

## **Eight Key Components for Early Defibrillation Programs**

as recommended by  
The National Center for Early Defibrillation

### **Broad-based community collaboration and “buy-in” that includes:**

- A task force of key stakeholders
- A program that involves partnership among public and private agencies

### **A community needs assessment and response plan that includes:**

- Evaluation of each link in the chain of survival (early access, early CPR, early defibrillation, early advanced care) and identified areas for improvement
- Laws, regulations and liability/risk management issues affecting the program reviewed and addressed
- A comprehensive response plan including policies, procedures and protocols
- Strategic placement of devices and training of targeted responders
- Assurance of simultaneous and immediate notification of 911 and on-site response team
- Provisions for periodic response drills

### **Integration of the program within the EMS system:**

- Local EMS actively supports the program
- Response plan addresses the effective transfer of care to EMS

### **Strong medical oversight by Medical Director:**

- Reviews and approves protocols
- Oversees training
- Makes continuous quality improvement
- Reviews all responses to cardiac arrests and all AED uses
- Provides constructive feedback to responders

### **Strong Program Management:**

- Has ongoing operations and program management
- Monitors execution of the response plan
- Monitors device placement and maintenance
- Ensures that response drills are conducted periodically

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### **Initial and refresher AED training:**

- Training is provided to designated, targeted responders and other interested parties
- Nationally recognized, competency-based, device-specific training programs
- CPR and AED skills acquisition / individual protocols emphasized
- Refresher training conducted regularly to address responder turnover
- Methods in place to track training data

### **Public awareness efforts and layperson participation:**

- Multi-media public awareness initiatives planned to increase public awareness about sudden cardiac arrest and the chain of survival approach to care and the community program.
- Program materials (brochures, videos, information packets) created to promote the program and educate the public
- Layperson CPR-AED training is promoted throughout the community

### **Assessment of program for effectiveness and continuous quality improvement:**

- Methods have been established to track and evaluate key cardiac arrest data such as:
  - Number of SCA cases
  - Number of SCA cases in which the AED was applied
  - Interval from 911 call to first shock
  - SCA and VF (ventricular fibrillation) survival rates (to hospital discharge)
- Reviews conducted after each episode to evaluate response system effectiveness and determine strategies for improvement