

**ROCK COUNTY
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Thursday, December 12th, 2013
Beloit Memorial Hospital - Auditorium

~ *MINUTES* ~ (AMENDED)

Members Present: Chair Larry Knuth, Sergeant Shena Kohler, Chief Mary Beaver, Brian Becker, alternate for Kathren Sukus, Deputy Chief Gerry Luiting, Barb Kuska, Pastor Bill Wagner, Shelly McGuire, Dr. Jay MacNeal, alternate for Dr. Michael Kellum, Cathy Mestan, alternate for Erik Severson and Steve Ryan.

Members Absent: Dr. Franz Keilhauer, Beth Natter, Captain Gary Groelle, Deputy Chief Joe Murray, Ivan Collins, Kathren Sukus, Brennon Ruosch, Erik Severson, Chief Loren Lippincott, Dr. Michael Kellum, Chief John Rindfleisch and Rob Lulling.

Guests: Robert Swenarski, St. Mary's Janesville Hospital, Bill Ruchti, City of Janesville Fire Department, Patrick Ryan, Ryan Brothers Ambulance.

Chair Larry Knuth called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

Approval of Agenda: Motion was made by Barb Kuska and seconded by Pastor Wagner to approve the December 12, 2013 agenda. Motion carried.

Reading & Approval of Past Minutes: Barb Kuska advised the Council there was a correction on Page 4, under Beloit Memorial Hospital. The sentence should have read "the hospital has a Lucas and Arctic Sun cooling device in the Emergency Department." Motion by Barb Kuska and seconded by Shelly McGuire to waive the reading and approve the minutes of September 12, 2013. Motion carried.

Old/Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

- **Hospital Preparedness Update –**
 - Barb Kuska advised the Council the Wisconsin Hospital Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting was held December 6, 2013 in Madison. The Hospital Preparedness Committee is moving toward coalition. Many states are further ahead than Wisconsin in the coalition building process. It includes groups such as fire, EMS, public health, emergency management and hospitals. They want coalitions that meet on a local or county wide basis with groups such as the EMS Advisory Council and would send representatives from those groups to statewide meetings. The State feels there are a lot of things that have to be worked out. The Public Health Department is hoping to make the coalitions match emergency management. There will be more information to come. There will be more search / planning for disasters such as will there be enough beds in the event of a disaster. They also

want more planning on fatality management. Public Health has been requested to have a county wide meeting with groups such as EMS, hospitals and coroners in the next year before June 30, 2014. Some discussion ensued regarding Coalitions.

- WISCOM – Barb Kuska advised radios have been installed in most hospitals. Test #1 was done recently and that went well. More training still has to be done.
- WI-TRAC Communication System – Barb Kuska announced this has been changed over to a new vendor. It is expected to be up and running by Monday, December 16th. Information can be found on the Emergency Management Resource website. The new system is supposed to be better for patient tracking. Anyone who had already signed up for WI-TRAC should sign up again. They want hospitals up and running first.

Barb further stated they did talk about active shooter alerts being put out on WI-TRAC. They want hospitals to have policies that address those issues of whether or not to put alerts out on WI-TRAC.

- There are statewide issues on stockpiles. There have been statewide exercises on stockpile issues.

▪ **State EMS Board Update**

- Chair Knuth advised the State EMS Board re-elected committee members at the board meeting. They do that annually. It provides more opportunities for people to get on the committees. They are having a Strategic Planning meeting in February and the Regional Board meeting in April, 2014.
- Chair Knuth advised at the State EMS Board level, there is an assignment of service development relative to Tactical Emergency Medical Specialists (TEMS) in conjunction with EMS. They are looking for experts to speak to the Committee on past experiences.
- PAC Committee – There was discussion how to handle medical devices. The decision was made to handle them on the level of complaint.
- Another item that was discussed was renewal time. The EMS Office is going to rely on what the address is in the license record. If the address is not current and they have a return renewal, a fee of \$30 will be charged.
- NARCAN Pilot – they want to expand to all EMT Basics. There was some controversy if it meant basic services or Narcan is available to every EMT Basic. More clarification will be forthcoming.
- One of the committees has created a Service Director handbook. It is categorized and each of the categories will have links to that information. Larry stated he felt it was a good source of information. It will be available soon.
- The Funding Assistant Program (FAP) application process is now done electronically. It won't be via mail any longer.
- Data submission requirement was brought up. They want to assure that service providers want to report information. They brought up the benefit of submitting

this information. The data committee with the EMS office is going to be demonstrating the benefits of data collection in various ways. They want to be sure that people are supportive of continued data submission.

- Trans 309 Statute – Department of Transportation has received approval from the Governor's office to open Trans 309 for revisions. There had been a preliminary meeting and at that meeting, Chair Knuth and Patrick Ryan, Ryan Brothers Ambulance, participated as well as ambulance manufacturers, representatives from the State EMS Board and other stake holders. What was presented was work that had been done through State Board Committees on revising Trans 309. The Department of Transportation has emphasis on road safety. The emphasis is on critical equipment. Chair Knuth stated it will probably be a two-year process. More information will be forthcoming as Trans 309 moves forward.

At the board meeting, Chair Knuth advised they were introduced to an employee from the Department of Transportation. The State Board always had a DOT position and was never filled. There will now be a member of the Department of Transportation participating in State Board meetings.

Dr. Purello was speaking to a Helicopter Utilization Guideline / Policy protocol. Chair Knuth advised the council members to watch for that coming up. Board meetings and committee meetings are on a webinar and participants can dial in.

