

**ROCK COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Thursday, December 8, 2016  
Beloit Health System, Beloit – 12:30 pm

**MINUTES**

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**Members Present:**

Chair Larry Knuth, Barb Kuska, Supervisor Terry Fell, Deputy Chief Joe Murray, Chief John Rindfleisch, Chief Randy Pickering, Dr. Chris Wistrom, Brian Becker, Chief Gene Wright, Dr. John Russo, M.D., Jamie Kessenich, Pastor Bill Wagner, and Robert Swenarski (Jason Steinke).

**Members Absent:**

Shelly McGuire, Dr. Jay MacNeal, M.D., Deputy Chief Jim Ponkauskas, Tyler Curtis, Erik Severson, Sgt. Shena Kohler, Commander Troy Knudson, Deputy Chief Peter Mory, Barry Irmey, Rob Lulling, Cindy Kirby, and Steve Ryan.

**Guests:** Asa Rowan – Community Health Systems, Steve Andrews – Aurora, Cindy Diedrich and Tom Brunnar – Mercy EMS Training Ctr.

**Call to Order:**

Larry Knuth called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Motion was made Dr. Chris Wistrom by and seconded by Deputy Chief Joe Murray to approve the December 8, 2016 agenda. Motion carried.

**Reading & Approval of Past Minutes:**

Motion by Dr. Chris Wistrom and seconded by Deputy Chief Joe Murray to waive the reading of and approve the minutes for September 8, 2016. Motion carried.

**Old/Unfinished Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

**South Central Health Care Coalition - SCHCC**

- Barb Kuska advised that the last SCHCC meeting was held on December 2, 2016.
- The coalition has booked a Texas training group to present a course on pediatric disaster response in emergency preparedness course. The earliest date they could book this course was December 4-10, 2017. This is a 16 hour, 2-day course.
- August 27<sup>th</sup> through September 2<sup>nd</sup>, Wisconsin has another reserved slot at the FEMA training center in Anniston, AL. The three courses offered will be: Healthcare Leadership (60 openings), HERT-Hospital Emergency Response Training (40 openings), Emergency Medical Operations for CBRN Incidents (40 openings). If you'd like to attend, please let Jennifer Behnke (Coalition Coordinator) know.
- There will be a Hospital Emergency Evacuation tabletop exercise slated for April but the date has not been confirmed. In early May, they'd like to facilitate functional emergency evacuation exercises at hospitals in the region.
- WI Trac dashboard has been updated. If your agency needs training, Jennifer Behnke is available to come to your agency to train on the use of WI Trac.

- o Medical PAPER's have been an issue for some hospitals and the SCHCC has a deal with Grainger to replace those current/expired PAPER's for a reduced cost for those who are interested.
- o Micro-grants are available, through Jennifer Behnke, with a priority going to those who are looking to pay for training, with an emphasis on training with other groups in the community. Application and proposals are due soon (an exact date was not specified).
- o SCHCC was making a push to have hospitals do daily updates on WI Trac, in order for the information to be true to date.

### **State EMS Board Update**

- o Chair Knuth stated that he was not able to attend any of the State EMS Committee Meeting or Board Meeting. Steve Andrews attended and gave the updates.
- o The scope of practice changes are to come out in January of 2017 for single Paramedic RSI.
- o There is talk about GEMT getting Federal money for the cost associated with transport of Medicaid patients that are not getting covered by the State. California is already using this program. St. Paul Fire is doing this on their own and are receiving significant funds. This program is currently only for government agencies and not for private services.
- o The Joint Legislative Council Study Committee on Volunteer Fire Fighter and Emergency Medical Technician shortages have 9 pieces of draft legislation and one directive to the Department of Health Services which were reviewed and commented on, which have not been voted on yet.
- o Chair Knuth asked if there was any interest in those State EMS Board meeting minutes being re-circulated to the members after they have been put out on-line. Chair Knuth will send those to Beth Kline, who will forward them to the group.
- o HR 4365 Act has come out of committee but no further updates have been confirmed.

