

**Gage County EMS Advisory Committee
Parkview Center
August 7, 2008**

Minutes

Present:

Dan Hawkins
Ron Miller
Don Harmon
Brian Daake
Jane Ford-Witthoff
Rex Adams
Dennis Byars
Larry Stanoscheck

Absent:

Alan Fetty
Dee Fritch
Dawn Hill
Mark Meints
Gary Williams

Staff:

Richard Mettler
Dean Cole
Robyn Henderson

Guests:

Matt Bowman
Rick Schreiner, chief deputy county attorney

Call to Order and Introductions

Don Harmon called the meeting together and asked members to introduce themselves

Agenda and Minutes

Motion made and was seconded to approve the agenda and the minutes for the July 10 meeting. Motion was adopted.

Physician Medical Provider

See Don's Handout

General Information

Need to clarify that units can decline to participate with Medical Director, however they will not receive their Gage County funding then.

Position Qualifications

Physician Medical Director must hold a Nebraska License. Concern was expressed about finding an MD with Emergency medicine experience; the group decided to phrase this as "highly desirable" as opposed to "requiring".

Should we require national certification? -- Yes – note change on Don Handout

We should hire an interim – to get things rolling – this can help determine costs, etc.

Compensation

This is a part-time position

No expectations for staff and/or office

Would like to see salary comparisons from Scottsbluff, Columbus, and Omaha

September 20 is final date for county budget; Rex stated that \$45,000 is too high; can we live with \$20,000-\$25,000? As this position won't start until January, this is a part year allocation.

Ongoing concerns were raised that this is not enough. Dean said the state will kick in \$10,000 from CAH fund (confirmed while in meeting) These salary dollars need to be above other money for rural fire districts/EMS. Rex stated that the county confirmed \$25,000 for the part-year position

First year – use interim, beginning Jan 1, this is partial year funding. We need to ensure that funding will be available in FY2008-2009. This group needs to request that county board add this as a commitment for next year. Money for conferences/training for PMD needs to be included as well.

Job Expectations

Brian – add to list:

Quality improvement – review outlier services after the fact such as high risk procedures and frequently provided services. Who oversees MD with respect to quality? Quality evaluations should be based on evidence-based data; an “EMS Board,” should also be created and it must include medical personnel. Outcomes should drive quality.

Need to have a performance evaluation process/tool, which can also help with accountability. Perhaps Dr. Rice can help with this.

Requirement for EMS Board need to be worked out such as size, membership, and so forth. Politics must be taken out of determinations. Each district will want a rep on the Board.

Who will interim be answering to – all agree that it should be this group.

Motion: recommend to County Board to establish the position of county-wide EMS Physician Medical Director and hire an interim director ASAP.

- county will allocate \$25,000 for hiring interim PMD this year (for FY 08-09)
- State will provide additional \$15,000 to hire interim PMD
- This committee will provide oversight for PMD

Motion made and seconded – approved

DON/ROBYN WRITE LETTER TO REX WITH MOTION

Position will be offered to Dr. Rice. If he is not interested, committee will find someone else.

Don will talk to Dr. Studley as to what is being proposed. Dr. Rice will be introduced to all other fire, First Responder and EMS districts.

County board will require that all districts use the PMD as a condition of receiving funding, on Board calendar for December.

Update on Lancaster County – Ron Miller and Dean Cole

Rural districts have approved an agreement with Lincoln F&R to provide services for \$120,000.

Doug Ahlberg is the liaison with county board, fire districts, emergency management, etc. Lancaster County will not be able to put ambulance district into place for at least 2 years. Two options: full county district or 4 separate districts.

Ambulance District-Brian

Questions to Randy (handout)

The whole issue was recently moved to Rick's jurisdiction. We need to bring him up to speed.

Brian has info from Saline County about their ambulance district. Right now, Filley, and Blue Springs don't pay for any of the fire, EMS services.

Beatrice – 84 % of budget is from revenue generated by services; 16% is from tax dollars.

If fire district also wants to provide ambulance service, they can use part of the 3% levy to support that – most choose not to.

Advantages:

Have established boundaries
Can collect funding

Disadvantages:

each district will lose some of their authority

Next step – Ron, Jane, and Brian will get together with Rick Scheiner to put details together.

Gage County currently has no ambulance districts

Ambulance district would be under the county lid unless it is formed by a vote of the people. Committee will need to decide which option they want to use.

Other fire districts can petition into an ambulance district.

Report to Board of Supervisors

Provide update on activities/recommendation:

PMD

Ambulance district

Robyn will go through minutes to find any others

Subcommittee reports - None

Next Meetings

September 16