstNet to build the radio access networks to link users and the nationwide network in their state or to engage in a longer process in which the state would build its own network.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Rural Health Association of Tennessee continues to strongly support the implementation of FirstNet and calls upon colleague associations at the national and state levels to inform their members of the opportunities that FirstNet will provide; and

Be it further resolved that the Rural Health Association of Tennessee calls upon colleague associations at the state and national levels to encourage governors to allow FirstNet to build radio access networks by not proposing to build their own networks.

Signed this 16th day of November, 2016.


2016 President


2016 Secretary