

## Please Welcome our New State Trauma Manager

The EMS Office is excited to announce that Wendy Allen has joined our team as the new Trauma Program Manager. Some of you may not realize that the state EMS Office is under the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Section of Rural and Community Health Systems, which is comprised of 4 units: the Health Emergency Response Operations Unit, the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Office, Trauma Programs, and the Office of Healthcare Access. We partner within the section for medical responses such as large scale events, contagious diseases, etc.

Wendy has had a continuing relationship with providing care to patients both pre-hospital and within the emergency room. Wendy began her healthcare career by volunteering as an EMT for the Girdwood Fire Department before going to nursing school and working within the emergency department at Providence Alaska Medical Center. After working for 11 years as an ER nurse, she transitioned to the Trauma Services Department at Providence, serving as a trauma analyst and then as the Pediatric Trauma Program Coordinator. She began her role at the Alaska State Trauma Program Manager in June of this year.

The trauma program works closely with the EMS office as it works to improve all phases of care for patients injured in the State of Alaska. Getting the patient to “the right place at the right time” a major function of a state trauma system which, EMS plays an integral role. Ensuring that patients are transported to health care facilities that meet their needs in a timely manner, while receiving the appropriate care relies heavily on a well-functioning EMS system.

As part of her new role, Wendy will be looking to expand the scope of the trauma system to include other time-sensitive health emergencies, including stroke, STEMI, and sepsis.