Agency Reports:

▪ EMS Providers

- City of Janesville Fire Department – Deputy Chief Gerry Luiting advised that the narcotic tracking is biometric and should assist with tracking. Mercy Hospital donated one LUCAS device and they do have that on the ambulances. They purchased two additional LUCAS devices and they obtained an additional one so the four primary ambulances will have one.

They have an intern that came from Chippewa Valley Technical College. He is a fire medic so they have been working on getting him acclimated.

Ten new paramedics were hired earlier this year. They are finally getting through all of their phases and are getting their full permissions to operate as paramedics. Deputy Chief Luiting also stated they are going to be getting cool water resuscitation next year.

Chief Jensen's previous job was filled. Deputy Chief Luiting stated that he will be retiring in December from his post as well as Vice Chair of the EMS Advisory Council. The person assigned will be filling in doing some of the duties that Deputy Chief Luiting has been doing until his replacement is found.

Truck 88 at Station #1 is the alternate response vehicle. Deputy Chief Luiting advised they will be getting a platform truck in May of next year. The new vehicle will be a

suburban. Delivery will probably be at the end of February. It will take an additional two to three weeks to install radios, lights, etc.

- Ryan Brothers Ambulance – Pat Ryan advised they are adding new units hopefully by the end of the year. They have been covering Meriter Hospital on an interim basis and they are finalizing a contract with Meriter Hospital for a long-term basis.

▪ **Communications Center**

- Brian Becker advised the 911 Communication Center put in a new phone system. It has been up and running for about a month. It has been a fairly good transition except for one episode where all radio and backup radio communications were lost. They went to portable and during that time, he stated there were only calls from full time agencies. Town of Beloit Fire has dispatching capabilities so everything worked out. With the new phone system, although not implemented as yet, they have the capabilities of doing next generation 911. They will start looking into it in 2014 and hope to have it implemented by 2015. He stated there are several other counties that are going with the current phone system 911 Communications have.

Brian went on to state they are fully staffed at the present time. They do have one supervisor that is resigning next month.

911 communications is obtaining budget dollars for a new tower location up by the Edgerton area.

EMD cards were changed. The only addition that is being done is it is being advised patients take aspirin on chest pain calls providing they have no allergies.

▪ **Rock County Sheriff's Office**

- Sgt. Shena Kohler advised a press release was done regarding wind chills. Two shelters have been opened, one in Janesville and one in Beloit. The shelter in Beloit would be open until Friday morning at 9 AM on December 13th. She advised since cooling centers were opened in warmer weather, it only makes sense to open warming centers as well. Faith based organizations and Red Cross have been extremely helpful.

E-Sponder training is no longer being offered at county levels. The training will be done in Madison due to budget constraints.

Blackhawk Technical College has applied for a grant for hazmat training courses through the State of Wisconsin.

The Sheriff's Office now has two canines, one for first shift and one for 2nd shift. The new hires are through training and on their own. They now have a new hiring list that they are working on for more deputies.

The warning siren in Evansville is very old and needs to be replaced in 2014. Rock County will be looking into the replacement.

▪ **Hospitals -**

- Beloit Memorial Hospital – Barb Kuska advised the Health System in conjunction with UW Hospital is opening a cancer care center out on Milwaukee Road. It will open December 30, 2013.
- St. Mary's Janesville Hospital – Robert Swenarski advised they have a new Madison Emergency Physician (MEP) group in the Emergency Department that will be taking over.
- Mercy Hospital – Dr. MacNeal advised emergency medical technician's passing scores have been set at 75%. They have had pretty good success under the national registry. Blackhawk Technical College and Mercy Hospital have been working collaboratively on health care leadership and the fire medic program. Dr. MacNeal stated there is a lot to be done before it gets to the State.

He advised they will be moving to the new training center at the Dean Riverview Clinic. They will be downstairs. They have a simulation lab and several classrooms and are looking at putting in an OB and a pediatric simulation lab as well.

The Narcan pilot - there was some talk that they were not going to open up to advanced services. Dr. MacNeal thanked everyone who worked together county-wide doing the most good for its residents.

Dr. MacNeal further advised protocol changes for next year, they are planning on getting rid of backboards other than just for transport devices. Beta blockers for paramedics will be looked at.

▪ **M.A.B.A.S. – Nothing to Report.**

▪ **Clergy – CISM -**

- Pastor Wagner advised the Beloit Police Department is hosting the Police Officers Memorial Service in 2014. No definite date has been set.

There is a registered international chaplain's conference scheduled for March 10 through March 12, 2014 at the Holiday Inn Express in Janesville.

If anyone is interested in CISM training, there is an individual and basic group training in Milwaukee February 5th – 7th, 2014. They will be held at the Milwaukee Fire Department Training Academy. He stated they are still looking for people for CISM.

Other Announcements – Deputy Chief Gerry Luiting announced his retirement and advised there will be a retirement celebration at Hhffrrrggh Inn on Saturday, December 21st from 3 to 7 PM.

Chair Knuth brought up the subject of Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council bi-laws. Sgt. Kohler advised that she is looking into the requirements with the Rock County Corporation Council.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Chief Deputy Luiting and seconded by Sgt. Kohler to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:27 PM.

The next meeting will be held March 13, 2014 at Edgerton Hospital & Health Services

Respectfully submitted,
Shirley Klipstein