

New law encourages bystanders to give CPR aid

LEADERS o F A CARDIAC ARREST RESuSCITATION coalition praised Gov. Pat Quinn's signing of an amendment to the Illinois Good Samaritan Act (HB 1549) on July 18.

The Act, which took effect immediately, makes it easier for bystanders to provide lifesaving emergency CPR to victims of sudden cardiac arrest outside the hospital setting.

The bill signing, at Northwestern university's Center for Simulation Technology and Immersive Learning, is the crowning achievement of a coalition led by Northwestern-based CCARES (Chicago Cardiac Arrest Resuscitation Education Service).

Earlier this year, at the Coalition's urging, Gov. Quinn signed a proclamation designating June 1-7 CPR and AED Awareness Week in Illinois.

Gov. Quinn was flanked by George Chiampas, Do, Co-director of CCARES, and Vemuri S. Murthy, MD, chairman of proeject SMILE, an ini-



Dr. George T. Chiampas, co-director of Chicago Cardiac Arrest Resuscitation Education Service, welcomes Gov. Quinn to a bill signing to help boost hands-only CPR.

tiative to promote hands-only CPR throughout Illinois.

Before he introduced the governor to a crowd of coalition partners, Dr. Chiampas, read a statement from his co-director colleague, Amer Z. Aldeen, MD, describing the work of the organization. "We at CCARES thank the legislators of the state of Illinois for submitting this crucial piece of legislation for the Governor's approval," Dr. Chiampas said.

Coalition partners include: The Chicago Medical Society, American Heart Association, Chicago Fire Department, Chicago Police Department, and American Red Cross.

The American Heart Association has produced a powerpoint slide demonstration of the hands-only technique, along with a video, and comprehensive website resources, for organizations and individuals.

The Chicago City Council is also getting involved. Working with city aldermen, the Coalition is finalizing plans to train aldermen on hands-only CPR and AED usage.

Under the Act, Good Samaritans need only be trained in CPR rather than undergo certification. Training may include a four-hour course in a training center or a 20-minute training video at home, office, or in a classroom. The law protects bystanders against civil damages provided the person acted in good faith, complied with generally recognized standards, and provided services without compensation.

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Dr. Murthy honored for resuscitation science

In recognition of his outstanding contributions to promoting resuscitation science, Vemuri S. Murthy MD (shown here with Gov. Pat Quinn at Northwestern University on July 18), was named a 2011 Champion of Global health by the Global health Consortium. Dr. Murthy's work extends to India as well as Illinois. Dr. Murthy, who is Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at Vanguard West Suburban Medical Center, is also Chairman of project SMILE, an initiative to promote hands Only CPR throughout Illinois. Dr. Murthy will be honored at a Global health Consortium Dinner on Sept. 24 in elmhurst. For information, go to www.Globalhealthchampions.org

Calling all dOCs: pr OjeCt smil e Want s YOU!

Volunteers needed for CPR and AED awareness campaign



Following Gov. Pat Quinn's signing of a crucial amendment to the Illinois Good Samaritan Act, the governor was joined by health care leaders, from left: Dr. John Vozenilek, director of the Northwestern University Simulation and Immersive Learning Lab; Dr. George Chiampas, assistant professor in the Department of emergency Medicine at NU; Gov. Quinn; Dr. Amer Aldeen, assistant professor in the Department of emergency Medicine at NU; and Dr. James Adams, chairman and professor in the Department of emergency Medicine at NU.

Volunteers are needed for Project SMILE community presentations throughout Illinois. The 30-minute presentations are designed to boost

survival rates for victims of sudden cardiac arrest outside the hospital setting.

Medical students, residents, and physicians are encouraged to apply.

All approved applicants will receive training in the Project SMILE (Saving More Illinois Lives through Education) format before giving "hands-only" CPR and AED demonstrations to the public.

The goal is to teach all Illinois residents the skills to assist in emergency situations before medical personnel arrive on the scene.

Renewed interest in CPR and AEDs followed a report by the American Heart Association in 2008, stating that "hands-only" CPR is as effective as conventional CPR, or mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Chest compressions are easier to administer, eliminating the threat of germs and disease, said the AHA.

SMILE Chairman Vemuri S. Murthy, MD, has already given presentations in hospitals, places of religious worship and public libraries. Dr. Murthy said he is scheduling more presentations for the future.

Locally, the Chicago City Council invited CCARES and CMS to demonstrate hands-only CPR and AEDs before aldermen this fall.

Project SMILE volunteer requirements

Volunteer medical professionals are needed to promote CPR and AED community awareness in Illinois

Physicians, residents, medical students, paramedics, firefighters, and anyone with a provider card in basic life support training from the American Heart Association or Red Cross is encouraged to apply.

Teaching skills and a commitment to the Project SMILE Coalition campaign are essential.

All volunteers are required to receive training in the Project SMILE technique, either privately or through public classes taught by coalition instructors. Volunteers will be provided with the presentation material.

In recognition of their contributions, volunteers will be honored at the CMS quarterly Council Meeting or Annual Dinner Meeting. All programs are centrally coordinated by a CMS staff person.

For information on volunteering, please call Ashley Robbins at (312) 670-2550, ext. 326; or email: arobbins@cmsdocs.org