

**JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**Public Health Facility, 531 Meade Street, Watertown, New York 13601

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**Jefferson County Celebrates National EMS Week, Highlighting the Power of Collaboration**

**Watertown, NY** – In recognition of National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week, the Jefferson County Public Health Service is honoring the dedicated EMS professionals who provide life-saving care across our region. This year’s theme, “Improving Outcomes, Together,” highlights how critical collaboration is across the healthcare system – especially, here in our community.

Currently, the EMS department within the Jefferson County Public Health Service is anchored by EMS Director Paul Barter. Stephen A. Jennings, Jefferson County Director of Public Health, presented a proclamation from the Jefferson County Board of Legislators Chairman to Barter this week, officially recognizing the vital role EMS plays in our county. Jennings stated, “National EMS Week is our opportunity to honor the extraordinary dedication of our emergency medical service providers. Day in and day out, these brave colleagues serve as the vital backbone of our healthcare system, delivering lifesaving care in moments of crisis. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their resilience, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to keeping our communities safe.”

A prime example of EMS and Public Health collaboration in action is the county’s innovative Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program. The MIH program specifically helps patients managing chronic health conditions – such as congestive heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes and those who are at high risk for falls. During home visits, EMS providers provide education, monitor blood pressure and blood sugar, help with medication management and perform weight checks. EMS providers then share this information back to the patient’s primary care provider.

Jefferson County was selected by the Home Care Association of New York State to pilot the MIH program, which expands the traditional role of paramedics and EMTs to increase care to residents with the goal of reducing costly emergency department visits and hospitalizations. By pairing the clinical expertise of Jefferson County Home Health Care nurses with follow-up home visits from participating local ambulance agencies, the MIH program has significantly reduced emergency department and hospitalization costs.

As we celebrate National EMS Week, the Jefferson County Public Health Service invites the community to join us in thanking these dedicated men and women who answer the call at a moment's notice. Our EMS providers work tirelessly around the clock to ensure the safety and well-being of our neighbors. For more information about EMS courses and initiatives in Jefferson County, please visit <https://www.jeffersoncountyny.gov/departments/PublicHealth/EMS>.

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