### **Agency Reports:**

#### **EMS Providers – Municipal and Private**

- o Chief Randy Pickering, the new fire chief for Edgerton, is looking to hire a new full-time Deputy Fire Chief by the first of 2017. Jim Jellenick is taking on all of the training responsibility for the EMS side of things.
- o Deputy Chief Joe Murray confirmed that the City of Beloit's run volume continues to increase, with two ambulances running full time. At this time, there are no plans to add another ambulance for the increased call volume. There will, potentially, be two to three new hires in the upcoming months, with a potential retirement at the first of the year. Next year, there is a potential for 7-10 retirements.
- o Tom Brunner stated the Janesville Mercy EMS has exceeded 9,000 calls for the year. They have received in, 30 ballistic helmets and armored plates to put in each forward facing apparatus for personnel. Works continues on the RTF in conjunction with the Mercy Training center.
- o Chief John Rindfleisch stated that the budget has been approved for 24 hour staff for EMS if there are no volunteers. Clinton is working on building/finding sleeping quarters for the paid staff. Clinton School kids raised enough funds for four full sets of RTF helmets and vests.
- o Chief Gene Wright stated that RTF ballistic equipment is set up for three vehicles and is ready for service. Town of Beloit is hiring outside the organization for a new Paramedic/NPO position.
- o Jamie Kessenich stated that Evansville has increases staff by 5 members (doubling past staff members). Trained roughly 200 staff members in the school district for the Casualty Care training kit. Looking to get a pilot program for the students particularly as a requirement for the Health class. Looking to get this program instituted after the first of the year.
- o Paratech Ambulance bought two existing ambulance services, Medicare Ambulance of Milwaukee and Kettle Moraine Ambulance Services of Waukesha, which increases Paratech's footprint geographically and increases the call volume.

### **Communications Center**

- Brian Becker stated that the 911 Communications Center is working through the process of adding analog channels as back-up channels off a digital radio system. The completion of this process should be sometime next year. Acquiring frequencies are a challenge as there are not many available. Call volume is still continuing to rise.

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

- Sgt. Shena Kohler was not in attendance but passed along a message to contact us if you need any assistance for any training or exercise needs. Also, Annex H will be sent out to the hospitals in January for review.

#### **Blackhawk Technical College**

- No representatives from Blackhawk Technical College were in attendance. Nothing to report.

#### **Hospitals**

- St. Mary's Janesville Hospital
  - Bob Swenarski stated that St. Mary's has its quarterly EMS course available on street drugs offered on December 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - The re-stocking program is going well and is still running.
  - The ambulance bay floor is being resealed and will be out of service for two days. There will be a tent in the parking lot attached to an alternate door for patient drop-off.
- Mercy Hospital & Trauma Center
  - Tom Brunner asked for feedback via survey for satisfaction with the entry-level paramedics. This is an anonymous survey to help Mercy identify any additional needs in training for Paramedic students.
  - The tactical training center continues to offer TECC and TEMS.
- Beloit Memorial Hospital
  - The hospital conducted a communications outage exercise/drill with participation from the Police and Fire departments.
  - Beloit Memorial's fourth floor cardiac center continues construction.
- Edgerton Hospital & Health Services
  - Shelly McGuire stated that Edgerton has received their Trauma Center, level 4 designation and are currently putting together their Stroke Ready program for certification next year.

#### **Fire and MABAS**

- Chief John Rindfleisch announced that the MABAS cards need to be turned in soon if they haven't been turned in yet, a few have needed revisions. For the EMS cards, for agencies that have RTF capabilities that will be able to go live at the beginning of 2017 (trained and equipped), those can be included on the new MABAS cards.
- Chief Randy Pickering stated that a 17-vehicle incident on the interstate demonstrated a need for revised MABAS cards for EMS and a re-engineered mass casualty card. Access and turn-arounds are a problem as well as a need for more commanding officers. Staging needs to be addressed as well. Many good lessons learned and an opportunity to review and revise the current MABAS cards.
- Dr. Chris Wistrom commended the use of the Town of Beloit re-hab trailer. It was used in an extended Law Enforcement operation and was very helpful. It is available to Law Enforcement, Fire and EMS agencies upon request to Town of Beloit.

#### **Clergy – CISM**

- Pastor Wagner stated that the CISM team was busy in September, taking 3 calls within five days, which is unusual but since has been quiet.

- Beloit Chaplains have started taking the American Red Cross Disaster Response class. They've been taking the training in order to be on-scene when it takes American Red Cross volunteers longer to get to a local disaster to start intake in the event of displacement or fatality.
- Pastor Wagner stated that he was looking for resources for someone to train the congregations on planning and training for active intruder events or disasters. Congregations have little to no disaster plans. Resources for this were suggested by Dr. Chris Wistrom. Beth Kline stated that businesses, schools and other not-for profit organizations are encouraged to reach out to local law enforcement and emergency response agencies first for planning and training help, as local agencies would be the first on scene in an event of a local disaster.

**Other Announcements:**

- None at this time.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 1:21 pm.

**The next meeting will be held on March 9, 2017 at 12:30pm  
at Edgerton Hospital & Health Services, Edgerton.**

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Respectfully submitted,

Beth Kline  
12-28-16