Appendices - Establishing a Collegiate Emergency Medical Service: Methods, Motivations, and Advice

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Appendix A: Professionalism

While our team followed a specific sequence of steps to establish a service at the Claremont Colleges, the manner in which we carried ourselves throughout the process served just as critical of a role. Professionalism is a competence that we as college students learn gradually throughout our four years to prepare us for the workforce; this process was a great way to hone those skills. Continuous communication is one of the most important aspects of starting a service. Every important contact formed needs to be kept updated on progress, but frequency may be adjusted. For example, our main relationship was with Campus Safety; thus, we sent weekly update emails. Not only did this help with keeping them in the loop, but it also established a foundation of trust between our two entities. We established ourselves as a serious organization of students committed to reaching our goal. We also sent periodic updates to our valued partners such as the local EMT training school, county health department, faculty advisor, and nearby collegiate EMS programs.

Another aspect of professionalism is preparedness. At each meeting, whether in-person or virtual, student representatives came with a list of topics they needed to discuss and prepared responses to expected questions. Furthermore, students always dressed appropriately for meetings (i.e. business casual) even if it was not expected. This also helped instill trust by demonstrating to our organizational partners that we were a structured and organized group of individuals.

It is understandably difficult for high-level school administrative officials to trust a group of students with the severity of the tasks mentioned. Gaining support for such a bold idea did not come with ease. However, these techniques and mannerisms proved critical in instilling trust and establishing the legitimacy of our organization; they are also part of the reason why we were able to expedite such a long-winded process.

Appendix B: Longevity Practices

There were also several internal considerations when we founded our organization. Just as a building needs a proper infrastructure to stand for years, the first leaders of the Claremont Colleges EMS laid down a foundation for the service by prioritizing longevity. Establishing longevity required creating a strong leadership structure with students who could provide a vision for the organization and recruiting many underclassmen that could be trained. These efforts will make it possible for your organization to continue thriving long after the initial founders of the group have left.

Appendix C: Student Survey Questionnaire







