

ABSTRACT

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF THE PRE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN JAMAICA AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY 2000 – 2001

Winsome Segree

This dissertation examines and analyses the state of Pre Hospital Emergency Medical Services (PHEMS) in Jamaica at the turn of the century 2000 - 2001, with respect to the demographic profile of the Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), their education and training, as well as operational and managerial issues.

A comparison was made with the attributes emphasized in the document – Emergency Medical Services - Agenda for the Future 1996. It was found that there was a need for overall improvement especially in the areas of continuing medical education, medical oversight, maintenance and equipment. Communication systems, clinical care and the public's access to the service, were perceived as good.

Government must demonstrate the will and commitment to the establishment and maintenance of a modern service that is responsive to the needs and reasonable expectations of the people of Jamaica. This could be achieved through careful attention to financial planning and sustainability, sound organization and management of operations, the recruitment and training of

appropriately educated persons, and a mutually beneficial partnership with the private sector.

Keywords: Winsome Segree; Situational Analysis; Pre Hospital Emergency Medical Services; Jamaica.