

**Gage County EMS Advisory Committee
September 16, 2008
Parkview Center**

Minutes

PRESENT:

Brian Daake
Mark Meints
Rex Adams
Jane Ford-Witthoff
Dan Hawkins
Ron Miller
Larry Stanosheck
Don Harmon

ABSENT:

Alan Fetty
Dee Fritch
Dennis Byars
Dawn Hill
Gary Williams

Guests:

Rick Schreiner
Matt Bauman

Staff:

Robyn Henderson
Doug Fuller – Southeast Nebraska EMS
Coordinator

Welcome and Introductions

Don Harmon opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

Program Medical Director

Don discussed the draft contract for the PMD. In conference call with Dr. Rice, it was noted that some changes will need to be made before this is finalized. The contract will need to be reviewed by County Attorney.

The PMD will work with just Gage County located units at this point. However, Don and Brian will try to meet with those that are located outside county lines, but provide services in Gage County.

Expected costs include mileage and salary, which will come from the money already allocated by the County Board. The PMD is expected to provide quarterly reports to Board, but will only be expected to appear before Board once or twice a year.

Motion made to accepted Dr. Rice as interim PMD. Dan moved, Ron seconded. Motion approved.

Brian and Don talk with other units and Medical Directors (8 departments and 5 medical directors) to answer any questions .

It was noted that the Firth unit has some questions about using this Medical Director. It was restated and agreed to that we need to concentrate on Gage County-based units first.

Update on Lancaster County

Ron Miller reported that contracts are out and being signed. Pleasant Dale backed out at the last minute (they are in Seward County). If district signs the contract, Lincoln Fire and Rescue will respond in their areas; one year deal. Hickman is talking about adding BLS.

Firth has been going through internal problems regarding personnel and quality ; however things are being worked out and they benefited from working with Gage County. There are Mutual Aid agreement with Hallam and Hickman.

Ambulance Districts

Where are we with respect to establishing an Ambulance District? Rex suggested using the money from county (\$250,000 to services and \$25,000 for PMD) to form District. It was generally agreed that we need to get this formed ASAP. Rick noted an attorney general's opinion is pending (?) County attorney has been asked to look at it, but has not been formally tasked to it. Money collected by Fire Districts can be used for other needs such as ambulances. It doesn't just need to be used for fire. Taxing authority by district still has to be under the lid. County can't add to \$275,000 for F&R because it is under the lid. Immediate advantage for Ambulance District is to protect northern part of the county from Lancaster county encroachment. Ambulance district is just about financing. Oversight Board is required- director can be PMD

Downside of ambulance district is the need to leave it broad enough that we don't change territory and turf for districts. County has contracts with districts outside of county to provide services in Gage County. Those outside: Hallam, Firth, Dewitt, Diller would oppose this, but they need to be reimbursed.

Jane: made a motion to recommend to Gage County Board to create an ambulance district that includes all of the territory within the legal boundaries of Gage County. Ron seconded. Motion approved.

Doug noted that by approving an ambulance district the county is taking responsibility for providing ambulance services in the Gage.

Ambulance District:

ADVANTAGES

Provides a vehicle for structure and financing

Ensure EMS care to residents of Gage County now and into the future

Enhance quality of services/quality of life

PMD oversight

Efficiency – no duplication of effort

No increased dollars

Opportunity to revise Ambulance service contracts with focus on performance based outcomes

Moral and ethical responsibility to care for residents of the county

Tool to review coverage areas

Opportunity to control own destiny

Tentative date for presentation to the County Board is October 8, 2008.

Formal Report to County Board should include:

- PMD
- Ambulance District
- Continuation of this advisory committee -- quarterly
- Develop EMS authority board

It was noted that there is a real estate transfer tax that could be used to fund Ambulance district.

Upcoming Dates:

9/30/2008 – Brian and Don meet with Gage County Departments

PMD

Change in PMD Assignments

Expectations/needs

9/30/2008—draft of Contract ready

10/08/08 – Gage County Board presentation

10/09/2008 – Advisory Committee Meeting

With no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.