

**ROCK COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Thursday, June 13, 2019  
Mercy EMS Training Center, Janesville, WI. – 12:30 pm

**MINUTES**

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**Members Present:**

Rob Lulling, Supervisor Terry Fell, Beth Natter, Chief Randy Pickering, Brian Becker, Deputy Chief Jason Russ, Dr. Chris Wistrom, Barb Kuska, Deputy Chief Jim Ponkauskas, Rob Balsamo, Deputy Chief Joe Murray, Alison Chouinard

**Members Absent:** Chair Larry Knuth, Chief Gene Wright, Steve Ryan, Barry Irman, Sergeant Shena Kohler, Dr. Jay MacNeal, Deputy Chief Peter Mory, Shelly McGuire, Stacey Woodman, Captain Curt Fell, Chief Jamie Kessenich, Dr. Kacey Kronenfeld, Robert Swenarski.

**Guests:** Jen Gibson Chambers (Mercy Health), Juan Cullum (Mercy Health), Ron Krause (Mercy Health), Tammy Kettleson (RCSO-EM),

**Call to Order:**

Deputy Chief Joe Murray called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion was made Dr. Chris Wistrom and seconded by Deputy Chief Jim Ponkauskas to approve the June 13, 2019 agenda. Motion carried.

**Reading & Approval of Past Minutes:**

Motion by Dr. Chris Wistrom and seconded by Beth Natter to waive the reading of and approve the minutes for March 14, 2019. Motion carried.

**Old/Unfinished Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

None.

**Agency Reports:**

**State EMS Board Update**

Joe Murray discussed the interfacility transfer guidelines have been rewritten and are set to be on the next agenda for approval. Discussion amongst the committee members included other items that are on the next state agenda including Act 97, funding assistance money, and statewide treatment protocols.

**EMS Providers – Municipal and Private**

- Deputy Chief Jason Russ from Edgerton discussed they are experiencing a shortage of paramedics along with many other agencies as this is a statewide problem. He also reported their agency is looking to buy a third ambulance.

- Rob Lulling from Ryan Brothers Ambulance reported they have just purchased their 22<sup>nd</sup> ambulance and is their first F series ambulance.
- Deputy Chief Joe Murray from Beloit reported they have received their new LUCAS device donated by a Beloit Health Foundation grant. This is their fourth LUCAS unit and now have one on each of their rigs. He also reported that staffing allowances have given the ability of a third ambulance response at Station 2 which has allowed them to increase their interfacility transfers, reporting they have had 108 transfers out of Beloit so far this year.
- Deputy Chief Jim Ponkauskas from Janesville reported that call volumes are down this year compared to last, but are preparing for a possible increase of calls in the summer months.

### **Hospitals, Clinics, and Health Department**

- Barb Kuska from Beloit Hospital reported that she is filling in temporarily after her official retirement to help fill the gap until the next EMS coordinator, Jody Moyer, begins in the next few weeks. She also reported that the hospital will be remodeling their family care suites.
- Beth Natter from Mercy Health reported that the training center is busy. Paramedic classes will be graduating 11 individuals the end of June. Another paramedic class will begin in September with 12 candidates.

### **Fire and MABAS**

- Chief Randall Pickering reported on the Annual MABAS Conference which will be in September in Stevens Point. There is currently a lot of discussion in the MABAS group regarding moving a mass amount of resources during incidents.

### **Rock County 911 Communications Center**

- Brian Becker stated the auto ALS response system was initiated in 2016. So far in 2019, there have been over 300 calls where paramedics have been paged out immediately using the ALS system.

### **Rock County Sheriff's Office – Emergency Management**

- No update.

### **Blackhawk Technical College**

- Rob Balsamo reported they are just beginning their summer semester. Beginning this fall, he reported they will be requiring drug testing for all students entering any health sciences field. He also reported that in Green County there are changing their EMT classes to now be a two-part series.

### **Wisconsin Healthcare Coalition**

- Barb Kuska reported that the Healthcare Coalition will be conducting a surge capacity exercise that will be taking place next week. Barb, along with Alison Chouinard also discussed details regarding closed points of dispensing and announced there will be a workshop coming up September 26 in Madison, WI. Barb also discussed a presentation put on by EMS Services for Children by Erica Kane presenting what is available for EMS providers to obtain for treating children including comfort kits. It is encouraged all interested can visit their webpage at <https://www.chawisconsin.org/initiatives/emergency-care/>.

**Rock County Public Health**

- Alison Chouinard from Rock County Public Health discussed the possibility of EMS stations holding flu shot clinics at their stations to further increase flu vaccine compliance. She explained that this could be great practice if there was an outbreak in the county and needed to hold mass vaccination clinics. She also discussed the measles outbreak within the US. She reported that there have been no cases to date yet in WI. There are cases in Illinois and Michigan. She discussed that public health is urging citizens to verify their vaccination status. Bath Natter reported that their training center is now requiring titers vs vaccination reports for new students. Discussion commenced on proper PPE and protocols for EMS providers in regards to potential measles positive patients.

**Public Input:**

None.

**Other Announcements:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Dr. Chris Wistrom and seconded by Deputy Chief Jim Ponkauskas to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:23 pm.

**The next meeting will be held on September 12, 2019  
at St. Mary's Hospital Janesville Hospital, Janesville, WI.**

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